

Powell Kiwanis Community Garden

2019 Welcome Packet

Welcome to the Powell Kiwanis Community Garden located at Arbor Ridge Park – 500 Bennett Parkway. This is the fourth season that the garden has been opened. This Welcome Packet contains important information about how our garden operates and whom to contact with questions. It also contains information about how you can contribute to the success of the garden. Because community gardening requires a fair amount of work beyond tending your own plot, every gardener is asked to participate in the upkeep of the garden as a whole.



Additional information about the garden can be found online at <http://cityofpowell.us/residents/parks-recreation/community-garden/>

Welcome to Community Gardening

A community garden means many things to many people. For some, a community garden is a place to grow food, flowers and herbs in the company of friends and neighbors. For others, it is a place to reconnect with nature or get physical exercise.

Regardless of why you choose to take part in a community garden, the activity comes with both responsibilities and rewards.

Responsibilities: Successful and vibrant community gardens rely on the dedication and combined effort of each gardener to maintain a plot and contribute to the upkeep and management of the garden as a whole. There are many jobs that need to be done in order to help the garden run smoothly, such as: weeding, mulching paths, maintaining tools and equipment, planning events and workshops, stocking and hauling supplies and building raised beds. If everyone contributes, the garden will prosper and grow.

Rewards: Community gardening has the potential to offer a range of benefits to individuals, families, communities and the environment. Benefits include:

Food Production—Community gardens allow people to grow high quality fruits and vegetables for themselves, their families and their communities.

Nutrition—Research indicates that community gardeners eat more fruits and vegetables than non-gardening families.

Exercise—Gardening requires physical activity and helps improve the overall physical health of gardeners.

Mental Health—interacting with plants and nature helps reduce stress and increases a gardener's sense of wellness and belonging.

Community—Community gardens foster a sense of community identity, ownership and stewardship among gardeners. They provide a place for people of diverse backgrounds to interact and share cultural traditions.

Environment—Gardens help reduce the heat island effect in cities, increase biodiversity, reduce run-off from rain, recycle local organic materials and reduce fossil fuel use from long distance food transport.

Learning—People of all ages can acquire and share skills and knowledge related to gardening, cooking, nutrition, health, culture, etc.

Youth—Community gardens provide a place for youth to explore gardening, nature and community.

Property Values—Research indicates that property values around community gardens increase faster than property values in similar areas without gardens.

Above all, community gardening can provide a sense of **satisfaction** and **accomplishment** for all.

Community Garden FAQs

These are some of the frequently asked questions regarding the Community Garden. Other questions can be directed to Gina Kolp.

How much does it cost to garden here?

A 4' x 8' bed costs \$30 for residents and \$60 for non-residents. Registration for the limited number of plots we have begins Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at the Village Green Municipal Building—47 Hall Street. Previous tenants will have an opportunity to renew their plots prior to this. Gina Kolp will be reaching out the week before.

What kinds of tools, equipment and supplies are available at the garden?

Most gardeners bring their own equipment, but the garden does have limited quantities of shovels, rakes and watering cans. These items will be stored in the community shed on-site. Please return all items to the shed after each use. Feel free to store limited personal gardening items in the shed. However, the City of Powell and Kiwanis are not responsible for personal items that are lost, stolen or broken.

Can I hook up a hose to the water tap?

No. In an effort to insure that all gardeners have equal access to the water, no hoses may be attached to the spigot. Please use a pail or watering can to carry water to your plot.

What do I have to do to stay in good standing with the garden?

1) Maintain your plot, 2) Volunteer to help with activities when requested, 3) Pay fees, 4) Have fun.

Is this an organic garden?

Yes. You may not use synthetic chemical pesticides or herbicides in your plot. However, you may use conventional treated seeds.

What is an organic garden?

When gardening organically, you think of your plants as part of a whole system within nature that starts in the soil and includes the water supply, people, wildlife and even insects. This means regularly adding organic matter to the soil, typically compost. Organic gardens do not contain synthetic fertilizers or pesticides.

Whom do I contact for gardening advice?

Start by reaching out to your fellow gardeners. Then try Parks & Recreation director, Jeff Snyder, he will be able to get you into contact with someone knowledgeable.

What can I plant in my garden plot?

With a few exceptions, this is entirely up to you. As long as you keep your plot in shape by weeding and tending to it on a regular basis, most any type of legal vegetable, herb, or flower should be acceptable. Please refrain from planting trees or anything deemed as "invasive" by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources or the United States Department of Agriculture. If you have any questions, please contact Parks & Recreation Supervisor, Gina Kolp.

What type of fencing is allowed?

We will allow fencing this season. Please try and make it look natural and nice as the garden is in one of our more popular City parks, ideally natural colors. If you have specific questions about the types of fencing allowed please contact Silas Bowers at sowers@cityofpowell.us.

Success at the Community Garden

The following tips are intended to help ensure your success at the garden.

- **Plan to visit your garden two to three times a week during the growing season.** Make a schedule for yourself or with other gardeners. Write it on your calendar. Post a colorful reminder on the fridge. Because the garden is not located outside your front or back door, it's sometimes easy to forget that there is weeding, watering, staking or harvesting to do.
- **Make friends with other gardeners.** Experienced gardeners are an invaluable resource in the garden. Visit their plots to see how they stake their tomatoes or trellis their beans; ask them for advice or assistance.
- **Educate yourself.** Check out books from the library. Attend classes. Become a Master Gardener. There is always something to learn about gardening. The more you learn, the more success you will have.
- **Know your neighbors.** Learn the names and a little about your gardening neighbors. Share some extra produce.
- **Grow more than you need and harvest produce on a regular basis.** Opportunities exist for donating extra produce to charitable organizations.
- **Bring your cell phone.** Should a problem arise, keep important numbers stored on your phone.

Contact: The best way to get a quick response to your questions is to contact Gina Kolp at gkolp@cityofpowell.us.



Community Garden Layout



You are encouraged to share pictures you take of the garden with Gina Kolp via e-mail gkolp@cityofpowell.us or tag us on social media.

Facebook: City of Powell Parks & Recreation

Instagram: @powellparksandrec



Community Garden Agreement

1. Each gardener will be assigned a 4' x 8' plot in the Powell Kiwanis Community Garden. Each plot will be identified by a number or letter. Gardeners may only maintain the plot they are assigned, unless given authorization by another user.
2. The annual fee for a garden plot is currently \$30 for residents and \$60 for non-residents. Fees are payable to the **City of Powell**—47 Hall Street—fees must be paid in full at the time of registration. Each gardener must also sign the City of Powell Recreation Waiver and Release form during the registration process in order to complete registration.
3. A water source is available adjacent to the garden. Please use water responsibly. No hoses may be used, a few watering cans and pails can be found in the supply shed.
4. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot during the garden season, from the time of registration through the end of October. Tilling, soil development, watering, weeding, harvesting, and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener. It is also the responsibility of the gardener to keep the walkways surrounding their plot clear and free of weeds, trash, plant materials, and supplies.
5. Access to the community garden is available from dawn to dusk, seven days a week during the garden season. All City of Powell parks close at dark.
6. Garden plots should be cared for regularly. It is the gardener's responsibility to notify Gina Kolp if they are not able to care for their plot for an extended period of time. If a plot becomes unkempt through neglect, the gardener will be asked to clean it up. The plot will be subject to reassignment if the cleanup does not occur. Plots left unattended for 2 weeks are subject to having the contents removed and the plot offered to a new tenant.
7. Gardens must be attended to by June 1st. If your plot does not appear attended to, a notification will be given by email to ensure you are using and tending to your garden plot. If your garden is still not attended to following the email notification it will be given to a gardener who is waiting for a plot.
8. At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for leaving the plot in good condition. All plots are to be cleaned out and ready for the winter by October 1, 2019. Following this the City will remove any remaining items other than soil. No tools or other equipment can be stored in the shed during the winter.

9. Children are welcome in the garden, but must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised at all times.
10. The garden is incorporated into a city park, many children visit the park daily; for safety reasons no tools or supplies of any kind may be left unattended at the garden site.
11. No drugs or alcohol are permitted in the garden.
12. No pets are permitted in the garden. Please respect your fellow gardeners by keeping pets completely outside the perimeter of the garden at all times.
13. Gardeners may only pick their own crops, unless given permission by another gardener.
14. The application of non-organic insecticides or herbicides (weed killers) or any other poison to the garden is prohibited. Organic practices are strongly encouraged.
15. Never throw anything such as trash, weeds, plant material, spoiled fruits or vegetables in the field surrounding the garden. All of these materials are to be placed in the provided trash cans. Compost bins may be available in the future.
16. The Kiwanis Club and City of Powell staff are responsible for ensuring that the rules of this agreement are followed at all times. Issues will be discussed on an individual basis, and if need be through an e-mail to all community garden plot holders.
17. Plots must always be maintained in a safe condition. If any condition is deemed unsafe, the Kiwanis Club and City of Powell staff will require the gardener to rectify the situation immediately. If a second intervention is necessary, the gardener must relinquish his/her plot. The Kiwanis Club and City of Powell reserve the right to restrict any person's access to their garden plot based on safety concerns or unwelcome behavior.
18. Parking is available at Arbor Ridge Park by the tennis courts. Gardeners are asked not to park on residential streets.
19. No driving is permitted on the grass beyond the pavement out to the garden for any purpose.

The Garden Agreement is subject to change.

All rules, guidelines, and policies of the Powell Parks & Recreation Department and the City of Powell override any of the information in this Garden Agreement should it be determined that there is a conflict.

Community Garden Resources

Important Vocabulary:

Organic Gardening- Plants are grown without applications of any chemical fertilizers, pesticides or fungicides. Soil is enriched by adding organic matter, preferably from local sources, including composting, mulching, and animal or green manure applications. Plants are often chosen and positioned to mimic their natural habitat. Nutrients and resources are recycled in an organic garden ecosystem which aims to require as little external input as possible.

Composting- The practice of collecting vegetable cuttings, peels and other scraps from the kitchen and letting them break down through aerobic (with presence of oxygen) or anaerobic (without oxygen) decomposition process.

Humus- Organic matter in the soil that has reached a stable point and will not readily break down further; what gives fertile soil the crumbly desirable structure.

Tilling- The process of turning and lifting the soil, or poking holes through it, in the effort to bring oxygen into the soil.

Mulching- The practice of laying a protective layer of organic matter on top of the soil to prevent water evaporation and to create slow-release fertilization.

Cover Crops/Green Manure- Low, spreading plants, that well-cover the ground. They work similar to mulch by locking moisture in the soil, keeping the ground cool, protecting it from erosion and smothering weeds.

Companion Planting- The practice of placing crops that can help each other grow in close proximity.

Beneficial Insects- Organic pest control—wasps, ladybugs, bees, beetles, praying mantises.

This handbook is adapted from several resources:

Springfield Promise Neighborhood Community Garden—www.springfieldpromise.com

Organic Gardening—www.organicgardening.com

Sustainable Worthington—www.sustainableworthington.com/c-garden

Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin—www.cacscw.org

PermaCultured—www.permacultured.us

Contacts:

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