



Community Gardens

Policies & Information

The City of Davis Parks & Community Services Department operates two Community Garden sites, one located at 1825 Fifth Street and the other at 1701 Harvest Street (Cannery). There are currently 142 rentable plots. Rectangular plots (about 18' x 20') and a few half-size rectangular plots are at 1825 Fifth Street. Circular plots with a 9' diameter and oval plots (about 3' x 9') are at 1701 Harvest Street. The annual (January to December) rental fee allows the City to provide land, water and limited facility maintenance and administrative staff support. These Community Gardens policies support a positive gardening experience in productively used garden plots, which become an asset to the community.

Annual Fees

- Rectangular plot - \$130
- Half rectangular plot - \$65
- Circular plot - \$65 (Cannery residents only)
- Oval plot - \$40 (Cannery residents only)
- Deposit - \$50
- Non-resident – 10% added to either half or full plot price (available only to existing renters at 1825 Fifth Street site – garden plots are not available for rental by non-residents due to the limited availability)
- Late Renewal Fee - \$15

Rental fees are *non-refundable* and *non-transferable*. Mid-year rentals (on or after July 1) will be charged half the annual fee (full deposit required). The rental period will still end December 31, 2019.

Cleaning deposit

A one-time \$50 cleaning/damage deposit is required for each new plot rental. The deposit is refundable when the plot is vacated, pending approval of the Gardens Coordinator. Please see "**Leaving/Deposit Refunds**".

Rentals

- Garden plot rentals are for one calendar year (January-December) with returning gardener registration taking place November 15 – December 15 of the previous year. Renewal applications are mailed to current gardeners in good standing by early November for the following year.
- Late renewals (December 16 – January 15) require an additional \$15 Late Renewal Fee.
- If the signed renewal form and payment are not received by January 15, the plot will be made available to gardeners on the waitlist.
- There is a limit of one plot per household, which must be gardened by the registered renter; no subletting permitted. In the event of the death or incapacitation of a gardener, the plot may be transferred to a surviving spouse, but is not transferable to anyone else.
- Vacated plots must be made available to gardeners on the waitlist.

Garden Coordinator

The Community Gardens program is supported by an hourly, part-time Garden Coordinator whose duties include garden inspection, policy enforcement, maintenance of physical facilities, organization of work parties, maintenance of approved renter's list and waitlist, and other duties.

Email address: communitygardens@cityofdavis.org

Mailing address: City of Davis
Community Gardens
1818 Fifth Street
Davis, CA 95616

Gardeners may also call the Parks Division at (530) 757-5656.

Community Gardens Policies

Garden policies are determined by the City of Davis. Failure to comply with policies and guidelines, or instructions from City employees, may result in loss of your garden plot without refund and with prohibition of future rentals.

Use and Care of Your Plot

Gardens must be cared for throughout the year, including during the winter. Plots not cared for will be reassigned. Plots may not be used to grow crops for sale. Gardening is permitted from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.

Regular care includes:

- Watering
- Harvesting when necessary
- Prompt removal of weeds and spent crop plants

All gardeners are required to use organic gardening methods to enhance food safety, ground water quality, and a healthy ecosystem. The Gardens Coordinator will provide information on organic gardening methods upon request.

Garden Plot Boundaries

- You may not extend your garden beyond its officially defined boundary, as determined by the Gardens Coordinator.
- No plants or structures may be planted or built outside of the boundaries of your plot.
- Plants, parts of plants or structures outside of the boundaries of your plot may be trimmed or removed by the Garden Coordinator or other gardeners.
- Fences are not allowed on the round and oval garden plots. (Cannery only)

Paths

Paths must be kept clear, level, and free of obstructions. A minimum path width of 36 inches must be maintained.

- Plants or structures extending into a path may be trimmed or removed by the Garden Coordinator.
- Paths are the joint responsibility of the gardeners on both sides of the path. Gardeners with plots on the north, west, and south borders of the Community Gardens at 1825 Fifth Street are responsible for maintaining a clear, walkable path at least 36 inches wide on those borders.
- Do not use boards, plywood, sheet plastic, carpet, or other such materials as a "mulch" on the paths – they present a tripping hazard. The City has been advised that individual gardeners can be held legally liable for any injuries caused by poor maintenance of a path adjacent to their plot.
- At 1701 Harvest Street, the concrete walkways must be kept completely clear and free of debris.

Weeds

- All plots and adjacent paths and open areas must be maintained weed-free throughout the year.
- Please note that herbicides are not allowed (see **Chemicals** section).
- Bermuda grass is considered an especially invasive weed and should not be allowed to spread. Gardeners should dig out Bermuda grass from plots and adjacent paths and open areas and remove it.

Tall Plants and Structures

Please be considerate of your neighbors!

- Plants need sunlight. Locate tall plants and structures where they do not excessively shade plants in adjacent garden plots. Excessive shade is defined as more than two feet of shade extending from your plot boundary at the ground level of any neighboring plot as measured at 10am and 2pm (shade cast by wire fencing or occasional fence posts is excluded).
- **Trees, grapevines, and other large perennials are not allowed.** Plantings established before this policy went into effect must be kept trimmed so they do not cast excessive shade on neighboring plots.
- Fences are not allowed on the round and oval garden plots. (Cannery)

Pest Plants/Prickly Plants

- Be very careful with plants that are invasive and hard to eradicate, such as mints, morning glories, etc. (see <http://invasivespeciesinfo.gov>). Don't let plants get away from you, or they will be considered weeds.
- No part of cacti, roses, and other plants with spines or thorns may be closer than three feet to the boundary of your plot. Plants must not present an injury hazard.

Pests and Diseases

- Gardeners must attempt to keep insects and other pests under control so they do not spread into other plots (please see notes in the "**Chemicals**" section).
- Dispose of diseased plants in a way that limits the spread of disease (such as hot composting or removal from the gardens area).

Chemicals

- The Community Gardens are located on City of Davis property and are therefore obligated to follow its policies.
- The City of Davis prohibits the application of chemical pesticides on its property unless approved in writing by the City's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator and is applied by a trained, certified technician.
- Any gardener who believes their plot has a pest problem that would justify the use of chemical pesticides should contact the Garden Coordinator for a consultation.
- Herbicides are not allowed.
- The use of chemical fertilizers in the gardens is prohibited. Organic fertilizers such as compost, composted manure, seaweed, fish emulsion, bone meal, blood meal, coffee grounds, earthworm castings, bat guano, and cover crops are permitted.
- Rodent bait is injurious to wildlife and is not allowed.

IPM

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an ecosystem based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment. The

City's IPM policy is available online, along with more information and resources at <http://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/parks-and-community-services/integrated-pest-management>.

Additional recommended online resources include:

- <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/index.html>
- <http://ourwaterourworld.org>

Waste and Compost

- Trash must be disposed of properly. Small incidental trash items may be placed in the trash container at the garden center at **1825 Fifth Street**. Bulky items must be removed from the Gardens by the gardener. Do not put weeds or other green waste in the trash bin. Boards, concrete, and other construction-type of debris must be removed from the Gardens by the gardener. Dumping of anything anywhere in the Gardens is prohibited.
- Bottles and cans and other recyclables items may be placed in the recyclables bin at 1825 Fifth Street. No plastic bags, trash, or green waste may be placed in this bin.
- Small incidental amounts of Bermuda grass and other plants which are difficult to compost may be placed in the green waste bins at 1825 Fifth Street. Large amounts of green waste must be composted on the gardener's plot or removed from the Gardens by the gardener. Do not leave a wheelbarrow with green waste in it. Dumping of green waste in any common area of the Gardens is prohibited.
- Composting information may be found at <https://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling/organics/composting>
- At **1701 Harvest Street**, gardeners must remove trash, recyclables, and green waste from the gardens area.
- Small tree branches or vines may be piled in designated areas of the street once per month. **The Garden Coordinator will notify gardeners via email when branches and vines may be placed in the street; do not place green waste in the street at any other time.** Squares drawn on the street with chalk mark where the green waste piles may be placed. Do not place green waste anywhere else in the street. Green waste piles in the street must be kept clear of the sidewalk, gutter, and traffic lane, in piles no larger than five feet in any direction. No dirt, plastic, fabric, twine, metal, trash, boards, logs, concrete, rocks, or vegetables may be placed in the street.

Water

- Water at the gardens is not potable. It is for garden use only.
- Water faucets are provided at **1825 Fifth Street**. Gardeners may need to provide a hose. To help prevent unauthorized use of water, gardeners must provide their own water faucet key to turn faucets on and off. The four-way keys are recommended as the spigots vary in size. Faucet handles should not be attached to faucets; handles will be removed and discarded.
- At **1701 Harvest Street**, garden plots may be watered using a water valve located on each plot. **Gardeners must provide and maintain soaker hoses or other watering equipment they wish to use on their plot.** The water flow is controlled by a master valve timer; the master valve is generally on for 15 minutes each day. Faucets with hoses are also available in the gardens area.
- Report defective faucets/valves to the Garden Coordinator.
- In the event of a water emergency, such as a broken pipe, gardeners may contact the Parks office during regular business hours at (530) 757-5656. Outside of regular business hours, please contact the Police Department business line at (530) 747-5400. Please email the Garden Coordinator to let them know that the City has been contacted concerning the water emergency.

- Do not leave water running if you are not at the Gardens and do not use a timer on a water faucet. This can lead to flooding and excessive weeds. Water left on by a gardener not at the Gardens will be turned off.
- Gardeners must observe watering restrictions as prescribed by City ordinance and State regulation. Water consumption is monitored and charges associated with the Gardens' water use are a factor in determining plot rental fees.

Tools

- A few basic gardening tools are available in the shed at 1825 Fifth Street for use at those garden plots. Wheelbarrows are also available for use at 1825 Fifth Street site.
- Return tools to the shed when you have finished using them.
- Be sure to lock the tool shed every time you leave the shed.
- Gardeners at 1701 Harvest Street must supply their own tools.
- Do not store tools, wheelbarrows, green waste bins or trash bins on your plot.
- Tools are used at the gardener's own risk.
- Contact the Garden Coordinator for the combination to the tool shed lock if you garden at 1825 Fifth Street.

Pets and Children

- Pets must be kept on a leash and out of other people's gardens. Animals that create problems should be identified if possible and reported to the Garden Coordinator or to Animal Control (530) 668-5287.
- Animals may not be housed at the Gardens.
- Children must be supervised at all times. Children must remain within their household's garden plot or on established paths.

Parking

- Gardening areas are not accessible to motor vehicles. Supplies must be unloaded in the parking areas.
- Several parking spaces are available at the north end of the gravel driveway at 1825 Fifth Street and parking places can be found along nearby streets.
- **Dumping of anything anywhere in the Gardens' areas is strictly prohibited.**

Vandalism and Theft

If you observe vandalism, theft, or suspicious activities at the Gardens, please contact the Police Department's business line at (530) 747-5400.

Contacting You

- It is your responsibility to keep the Garden Coordinator informed of your current address, phone number, and email address.
- General information email messages are sent out every few weeks. If you are not receiving email messages, please email the Gardens coordinator at communitygardens@cityofdavis.org

Leaving/Deposit Refunds

- If you decide to give up your plot, please clear your plot and contact the Garden Coordinator.
- The Garden Coordinator will inspect your plot to determine if it is in "refundable condition", which means no weeds, plants, stakes, wire, trash, etc.
- If your plot passes inspection, your deposit refund will be issued in 3-4 weeks via check to your mailing address.
- Rental fees are not refunded for early plots returns.

- If your plot does not pass inspection, the deposit is forfeited.
- Plots vacated due to eviction or abandonment are not eligible for a deposit refund.

Abandonment

- The gardener of any plot that appears abandoned will be sent an Abandonment Notice.
- If such a plot has not been restored to a satisfactory condition within ten days of the date of the Abandonment Notice, the plot will be reassigned and the plot deposit forfeited.
- Vacationing gardeners are not exempt from plot maintenance rules or compliance deadlines.
- In special circumstances, where illness or injury may temporarily affect your ability to maintain your garden plot, please email the Garden Coordinator.

Policy Enforcement

The Garden Coordinator is responsible for interpreting and enforcing Garden policies.

If the Garden Coordinator determines that a gardener is in violation of Garden policies:

- The Gardens coordinator will contact the gardener.
- If the first contact does not resolve policy violations but corrective action is possible, a written notice will be mailed to the gardener. The notice will include a corrective action deadline.
- If the deadline is not met, the gardener will be evicted and will forfeit the plot deposit.
- Uncorrectable policy violations or repeated policy violations will result in eviction and forfeiture of the plot deposit.

Eviction

- A gardener will have ten days from the date of a notice of eviction to vacate the garden plot.
- In cases of serious violations of a Gardens policy or another City of Davis rule, a gardener may be required by the Garden Coordinator to vacate the garden plot immediately upon written or verbal notice of eviction.
- The Garden Coordinator may decline to offer garden plot renewal or to otherwise rent a plot to a person who is violating or has violated a Garden policy or another City of Davis rule.