



Community Gardens

Policies & Information

The City of Davis Parks & Community Services Department operates the Community Gardens located at **1825 Fifth Street (5th Street Garden)**, **1701 Harvest Street (Cannery Garden)**, and **300 Grande Avenue (Grande Avenue Garden)**. Rental fees allow the City to provide land, water and limited staff hours for facility maintenance and administrative tasks. Policies are set by the City of Davis and help support a positive gardening experience. Failure to comply with these policies and any applicable guidelines, or instructions from City staff, may result in eviction from your garden plot, without refund of the deposit, and with a prohibition of future plot rentals.

<u>Annual Fees</u>	<u>Additional Fees</u>
<p><i>5th Street Garden:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectangular plot = \$150 • Half rectangular plot = \$80 <p><i>Cannery Garden:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular plot = \$77 • Oval plot = \$50 <p><i>Grande Avenue Garden:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$77 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning/Damage Deposit = \$52 • Non-resident = 10% added to plot price • Late Renewal Fee = \$26

Abandonment

- A plot that remains unplanted for an extended period of time, or does not appear to be actively gardened, will be deemed as abandoned and the gardener will be sent an Abandonment Notice.
- If such a plot has not been restored to a satisfactory condition within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the Abandonment Notice, the gardener will be evicted, the plot will be reassigned, and the cleaning/damage 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, email staff at registration@cityofdavis.org

Chemicals

- **Chemical pesticides and fertilizers (i.e. herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, etc.) may not be used within any of the Community Gardens.** Certain “green” pesticides, registered for organic use may be permitted with prior approval from the City.
- Any gardener who believes their plot has a pest problem that would justify the use of chemical pesticides should contact the Coordinator for a consultation.
- 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. Unprocessed manure/feces is not permitted.
- Rodent bait is injurious to wildlife and is not allowed.

Cleaning/Damage Deposit

A cleaning/damage deposit is required for each plot rental. The deposit is refundable when the plot is vacated, pending approval. Please see “**Fees/Deposit Refunds.**”

Contact Information

The Community Garden program is supported by City staff whose duties include garden monitoring and inspection, policy enforcement, maintenance of physical facilities, organization of work parties, maintenance of approved renter’s list and waitlist and other duties. Gardeners may contact City staff by calling the Parks Division at 530-757-5656 or emailing registration@cityofdavis.org or calling 530/757-5626 option 2.

Eviction

- A gardener will have ten (10) calendar 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 applicable City of Davis policy, rule, guideline, or law, a gardener may be required by the Garden Coordinator to vacate the garden plot immediately upon written or verbal notice of eviction.
- City staff may decline to offer garden plot renewal, or to rent a plot, to a person who has violated a Gardens’ policy or another applicable City of Davis policy, rule, guideline, or law.

Fees/Deposit Refunds

- Rental fees are non-refundable/non-transferrable and are not refunded for voluntary early plot re-turns, abandonment by registered renter, or if evicted by the City.
- A cleaning/damage deposit is required for each plot. If throughout the rental period your plot is not properly maintained, and must be cleared by City staff to be brought into policy compliance, your deposit on file will be forfeited. A new deposit must be paid before use of the plot.
- If you voluntarily give up your plot (excluding abandonment), you do not renew your plot rental, or the City terminates the rental, City staff will inspect your plot to confirm it

is free of weeds, trash and plants in order to process a refund of the cleaning/damage deposit.

- **If your plot does not pass inspection by City staff, the cleaning/damage deposit will be forfeited.**
- Plots vacated due to eviction or abandonment are not eligible for refund of the cleaning/damage deposit.

Integrated Pest Management

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:

<https://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works-utilities-and-operations/stormwater/green-garden-ing#IPM>

Parking

- Gardening areas are not accessible to motor vehicles.
- Street parking is available at all locations.

Path

Paths must be kept clear, level, and free of obstructions. A minimum path width of 42 inches (3.5 feet) must be maintained.

- Paths are the joint responsibility of the gardeners on both sides of the path.
- Plants or structures extending into a path may be trimmed or removed by City staff.
- Do not use boards, plywood, sheet plastic, carpet or similar material in walkways – these may present a tripping 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).
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Pets

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 Animal Control 530-668-5287. Animals may not be housed at the Gardens. This includes bees, chickens and all other livestock.

Plot Boundaries

- Gardens may not be extended beyond defined boundaries.
- No plants or structures may be planted or built outside of the boundaries of the assigned plot.
- Plants, parts of plants or structures outside of the boundaries of a plot may be trimmed or removed by City staff.
- Fences are permitted at the 5th Street Gardens:
 - Fences should be installed within plot boundaries
 - The use of concrete to permanently establish fences is prohibited
- Fences are not permitted at the Cannery and Grande Avenue Gardens locations.

Policy Enforcement

City staff are responsible for interpreting and enforcing Garden policies.

If a gardener is in violation of Gardens' policies:

- City staff will contact the gardener.
- If the first contact does not resolve the violation(s), a written notice will be mailed to the gardener. The notice will include a corrective action deadline.
- If corrective action is not resolved by the given deadline, and City staff are used to bring the plot into policy compliance, the deposit on file will be forfeited. A new deposit must be paid before use of the plot.
- A gardener may be evicted and the cleaning/damage deposit forfeited if corrective action is not taken.
- Uncorrectable policy violations or repeated policy violations will result in eviction and forfeiture of the cleaning/damage deposit.
- Bi-annual evaluations will be conducted by City staff. It is the gardener's responsibility to set up an appointment and be present for the evaluation. Any policy violations will be noted and must be corrected by the given deadline.

Prickly/Tall Plants and Structures

- 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.
- Cacti must be cut down and thinned out frequently to prevent them from casting shade into the neighboring plots.
- 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 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (shade cast by wire fencing or occasional fence posts is excluded).
- **Trees, grapevines, berry bushes and other large perennials are not allowed.**

Rentals

- Garden plot rentals are for one calendar year (January-December), unless earlier terminated by the City.

- Returning gardeners have priority to rent plots. Renewal forms are emailed and/or mailed to current registered renters in good standing.
- Renewals received after the first given deadline require an additional Late Fee.
- If the City does not receive the signed renewal form and payment, including late fee, by the 2nd and final deadline, the City may make the plot available to gardeners on the waitlist.
- *There is a limit of one plot per household, which must be gardened by the registered renter; sub-letting is not permitted.*
- The City will make plots voluntarily vacated by registered renters available to gardeners on the waitlist.
- Cannery Garden plots are reserved for residents of the Cannery only.
- Ten (10) Grande Avenue Garden plots are reserved for residents of the Grande Avenue development, with the remaining ten (10) plots available to the public.
- The City may terminate the Rental at any time, at will, for any reason or no reason, after giving written notice to the registered renter at least thirty (30) calendar days before the termination of the rental is to be effective.
- ***New*** Starting in 2024, plots at the Cannery Garden and Grande Avenue Garden will be renewed for a maximum period of three (3) years. After 3 years, if there is a waitlist for plots, gardeners will not be offered renewal and those on the waitlist will be offered plots. If there are fewer people on the waitlist than plots available, a lottery will be held for those wishing to extend their plot rentals.

Renter's Contact Information

- It is your responsibility to keep City staff informed of your current address, phone number, and email address.
- General information is sent throughout the year via email. If you are not receiving email messages, notify City staff at registration@cityofdavis.org

Tools

- A few basic gardening tools are available in the shed and wheelbarrows at the arbor for gardener's use at the 5th Street Garden.
 - Return tools to the shed and wheelbarrows to the arbor when you have finished using them.
 - Be sure to lock the tool shed every time you leave the shed.
 - Do not store community-shared tools, wheelbarrows, green waste bins or trash bins on your plot.
 - Tools are used at the gardener's own risk.
- Gardeners at the **Cannery** and **Grande Avenue Garden** locations must supply their own tools.

Use and Care

Gardens must be cared for throughout the year, including during the winter. Renters who do not care for their plot may be evicted and the City may reassign the plot. *Plots may not be used to grow crops for sale.* Gardening is generally permitted from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. Community spaces (i.e. the central arbor and picnic benches at the 5th Street Garden) are equal responsibility of the gardeners for upkeep and weed maintenance.

Regular care of your plot includes:

- Productive use of garden plot; plots cannot remain empty and unused for an extended period of time
- Prompt removal of weeds and spent crop plants
- Watering (please be mindful of water use)
- Harvesting when necessary
- Maintenance of paths and walkways surrounding each plot
- Trimming plants growing along plot lines to keep them contained within plot boundaries
- All gardeners are required to use organic gardening methods to enhance food safety, ground water quality, and a healthy ecosystem.
- Structures, furniture, and other items unrelated to gardening should not be in a garden plot. Any outside sourced materials should be limited only to items used for gardening

Vandalism and Theft

If you observe vandalism, theft, or suspicious activities at the Gardens, please contact the Police Department's non-emergency line at (530) 747-5400 and notify City staff. Gardeners are advised not to approach anyone engaging in suspicious behavior. Gardeners who experience theft and/or vandalism should also submit a report via the City of Davis online crime reporting at www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/police-department/online-crime-reporting/-fsiteid-1

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 the 5th Street Garden. Bulky items must be removed from the Gardens by the gardener. 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 the **5th Street Garden**. 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. Large amounts of green waste must be 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.
- When keeping a compost pile or compost bin in a plot, the pile must be moved and turned frequently to prevent animals from burrowing in the pile. Kitchen scraps (i.e. fruits, vegetables, etc.) should always be buried within the pile so it remains out of reach from animals.

- At the **5th Street Garden**, returning the cans to the arbor area after weekly pick up is a shared responsibility of both the gardeners and City staff.
- Composting information may be found at <https://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works-utilities-and-operations/stormwater/green-gardening#Composting>
- At the **Grande Avenue and Cannery Gardens**, gardeners must remove trash and recyclables from the gardens area. Green waste must be placed in the shared bin.

Water

- Water at the gardens is for garden use only and not potable.
- Water faucets are provided at the **5th Street** and **Grande Avenue Garden** locations. Gardeners may need to provide a hose.
- To help prevent unauthorized use of water at **5th Street**, 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 the **5th Street Garden** any hoses attached to a water spigot are for community use. Personal hoses should be taken home, removed from the spigot, or kept within the gardener's plot if the gardener does not want others to use them.
- At the **Cannery Garden**, garden plots may be watered using a water valve located on each plot. **Gardeners must provide hoses or other watering equipment they wish to use on their plot.** The water flow is controlled by a master valve timer; water is generally available during daylight hours. Faucets with hoses are also available in the gardens area.
- Report defective faucets/valves to City staff.
- **In the event of a water emergency, such as a broken pipe, gardeners may contact the Parks office during business hours at 530-757-5656. Outside of business hours, contact the Police Department non-emergency line at 530-747-5400 and also notify Garden Staff by emailing registration@cityofdavis.org**
- Do not leave water running if you are not at the Garden. This can lead to flooding and excessive weeds. Water left on by a gardener not at the Gardens will be turned off. Avoid excessive watering to help with weed abatement.
- Timers should not be installed on faucets.
- Modifying existing irrigation systems at all Garden locations is prohibited.
- 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.

Weeds

- All plots, adjacent paths and open areas must be maintained and weed-free throughout the year.
- Herbicides are not allowed (see **Chemicals** section).
- Weeds should be dug out from plots, adjacent paths and open areas and removed expediently to help prevent further spread.