

COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES 2021

The Arvada Gardeners was started in the spring of 1967 and with the cooperation of the City of Arvada, has sponsored a community garden ever since. The garden is managed entirely by volunteers. During public hours, the garden is monitored by members acting as Gardeners-In-Charge (GIC's).

Membership is \$40 for the 2021 season which includes a full size plot, membership with a raised bed is \$25 and with a wheelchair plot \$15. Membership with no plot is still \$40. Most plots are about 12 ft. by 22 ft. Included in the price is the availability of ditch water pumped from the irrigation ditch next to the garden. The water is ditch water and not suitable for drinking. Parents caution your children! At times the ditch will be dry and we will not have water. This is beyond our control.

Some rules are necessary for smooth operation of the garden. You are responsible for knowing and following the rules.

1. Members renting plots are required to give name, address, phone number and email address, for all participants so you may be contacted if necessary.
2. The garden, weather permitting, will be open daily to all members, dawn to dusk, year-round. The garden also has public hours, staffed by a GIC during the growing season. These GIC hours are posted at the garden and vary from year to year. Open on all holidays.
3. Children are welcome in the garden but they must stay with their parent(s) at all times. They are not to "run" the paths or play with the tools and hoses. Violations of this rule will result in the garden being closed to those parents and/or children.
4. To a great extent, having a pleasant and successful gardening experience will revolve around the availability and use of hoses. Be considerate of your neighbors' needs.
 - a. Do not remove hoses from the spigots to which they are attached. Only one hose to a plot when other gardeners are waiting.
 - b. Lay hoses on paths only. Dragging a hose across someone else's plot will be sure to provoke a response. Do not coil your hose when you are finished; lay it smoothly along the path.
 - c. You may not leave hoses running when you are not there to tend them. Turn off hoses when you leave. Use water conservatively. It is in short supply.
 - d. The two hydrants and hoses at the far northeast corner are for plots 131 through 139 only.
5. Do not throw or pile your weeds and vegetable debris on the paths or in the embankments of the garden. Work them into the soil of your plot or place them in the dumpster or take to the compost area.
6. You along with your adjoining neighbors are responsible for keeping the paths dry and free of weeds and obstructions. You are asked not to plant within 12 inches of the pathway so your plantings will not overhang the path.
7. Gardeners are responsible for keeping track of their own tools and equipment. A limited number of garden-owned tools are available for community use while at the garden. These tools are not to be taken from the garden. Return tools and wheelbarrows to storage when you are finished with them.

8. Your gardening is limited to your plot. Gardening on the embankments, across pathways and in other areas of the garden is not permitted without prior written approval by the President.
9. Any and all projects must have prior approval from the project manager and president before beginning work. This includes the purchasing of items for the garden, building stairs or other structures on the embankments, in your plot or in other areas, bringing structures or large containers into the garden, working on any garden equipment, structure, building or garden element, modifying the existing landscape in any way.
10. Our garden volunteers are not responsible to resolve personal differences between gardeners, be guardians of your equipment or baby-sit children.
11. Per city ordinance, bean poles, cages, containers, etc must be removed or taken home for the winter. Storage is provided at the north end of the garden, put your name and plot number on your items. Anything left will be disposed of. Plant debris can be left on the plot, but corn stalks must be cut, pulled or knocked down. Sunflower stalks are to be cut and placed in the trash dumpster.
12. Gardeners who fail to clean up their plots and equipment by the established fall date will be assessed \$15.00 to maintain their eligibility for the following year.
13. People not wanting their plots for any reason should notify the garden. Abandoned or neglected plots will be plowed under for weed control. Gardening must be started by June 1st or they will be assigned to others and the plot fee will not be returned.
14. The garden is a non-smoking, tobacco free area for the comfort and health of other gardeners and to guard against the tobacco mosaic virus which affects tomatoes, peppers and eggplants.
- 15. Persons taking vegetables from other gardeners' plots without permission will have their gardening privileges terminated.**
- 16. Disruptive, aggressive or unacceptable behavior is also cause termination of privileges.**
17. The "put and take" table at the gazebo is for everybody. "Put" what you'd like to share and "take" what you need. Transplants at the table are there for use at the garden only.
18. Plot corner stakes are not to be moved. If you have a problem with the corner stakes, hoses or faucets, please let the vice president know.
19. If you wish to reserve your plot for the coming year, you must do so before the February meeting. If you personally do not wish to continue gardening the plot returns to the garden; you may not give it to someone else.
20. Do not park in front of the trash dumpster, sidewalk cut or the neighbor across the street at any time. Do not park along the red curb at the RTD bus stop.
21. Water containers are to be covered at all time. (For mosquito control.)
22. Alcoholic beverages may not be brought into the garden.
23. Bicycles are to be left at the bike rack. Do not bring pets into the garden.
24. Please clean up trash around your plot. Take it home or dispose of it in the dumpster.

Thank you. We hope that this year will be a great year for our gardens.

GARDEN OPENING AND CLOSING AND PUMPS AND COVID-19

OPENING THE GARDEN

Check the ditch for water level before entering the garden to make sure there is water to run the pumps. Unlock and open the man gate and lock it behind you. Proceed to your plot and garden as you like. Other gardeners may come and go while you are there, they should be following the same procedure. If there is water in the ditch, you can operate the pump system. If the garden is too muddy, it is preferred that you do not garden.

CLOSING THE GARDEN

As you leave the garden lock the gate behind you. If you are the last one to leave make sure the pumps are turned off, the Unblue Shed and barn are locked, tools are put away and everything is in order. Double check again to make sure there is no one else in the garden.

PUMP OPERATION

The water for the garden is supplied by the Swadley Ditch which runs along the west side of the garden. The water is non-potable, so do not drink it. The water however is okay for gardening. The water is fed from the ditch to a cistern near the garden entry. The operation of the pump system is covered by separate sheets in the appendix.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (as of March 2021)

During this crisis the garden is open but not necessarily for business as usual. Below is our city approved restrictions, borrowed from several sources, outlining access to the garden:

- Stay home and rest if you are sick or have been exposed to covid-19.
- Do not access the garden after sunset or before sunrise.
- Wash your hands before and after you go to the garden
- If you have sanitizing wipes, bring them with you.
- If you use tools from the garden, thoroughly clean the handles with your sanitizing wipes or wear gloves.
- There are no restrictions on the number of people allowed in the garden at any one time.
- Practice social distancing; stay 6 feet away from any other people in the garden.
- No unsupervised gathering in groups of unrelated individuals.
- Wear a mask while at the garden and protective gloves as well.

No one knows how long the COVID-19 virus can live on different surfaces. Current research suggests the virus can live for up to 2 days; possibly longer, possibly less. This is a good guideline to keep in mind as we go forward. Common sense dictates that you clean something before you touch it and after you use it.

Circumstances change daily so check the website and emails for updates.

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KEYS

All gardeners are provided with keys and combinations to the garden. One key opens the man gate and the Unblue Shed, the other goes to the pumps. The pump key is given out only after you have completed Orientation and pump training. Two combination locks have been used on the man gate in the past, and are now used on the east and west gates. These combinations are 4180 and 1356. A key for the barn is located in the Unblue Shed and is shared.

WORK HOURS AND JOBS

The garden is open dawn to dusk daily all year. There is a spring workday and a fall workday as well as monthly workdays during the growing season. Most work is accomplished during these workdays. For those unable to attend these workdays, a list is posted in the Unblue Shed that gives items that can be worked on for credit toward volunteer hours. Or you can check with the workday chair for a work assignment.

REPORTING GARDEN HOURS

Garden hours can be reported using the signup sheet provided for organized activities, noting hours on a general log sheet in the Unblue Shed or sending an email to arvadagardenhours@gmail.com. Summary of hours to date will be published about every month. All 15 volunteer hours must be completed by the end of the year. Failure to complete the 15 hours results in a \$50 fee the first year, and loss of plot the second year.

WHO YOU CAN BRING INTO THE GARDEN

You are permitted to bring any guests into the garden. They will need to follow the garden rules and etiquette.

PETS IN THE GARDEN

Pets are not permitted in the garden at any time.

GARDEN HOURS

The garden is open year-round dawn to dusk daily. The garden is locked and only members have access. When you come to the garden you need to lock the gate after you have entered so that no one else can enter. Lock the gate again when you leave. This is very important especially when you are the only one there and also in the off season. During the growing season the gate can remain unlocked as long as there are several gardeners in attendance and someone takes responsibility for the garden security. If you don't want to do this, then lock the gate after you enter.

GARDENER IN CHARGE

We have Gardener in Charge (GIC) shifts to allow public access to the garden and for members who do not want to garden alone. The GIC shifts vary every year and are posted at the garden and on the Signup Genius website.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044caba928a20-gardener>

The top ten duties of the GIC will include the following:

1. Unlock and open the gate. Wear a yellow vest and greet people as they come into the garden and as they leave. Answer questions from anyone from the public that wanders in.
2. Water plants on the Put-n-Take table.
3. Clean out gazebo, anything that doesn't belong goes in the dumpster. Sweep the floor, organize the chairs. Clean the Food Bank/Veggie Van produce refrigerator.
4. Empty the trash cans near the entry into the dumpster.
5. If there are two of you, one should water the on-vacation plots, see sheet in Unblue Shed.
6. If there are two of you, one can make a quick round trip through the garden and visit with some gardeners.
7. For the most part stay near the entrance and manage pumps: turn on, off, reset timer, clean strainers as required.
8. Put out bags on the railing for use by gardeners for harvesting.
9. Sweep or use leaf blower on the sidewalk from the ADA cut down to the dumpster.
10. Make the entry area of the garden clean and inviting.