

Montrose Community Garden Rules

Adopted May 12, 2014/Updated January 2024

Located at the intersection of Arapahoe and Aspen Lanes

Registration:

- Registration will begin November 2nd for current garden renters by filling out a rental agreement and code of conduct form.
- Priority for the following gardening year will be open after November 15th on a first come basis to all Montrose City residents.
- Each household will be allowed to reserve one plot in advance of May 1st unless they had 2 plots the previous year.
- Fee due at time of registration.
- On May 1st all remaining garden plots will become available

Garden Cancellations:

- If you decide not to use your garden plot, contact city hall @ 763-575-7422 immediately so the plot can be reassigned.
- Fees will only be refunded if the garden plot is reserved by another gardener.
- No refunds will be given after June 1st.

Rental Provisions:

- The 2024 fee for each 20' x 20' garden plot is \$40.00, plus a \$100.00 cash deposit that is refundable at the end of the season ***if the gardener/resident completely cleans out their plot*** according to the safety and courtesy guidelines. The \$40.00 plot reservation fee and \$100.00 cash deposit are due at the time of registration. **If the gardener/resident does comply with the safety and courtesy guidelines, they may no longer be allowed to rent a garden plot from the City of Montrose.**

Plot Size

- The plots are approximately 20' x 20' and will be marked with a stake and number.

Opening Date:

- The target date for opening is May 1st. This may vary due to weather and soil conditions.
- The City will not be doing any preparation work in the gardens beginning Spring (per City Council decision) – it will be up to the gardener/resident to till and prepare the garden plots for use.
- Gardens must be maintained all summer long.

Garbage and Composting:

- It is the responsibility of the plot tenant to remove all garbage and compost from their plot.

Water:

- Water is available for watering gardens; however, no fertilizer may be applied through city water.
- Unattended use of sprinklers and/or water is not allowed.

Safety and Courtesy:

- Each gardener is asked to be respectful of other gardens, including wearing headphones when listening to music.
- Do not allow vine crops to extend beyond the boundaries of your plot.
- **Be sure that tall crops do not shade neighboring plots.**
- Pick crops from your garden only.
- Use cultivation or mulches to control weeds.
- Weeding should be done weekly so that they are not allowed to reseed.
- Do not use fertilizers, insecticides or weed repellents that will in any way affect other plots or negatively affect the plot for future use.
- Mixing or storing of chemicals at the garden is prohibited.
- Gardeners will be conscious of their impact on the soil and the neighboring plots.
- Perennials planted in individual's plots must be removed before the fall clean up.
- Wood structures are not allowed, including garden boxes.
- Horseradish, mint, and other perennial crops that are invasive are not allowed.
- Pets are not allowed in the garden area or in the park.
- **Weed barriers:**
 - Plastic barriers or Landscaping fabric may be used as weed barriers in garden plots, but their condition will be assessed at the end of the garden season. If plastic or landscape fabric barriers are in good condition, they may be permitted to remain for the following year's rental, provided that the current renter renews their agreement and pays their rental fees for the following year.
 - Cardboard will not be permitted barrier.
 - All weed barriers must be secured with stakes.
 - Weed barrier methods not specified in these rules will be considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission on a case-by-case basis.
- **Alternative Mulches:**
 - Gardeners are encouraged to use natural mulches, such as straw or wood chips, as garden barriers, ensuring they do not impede the growth of neighboring plots.
 - The use of corn litter as a mulching material is permitted, provided it is well-maintained and poses no threat to other gardeners or the environment.

Traps:

- No leg traps are allowed.

Garden Neglect and Weed Control:

- Each gardener is responsible for weeding and maintaining their plot(s).
- Gardens and pathways must be kept free of weeds.
- The gardens will be inspected periodically to ensure compliance.
- Gardeners not performing maintenance will be notified to rectify the situation immediately. Non-compliance will result in the garden being mowed or tilled and future rental may not be permitted.

Illegal Activity:

- Illegal plants are not permitted in the Community Garden.
- Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited in the Community Garden.
- All rules and regulations outlined in the Montrose City Code must always be followed.
- An infraction of Garden rules or City Code will result in expulsion from the Community Garden.

Garden Closing Date:

- October 31st is the closing date for the gardens (subject to change due to extreme weather)
- Gardeners must remove all gardening materials except for items referenced under the Safety and Courtesy section and completely clear their plot of any vegetation growth, or \$100.00 cash deposit will not be refunded, and the gardener/resident may no longer be able to rent a garden plot with the City of Montrose.
- Items not claimed will become the property of the City and disposed of as needed and the tenant may not be permitted to rent a garden plot in the future.

Hold Harmless Clause:

- All participants must sign necessary waivers required by the City of Montrose prior to planting.
- The City reserves the right to close the Community Garden, if necessary, with proper notification to all gardeners.

I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE CITY OF MONTROSE FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE GARDEN BY ME OR ANY OF MY GUESTS. I FURTHER AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE GARDEN AND ALL OTHER MONTROSE PARK RULES.

Signed: _____

Please print clearly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address:
