

Andover Glen Community Garden

Garden Guidelines 2024

These guidelines are intended to encourage participants to keep their garden plots clean, attractive and orderly all year. The benefits of a well-maintained garden are that owners, neighbors and non-gardeners enjoy and recognize the garden as a community asset, and the garden will harbor fewer pests and weeds, and will be healthier from season to season.

Annual dues: \$10 per plot per season. This is intended to cover the cost of the water and maintenance.

Garden Plot: Each plot should be kept clear of weeds, spent plants, debris and trash. All plants should be mulched, since water will be limited. Any perennials in your plot should appear well kept. In addition, owners are responsible for maintaining the area immediately adjacent to their plots, including paths. Gardeners should feel free to use the fence and areas adjacent to their plot for growing, as long as a walkway is preserved around the entire plot. Each fall, dead plants should be removed, compost and organic material should be turned into the soil, and the ground covered with a layer of mulch to regulate soil temperature and retain moisture throughout the winter. Gardeners are encouraged to use organic methods of fertilization and pest control. The Garden Coordinator will place small nametags for each plot so that owners can be informed of any issues with their plot. Owners should feel free to put up custom signage for their plot (big "N", sun icon, name scroll, etc). Owners as a group are also responsible for maintaining compost bins, fences, and the garden's other common areas.

Requests for Plots: Any Andover Glen homeowner may request a first plot by April 1 of each year. Plots will be awarded on a first come/first serve basis as available, and may be kept by that homeowner from year to year indefinitely. Any remaining available plots may be requested by existing gardeners, and will be awarded on a year to year basis. On a Right of First Refusal basis (ROFR), gardeners with more than one plot must relinquish those additional plots each year to fulfill first plot requests by new gardeners. Plots may only be awarded to Andover Glen homeowners, who may then sublet/sponsor relatives, friends, etc, if desired.

Plantings: All forms of annual, biennial, and perennial plants are welcome, including ornamental flowers and vines (there may be a fine line between weeds and wildflowers). Please be sure your plants do not invade neighboring plots.

Raised Beds: Raised beds have been very helpful in defining plot borders and in keeping plants and irrigation under control. Please use the same materials as other plots to create your raised bed. This will contribute to the overall visual continuity of the garden.

Individual Vertical Structures: Structures to encourage vertical growing, including arbors, trellises, tree branch frames, fence sections and cages are allowed during the growing season if they are functional, orderly, safe and attractive. You may want to paint structures dark colors such as black or dark green. Vertical structures used for growing should contribute to the garden's overall visual continuity. All growing structures should be removed or collapsed during the off-season.

Compost Bins: Three compost bins are available to provide compost for gardeners use. Norm Arlt is the current compost master, and will determine when a bin is "ripe" for use. Ripe compost will be placed in the READY-TO_USE bin for use by gardeners. As gardeners have compostable material available (leaves, stems, other plant material), they should place it in the PRE-COMPOST bin, preferably in fist-sized pieces or smaller. Animal products of any kind are not advisable for composting.

Equipment: Please try to avoid motor vehicle use to transport materials for individual plots. Tillers, mowers, etc, may be used as needed. Please consider carpooling with other gardeners if large loads must be transported

to the garden. The risks of being rear-ended on Parker Road, damage to your vehicle as you hop the curb, damage to our turf and our sprinkler heads, and loss of community goodwill may not be worth the convenience. Norm is always glad to transport a wheelbarrow load to the garden for you.

Irrigation: Irrigation should only be done with ¼” tubing, with 2 gph drip emitters for large single plants or restrictive sprayheads (such as Rain Drip 15300U as sold at Lowes and Dig 410B as sold at Home Depot) for wider coverage of smaller plants. Four 90° sprayheads should allow coverage of your entire 6’ x 10’ plot. Sprayheads are much less efficient than drip emitters. Using drip emitters for individual plants like tomatoes is much more effective than spray heads. Each spray head may need its own 1/4" line back to the 1/2" common distribution pipe if pressure is insufficient. All tubing, emitters, sprayheads, etc. will need to be provided and placed by each owner. Water pressure is limited, and a leak or excessive use in one plot will affect all the other plots. Norm is always glad to consult on drip designs or problems, and should be notified of any watering problems immediately.

The irrigation system will normally be run at 6pm on MWF. The system will be turned off when we have measurable rain, and will be run oftener during hot, dry, windy weather. Each watering for the garden will be 20 minutes long, resulting in 2/3 gallon from a 2 gph emitter. Plants that need extra water will need to be hand-watered with water carried from the in-ground faucet on the SE corner of the tennis courts.

Animal pest control: Please be sure to close gates when leaving the garden to keep out rabbits. Other pests such as squirrels, birds, voles, etc. may need to be controlled by wire fencing, reflectors, and other methods.

Excess Produce: Two wooden boxes for excess produce have been placed on the benches, with screening available to protect the produce from wildlife. Feel free to deposit your extra veggies, and feel free to make a withdrawal of as much as you want. If you are too busy or on vacation to get to your garden to pick your crop, let the other gardeners know, and they will probably be able to take care of it.

Other gardening tips: Cold frames or wall’o’water can extend your growing season. Marigolds may provide some natural insect control. Mulching around your established plants will greatly reduce the amount of water that they need.