



Anacortes Community Gardens 29th Street Garden



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The 29th Street Community Garden is a wonderful public resource. To maintain it as safe, healthy, and pleasant for all gardeners and neighbors, please read and know your rights and responsibilities:

1. Follow **The Golden Rule**: Treat others as you would like to be treated—be friendly and considerate of both your fellow gardeners, their gardens, and the surrounding neighborhood.
2. A **garden committee**, its members chosen each spring by consensus from the gardeners at large, manages the day-to-day business of helping the garden run smoothly. The Anacortes Community Garden **Advisory Board** supports the garden committee with matters such as security, garden improvements, and issue resolution. Gardeners are encouraged to get to know these folks and serve on the committee and board. Member names and contact info are listed on the bulletin board.
3. Each gardener is expected to contribute **eight volunteer hours annually** to general garden tasks (see plot application form for suggestions). You may invite others to work with you to satisfy this requirement. Volunteer hour requirement must be met as a condition of renewing your plot for a subsequent year.
4. **Children** are welcome in the garden; they must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.
5. Please leave **pets** at home and help keep stray or feral animals out of the garden by closing the fence gates.
6. Thank you for keeping the garden free of **smoking, alcohol, drugs, and firearms**.
7. The last gardener to leave *at any hour* must make sure that the **shed is locked** and all **gates are securely closed**.
8. To maintain the garden as a peaceful place, **amplified music** (boom boxes, radios) are not permitted; quiet hours are observed from 9 P.M. to 8 A.M. out of respect for neighboring residents.
9. In this organic garden, gardeners are welcome to use their favorite natural, bio-friendly fertilizers and pest control methods. **Nonorganic pesticides and herbicides are not allowed**. Natural compost is produced onsite and available to all. If you are new to organic gardening or unsure about using a product, the garden committee and Master Gardeners are available with answers and advice.
10. Gardeners may establish their own **layout of beds** and paths within the dimensions of their assigned garden plots. Beds may be raised a maximum of 18 inches from path height. All fencing or support structures must be installed completely within the plot, not shade other plots, and be made of easily removable materials.
11. When **choosing plants**, consider the impact of shade, self-seeding, and spreading, etc., on other plots. Choose plants that will grow 6 feet or less above the general soil level. Master Gardeners can help with this.
12. Because **woody plants** (vines, canes, shrubs) are semi-permanent, they may not be planted in individual plots. Gardeners are welcome to suggest such plants for the common planting area around the fence line.
13. Conscientious **weeding** helps prevent weeds from spreading to other plots and keeps the garden looking neat and attractive. All weeds removed from the garden should be discarded in the designated weed collection area according to the posting in the compost area.
14. Gardeners are encouraged to add their garden cuttings and fruit and vegetable waste *from this community garden* to the **designated compost area**. Ensure you follow the posted guidelines for acceptable materials and how they should be prepared for composting. Please do not add any household or private yard waste.
Gardeners may compost in their own plots; bins or piles must be completely within individual plot limits.
15. **Garbage and recycling bins** are provided; please recycle all acceptable materials (listed on the bulletin board).
16. Hand **tool use** avoids noise disturbance and air pollution. Power tools may be used as necessary on scheduled work or tilling days and by Parks staff for periodic maintenance.

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17. Several sets of **shared hand tools** are kept in the shed for garden use. Please use the sign-out/in sheet. When finished using a tool, clean it off and return it to its storage location in the shed. A limited number of lockers are available for personal tool storage. Please lock the shed after each use.
18. **Water** is provided free by the city; please conserve this valuable resource. No overhead sprinklers, please. Drip or soaker systems may be installed; review your plan with the garden committee. Watering must be monitored by a gardener during the entire watering period. Gardeners may arrange for other gardeners to water or maintain their plot.
19. Please **respect others' plots**: do not enter or disturb or remove anything—including weeds—unless the gardener is present and/or has given permission. Taking food or damaging others' plots will be grounds for forfeiture of your plot. Complaints should be brought to the attention of the garden committee for review and action. Proposed actions will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee before implementation.
20. **Sale or transfer of a plot assignment is not permitted.** Vacated plots will be reassigned per the priority of an established wait list at the direction of the garden committee.
21. To be promptly informed about garden news or changes, gardeners should notify the garden committee of any changes in **contact information** (phone number, email, mailing address) from their original application.
22. **Weekly maintenance** of garden plots is expected, weather permitting. Contact the garden committee if you anticipate being unable to maintain your plot for a period longer than two weeks. The gardener and/or the committee may arrange care during that time. If a plot remains unattended for more than two weeks without notice, the committee will phone or email the gardener. If the gardener can't be reached or does not correct the problem within one week, the committee and the Parks Department reserve the right to take interim action to address the problem and/or to reassign the plot.
23. Notify the garden committee as soon as possible of any **decision to stop using a plot** so it can be reassigned. The plot should be left empty, clean and ready for another gardener to use. Completely remove any fencing, plant coverings, or other structures and any landscaping fabric or weed barrier. Raised beds may be left intact *if* the next gardener wants them retained. If a gardener releases a plot before the full year paid for is over, a prorated refund may be issued, as determined by the advisory committee.

Any gardener who fails to respect the above garden rights and responsibilities will be contacted by the garden committee by phone or email to discuss the problem and agree on a deadline for resolution. If the gardener has not resolved the issue in the time allowed, the committee will send the gardener a letter. If the problem continues for one week without response, the gardener will lose the right to the garden plot(s). The committee will withdraw the gardener's assignment and reassign the plot(s) without further notification. If a plot is reassigned because of either violations or neglect, no fee or prorated fee will be refunded.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Enjoy your garden community!

Anacortes Community Gardens is a program of the Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with Transition Fidalgo & Friends, a 501.c.3 non-profit organization. The Department seeks to preserve and enhance the quality of life that our residents enjoy by providing quality recreational facilities and opportunities and diverse community-wide programs to fulfill the recreational needs of youth, seniors, and adults, regardless of age, race, sex, wealth, or ability.



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 & **Transition Fidalgo & Friends**

