

Don Biddle Community Garden

Guidelines - Updated November 2023

1. Overview

The Don Biddle Community Garden is a beautiful, safe, and peaceful place for Dublin residents to cultivate and enjoy flowers, herbs, fruits, and vegetables.

- Hours of Operation: Sunrise to one hours after sunset.
- Garden Parcels: Thirty-nine 4' x 8' raised wooden box parcels.
- Gates: The garden is accessed via a combination touch pad with codes provided to parcel users only. Gates must remain closed at all times.
- Garbage: Users are responsible for keeping their parcels, green waste, and compost area free from debris, trash, and any other items left behind.
- Selling: Excess food can be shared but not sold.
- Harvesting: Harvesting is allowed only from the user's parcel.
- Smoking: Smoking is prohibited in the garden area.
- Alcohol and other: No alcohol, marijuana, or illegal drugs are allowed.
- Animals: Except for service animals, no pets are allowed.
- Children: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and closely supervised at all times.
- Irrigation System: Each parcel is equipped with a water spigot. No alterations to the irrigation system are permitted. Water conservation methods should be utilized whenever possible, including mulching with straw, leaves, or grass clippings, and using a soaker or drip irrigation hoses.

2. Parcel Allocation

- One parcel per individual or household.
- Must be a City of Dublin resident and 18 years of age or older.
- Requirements:
 - Utility bill for proof of residency.
 - Driver's license for proof of age.
 - Proof of current residency must be furnished each year during the renewal process.
- A waitlist will be kept by the Parks and Community Services Department. As parcels become available, assignments will be made in the order of the waitlist.
- Transfer of a parcel assignment by a gardener is not permitted. The Parks and Community Services Department must handle all parcel transfers.
- Garden term limit:
 - Garden parcels have a term limit of 5 years.
 - At the end of 5 years, current gardeners will be asked to clear their parcels to be given to the next person on the waitlist.

- **Mayoral Plot:**
 - This dedicated garden space intended to be a source of community engagement, education, and outreach for the Mayor and City Council.
 - The Mayoral Plot may also be used as a platform for various initiatives, workshops, and events to promote sustainability and environmental awareness.
 - In the event that the Mayor does not wish to utilize the Mayoral Plot, they may voluntarily relinquish the space to be lead by members of the City Council.

3. Parcel Deposit

- A one-time deposit of \$50.00 per parcel is required.
- The deposit will be refunded when the parcel is relinquished and cleared of all weeds, plants, other materials, and is ready for acquisition by a new gardener.
- The City may retain all or part of the deposit if the parcel is not clean and ready for acquisition by a new gardener at the end of the parcel rental date.
- The \$50.00 parcel deposit will be refunded after the parcel is surrendered and inspected for the removal of all weeds, plants, materials, wood, debris, underground cages, and wire from the garden.

4. Parcel Annual Fee

- The annual \$50.00 fee is non-refundable. Annual fees will be due December 1, each year. Gardeners may be asked for proof of residency during the renewal process. If payment is not received by December 1, your parcel agreement may be terminated, and deposit forfeited.

5. Rules

- All parcels must be maintained, in a manner acceptable to the Parks and Community Services Department.
- You are a steward of the land and are responsible for maintaining the parcel to which you have been assigned.
- Parcel maintenance includes soil care, planting, watering, weeding, harvesting, and any additional garden upkeep.
- All aisles immediately surrounding your parcel are considered your responsibility and must be kept free of weeds, trash, and all obstacles.
 - Do not plant nor put up any devices, fencing, or support structures in common areas outside your parcel.
- If a parcel remains undeveloped or unattended for more than 30 days, you will be notified by the Parks and Community Services Department. Failure to care for your parcel could result in the termination of your parcel and forfeiture of your deposit.
 - A reminder may be given if a parcel is excessively weedy, is filled with debris, or has overripe produce.
- This is an organic garden.
 - Toxic chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides are not allowed.
 - Only organic fertilizers, mulch, and compost may be used.
- Use designated areas for compost and debris.
 - Any trash, weeds, and unwanted plants from your parcel and aisles need to be placed in the appropriate container.
- Common areas are maintained as a shared responsibility by all gardeners.

- Underground pipes are running beneath the parcels. If a pipe breaks, staff may have to remove parcel materials, such as raised beds, plants, and soil, to repair the pipe. Gardeners may have to replace soil and plants after a repair. The City of Dublin will not be responsible for returning the garden to its previous state.
 - You must notify the Parks and Community Services Department immediately if a water line breaks.
- Crops need to be harvested once they are mature. Please consider donating if you do not feel you will use all your harvest. Contact the Parks and Community Services Department for resources.
- If winter crops are not planted, your parcel must be free of weeds and dead or unsightly plant material, and a 4" layer of manure or a cover crop must be planted by December 15 to help enrich and nourish the soil.
- Gardeners may establish their layout of beds and paths within the dimensions of their assigned parcel.
 - All fencing or support structures must be installed on either your parcel's east or west end.
 - Any such structures must stand independently, entirely within the parcel, and may not shade other parcels.
 - All structures and support must be made of easily removeable materials. Nothing may be nailed into or attached to the wooden box.
 - Chicken wire is not allowed as a support structure.
 - Master Gardeners are available to help with ideas and questions regarding acceptable support structures.
- Be considerate of your garden neighbors.
 - You must keep material within your parcel.
 - If an adjacent parcel's gardener complains of excessive shading by anything on your parcel, you must agree or remove it immediately.
 - Do not enter or pick from another gardener's parcel even if you think the parcel has been neglected.
 - Taking food or damaging another gardener's parcel will be grounds for forfeiture of your parcel of deposit.
- Complaints should be brought to the attention of the Parks and Community Services Department for review and action.

6. Prohibited

- **Invasive plants include** mint, raspberries, blackberries, Jerusalem Artichoke, horseradish, or Oenothera (Mexican and Pink Evening Primrose). These are very hard to remove and get out of control fast.
- Under no circumstances is Stinging Nettle to be planted. This is a very invasive species that can spread by growing rhizomes underground and by wind-dispersed seeds. It also causes skin rash irritation when touched.
- All trees and/or shrubs over 2' high are not to be planted in any parcel. This includes kiwi, grape, hop, passionflower, roses, and other such vines.
 - These trees, shrubs, and vines become permanent after a short time, shading your neighbor's garden, and growing over garden borders.
- Growing drug-producing plants
 - Automatic forfeit of parcel and subject to prosecution.

- Foul language or loud offensive behavior.
- Personal vehicles in the garden area or park pathways.
- Only approved drip / irrigation systems allowed. The Master Gardeners can provide information and suggestions on approved drip systems.
- Trellises and other support structures higher than 6' in height from the ground
- Amplified music

7. Tools and Equipment

- Use equipment and tools responsibly and treat them with care.
- Replace a tool if it breaks when you are using it.
- Do not leave tools in your parcel.
- Return tools clean when done.
- Store tools neatly and securely for the safety and convenience of fellow gardeners.
- City tools and equipment are not to be taken home overnight and must be returned to the designated area.
- Do not leave used tomato cages, poles, containers, or other personal items in the tool shed.

8. Compost Area and Rules

You must add your garden cuttings and fruit and vegetable waste to the designated compost area. Follow the compost rules for acceptable materials.

- Rules
 - Cut branches to fit inside the container, and the lids can close.
 - Kitchen vegetable scraps are good. Cover with yard clippings to deter flies and rats.
 - No waste from dogs, cats, birds, or humans.
 - Non-organic wastes, wood, wire, plastics, and any questionable items must go in the garden dumpster.
 - Gardeners will be responsible for the maintenance and cleanup of the compost area.
 - Before adding organic waste to the compost bins, remove from any plastic. Plastic needs to be disposed of in the garden dumpster, not the compost bins.

The City of Dublin reserves the right to modify, change, or alter the above guidelines in the community's best interest.