

WHEELER COMMUNITY GARDEN POLICIES 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Wheeler Community Garden is a gardening opportunity for Wheeler residents, and is located at Upper Park near the intersection of 2nd and Rowe. The community garden is a grass roots effort by citizens who expressed an interest in joining a community garden and is supported by the City of Wheeler under the Parks & Recreation committee. The City of Wheeler developed the garden space with tilling, initial soil amendment and fencing. Individual rental plots are available year round for residents of Wheeler. Every effort will be made for gardeners who have amended and diligently tended certain plots to be assigned the same plot(s) from year to year. The remainder will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for a very modest rental fee and clean-up deposit. These individual plots provide families and individuals access to land to grow the plants of their choice. Gardeners are responsible for planting and tending their plots.

Gardeners must agree to the following Garden Guidelines and Rules when they register for a plot.

GARDEN GUIDELINES

1. Organic gardening methods are required. Fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides must be OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) approved.
2. The garden is intended for annual vegetables and flowers that attract pollinators. Perennials (plants that come back every year) are not allowed.
3. If you are having a plant pest or disease problem, please use one of the local Master Gardener resources or call the Tillamook County Master Gardener program office and ask for assistance that is organic in nature. They will work with you to find a solution. (See contact under Garden Information below.)
4. A community gardener is a steward of the land. Gardeners are welcome to garden from dawn to one hour after dusk seven days a week. Expect to spend a minimum of 3–4 hours per week tending your plot during peak gardening times, May through September. Your ability to commit time and energy to your plot will provide you with an ample harvest, and will protect your plot and your neighbors' from unwanted weeds, slugs, and insects. Using healthy soil building techniques provides quality produce for the current gardener and an improved site for future gardeners.
5. In the spirit of bringing "Community" to this garden, gardeners are expected to contribute a minimum of 10 hours per gardening season to help with general garden maintenance, beautification or administration. During the growing season (May-September), there will be monthly 2-hour work parties when the gardeners all work together for a couple of hours to maintain and beautify the commons areas. All gardeners are expected to participate. If you have a specific skill or project you'd like to take on, please talk to your fellow gardeners. There are always items and projects that need "tending to" in the garden.
6. For the safety of all, keep common areas and paths clear. Do not pile hoses, tools, mulch, weeds, rocks, or other supplies in these areas.
7. Respect other gardener's plots. Do not harvest from plots not your own without permission. Be careful - DO NOT drag hoses over other gardener's plots!
8. Pets are not allowed in the garden.
9. Smoking is not allowed in the garden.
10. A responsible adult MUST accompany all children under 14 years of age.

TOOLS

Gardeners provide their own tools. It is highly recommended that you label any tools you bring, and take them with you when you leave. The City of Wheeler is not responsible for lost or stolen gardeners' tools, hoses, or any other supplies left in the garden.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Slugs are the most prevalent pest problem in our area. OMRI approved slug bait is available that is non-toxic to pets and birds. Other techniques to use include small shallow tin cans of beer with a rock or loosely fitting lid to prevent dilution by rainwater. The slugs are attracted to the yeast in the beer, crawl into the beer and cannot get back out. Another practice to reduce slug damage is hand picking after dark with a flash light or putting rough textured materials such as broken oyster or egg shells around delicate plants. Literature on slug trapping is available on-line and through TCMGA (Tillamook County Master Gardener Association).

PLOT MAINTENANCE

- The City of Wheeler will maintain the water system. Gardeners must be conscientious about water use. Do not leave hoses or sprinklers on overnight. Untended running hoses, excessive watering, or watering adjacent plots is not allowed. Mulching helps conserve water. Rule of thumb - water 1" twice a week.
- All garden plots must be maintained. Plots may be mulched or planted with annuals, or cover crops. Planting of trees, shrubs, or cane berries is prohibited. Plots may not be left bare or fallow. The right to garden here may be revoked if plots are not well-maintained as spelled out in these guidelines.
- You are responsible for cleaning up your plot at the end of the growing season. All dead plant matter should be pulled and discarded, weeds pulled, and all extra decorative items removed. Plots must be cleaned up by December 31st in order to request a refund or transfer of clean-up deposit.
- Do not walk on your garden as it compresses the soil and makes it harder for desirable plants to grow and creates a difficulty in weed removal. Mulching helps greatly to keep weeds down, build healthy soil and conserve water. Master Gardeners can give you information about mulch types and sources.
- Weeds must be kept under control. Weeds more than 2" tall or starting to flower indicate an untended plot. After other gardeners observe a plot looking abandoned, it will be reported to City Staff and attempts will be made to contact the registered gardener for one week. If contact is made, the gardener has one additional week after the contact date to restart their garden work. If contact is not made, or if the additional one week period expires without the gardener restarting their garden work, the City will classify the plot as abandoned and level the entire garden plot. The gardener's rental fee, deposit, and use of plot will be forfeited for the season.
- Please do not let produce go to waste. If you are unable to keep up with your garden and its production, notify another gardener or City Hall. Your produce can then be harvested and shared with the Food Bank.

GARDEN GARDENER RESOURCES

Master Gardener Volunteers (with the Wheeler Park Committee) are available to talk with you about composting, tilling, tools, pest management, and many other garden questions. Call City Hall at 503-368-5767, or email at cityofwheeler@nehalem.tel.net, if you'd like to arrange some time to talk with someone about your garden. Or call OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners Monday and Thursday afternoons at 503-842-3433.

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GARDEN PLOT REGISTRATION

The City of Wheeler will register garden plots for gardeners. Every effort will be made for gardeners who have amended and diligently tended certain plots to be assigned the same plot(s) from year to year. The remainder will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. We cannot guarantee any particular plot. All plots are numbered. Initial tilling will be done and raised beds formed.

- New gardeners must pay for their plots when reserved.
- Non-returning gardeners must apply for clean-up deposits in order to receive them, at the end of their gardening season.
- Returning gardeners' clean-up deposits are transferred from one season to the next; they pay only for plot rental.
- Gardeners must provide contact information (cell phone or email they check regularly) so they can be reached promptly when necessary

HAVING PROBLEMS?

If you notice any kind of maintenance emergency, particularly water leaks, please call Wheeler City Hall, as soon as possible at 503-368-5767 during office hours or 503-812-9214 weekends or after hours. If you experience vandalism or theft, please report to the non-emergency police line at 503-368-7229 and notify the City of Wheeler at 503-368-5767 when the office is open.

Acceptance and participation in City of Wheeler programs is the same for everyone, without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.