

Sumner Community Garden(s) Guidelines

1. Individual garden plots are to be used for growing vegetables and flowers for family use and not for commercial sales (with the exception of sanctioned Sumner Community Garden fundraisers).
If you have excess produce, please share. **The food bank could always use more.**
2. The City of Sumner will accept applications on a first-come, first-serve basis. When assigning locations, the Garden Committee will give priority to returning gardeners and Sumner residents. Returning gardeners are allowed to retain their previous season's plot, when possible, or have top priority in requesting a new plot, *if they renew their application at City Hall in a timely manner, encouraged in the fall or winter.* Applications for new gardeners will be accepted when plots are available. Please contact the Garden Coordinator for general questions, clarifications or availability of plots. New gardeners verify availability of plot prior to paying—no refunds.
3. All gardeners **must** attend a brief orientation at the garden site prior to cultivating their plot. This is to ensure that everyone has knowledge of systems such as watering, compost, etc. It is also a time for the Garden Committee to make sure general garden care and maintenance duties are divided up among the gardeners. It is vital to the garden's success that everyone contributes some time to caring for the garden. Orientation times and dates will be sent out via e-mail to returning gardeners and available for new gardeners when turning in applications. No sign up is required to attend orientations.
4. The gardens are constructed, maintained and managed by all volunteers. Volunteering is encouraged by all on an individual basis, group projects or general maintenance. At times, volunteers from outside groups or agencies may be assisting on projects. Please be patient as all operations/maintenance is performed by volunteers.
5. Our goal is to have an **organic garden**. Please check with your local garden store, the Master Gardeners website, or neighboring gardeners for organic means of dealing with gardening problems. In the event that an organic solution is not a viable option to a severe problem, an alternative solution can be submitted to the Garden Committee for consideration.
6. Gardeners are responsible for cultivating, weeding, and watering their own plots. Your plot needs to be in a **cultivated status by June 15th** out of respect for other gardeners. Plots that appear to be abandoned and full of weeds may be subject to reassignment with fees forfeited. Please keep your plot(s) maintained year round.
7. Kids are strongly encouraged to respectfully participate in all the joys of gardening. Supervision is important at all times.
8. Crops over six feet tall are not allowed in individual plots due to the shadow effect it causes for neighboring gardeners. Community plots of corn and beans will be in a designated area, and if you help with this area, you may harvest. More information on community plots will be available later.
9. Common-sense list of No's:
 - No pets
 - No motorized vehicles except for small rototillers
 - No littering
 - No disrespectful behavior such as alcohol consumption, loud music, etc.
 - No invasive plants
 - No taking food that is not yours.
 - No tobacco.
10. These guidelines are subject to change. You are responsible for checking your e-mail, or the garden bulletin board for updated information.
11. Enjoy the season! Enjoy each other! Enjoy the food!

I have read the guidelines and agree to abide by them. I understand that my failure to comply may result in termination and reassignment of garden plots with no fees refunded.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____