

**ARROYO GRANDE RECREATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM  
POLICIES AND APPLICANT AGREEMENT**

1. Garden plots are assigned for six-month periods (January – June and July – December). At the end of each six (6) month period, each program participant (hereinafter “gardener”) must renew their plot registration at the Recreation Services Department and pay the required fees in order to continue in the program. Plots are rented for \$45 per plot for each six-month period with no pro-rating, with the exception of new renters starting after the beginning of a six-month period. Fees are subject to change at the start of each six-month period. Plots must be renewed every six months; advanced payments are not allowed. Fees are non-refundable.
2. Gardener must agree to, and sign, the Community Gardens Policies and Applicant Agreement, and City of Arroyo Grande Code of Conduct and Release, Indemnity and Assumption of Risk Agreement, here attached.
3. Garden plots are assigned by the Recreation Services Department. Gardeners may not reassign or sublease their plot(s) to others at any time.
4. One plot is allowed per resident as long as there is a wait list. Gardeners may request a second plot when there is no wait list. In this case, gardeners will agree to give up their second plot after the six- month rental is complete in the event a potential gardener is added to the wait list.
5. A “Plot Cleaning Deposit” of \$50 is required for each plot. In the event that your plot is deemed by the Recreation Services Department to not be maintained properly (in the Department’s sole and absolute discretion) for 14 consecutive days, including removal of weeds in and adjacent to your plot, your deposit will be forfeited and City staff will be assigned to clean your plot. If this happens, you will be mailed a “Notice of Deficient Upkeep” and you will have 14 days to pay a new Plot Cleaning Deposit of \$50 to continue use of your plot. If you do not pay the new Plot Cleaning Deposit within the 14 day period, your plot will be reassigned to a new gardener without refund of rental fees. The Recreation Services Department will inspect garden plots as needed but no less than on a monthly basis. Any gardener who receives two (2) “Notice of Deficient Upkeep” may have their plot reassigned to a new gardener without refund of rental fees.
6. If your plot will be vacant for an extended period of time (two weeks or more), you must notify the Recreation Services Department by calling (805) 473-5474. If planting will not be taking place during a given season, the gardener is responsible to mulch over the entire plot to prevent unwanted weed growth.
7. The Recreation Services Department may remind gardeners up to two times for payment renewal. However, the responsibility to pay the renewal fee is ultimately upon the gardener. Plots not paid for by the due date will be considered abandoned and will be reassigned by the Recreation Services Department.
8. A limited number of keys are available to check-out for gardeners desiring access to the communal garden storage unit. A \$30 deposit fee is required for key check-out; deposit is refunded upon key return. The Recreation Services Department is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged property. Storage of personal gardening equipment is at the gardener’s own risk.
9. The City encourages all gardeners to look after the entire Community Garden area. Please report any vandalism to the Recreation Services Department at (805) 473-5474 or the Arroyo Grande Police Department after hours at (805) 473-5100.
10. **WHAT YOU CAN PLANT:** The Community Garden is to be used to produce agricultural produce. Gardeners may plant only authorized ANNUAL or herbaceous (green and leafy, not woody) plants, vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers. Artichoke plants are allowed.
11. **WHAT YOU CAN’T PLANT:** No bulbs, bramble fruits, bamboo, rose bushes, shrubs or trees, or invasive vines or plants may be planted within a garden plot. This list of prohibited plants is subject to revision at any time, and any plants in question will be ruled on by the Recreation Services Department. All plants are subject to removal without further notice or compensation. No planting is allowed outside garden plot boundaries. If there are questions on what is an authorized plant, call The Recreation Services office at (805) 473-5474 to avoid any unnecessary work and expense.

12. Container plants, potted plants, water gardens are not allowed. Hardscape materials, fencing or border of any type, sheds, lean-tos, underground chicken or gopher wire, or other structures are not allowed. \*\*\*Commercial gopher cages are allowed around root balls only, to combat gopher problems, but NO burying of chicken wire is allowed. The use of "black boxes" to trap gophers is also allowed.
13. Trellises and tomato cages must be of commercial grade and be placed in location not to shade adjoining plots. Trellises can be no higher than 5 feet. Tomato cages can be no higher than 5 feet and no wider than 2 feet. All home-made garden implements must be approved by the Recreation Services Department.
14. Commercial grade garden art is allowed ONLY after written approval from the Recreation Services Department. Gardeners must submit a picture of any proposed items to the Recreation Services Department for approval. Gardeners may be required to remove any item deemed to be in poor condition by the Recreation Services Department.
15. Each gardener is responsible for general upkeep and maintenance of their plot(s), including watering, removal of weeds (including Bermuda/Crab Grass) and debris, and general plant maintenance.
16. Each gardener must provide his/her own tools, supplies, etc. The City is not responsible for items left or damaged at the garden site. The City will provide hoses and hose spray nozzles.
17. Pets are not allowed in the garden under any circumstances, even if on a leash.
18. Children must be under adult supervision at all times while visiting the garden.
19. Each gardener is responsible for controlling garden pests. **The use of inorganic pesticides is not permitted.** The use of sludge is not permitted. However, the use of compost, cottonseed meal, bone meal, blood meal, and steer manure, as well as inorganic fertilizer is allowed. Companion planting is an effective way to control insects, or the sparing use of any of the following may work as pesticides: garlic, hot peppers, wood ashes, pyrethrum, and insecticidal soap.
20. Due to drought conditions, watering may only take place on Sundays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. NO WATERING ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS. Only hand watering is allowed. No drip irrigation systems are allowed and gardeners are not allowed to hook up anything other than a hand watering hose to the City's water supply.
21. All watering is restricted to the plots each gardener is assigned. Please use water sparingly and do not leave a hose on unattended – it is a valuable and costly resource.
22. All unauthorized structures or items within the Community Garden are subject to removal without notice or compensation and labor/hauling cost will be billed to gardener. All authorized structures will be installed and maintained at gardener's sole expense.
23. Composting is permitted but gardeners are responsible for disposing of their own waste, including litter, weeds, and excess vegetation. Please do not leave piles of weeds or bags of trash or clippings in front of the garden. Please bag all trash or clippings and dispose of them on your own. **The City will provide a green waste container and trash container near the garden area.** Do not put waste in any other plot or common area. Compost piles are allowed only in approved containers on individual plots.
24. For the benefit of all participants, please harvest your crops once they are mature. If you cannot use all of your produce, organizations such as Harvest Bag can help distribute your surplus to the needy of our community. Please contact the Recreation Services Department at (805) 473-5474 for further information.
25. No alcohol or smoking is allowed in the Community Garden area.
26. **Remedy in the Event of Violation of this Agreement**  
Upon occurrence of a violation by the gardener of the terms and conditions of this agreement, the Recreation Services Department shall have at its discretion, after proper notification, an option to require the gardener to immediately surrender the plot. If the gardener fails to surrender the plot, the Recreation Services Department may without notice enter and take possession of the plot and remove the gardener's property from the Plot without thereby incurring any liability for such removal whatsoever. The Recreation Services Department may, at its discretion, may impose any additional terms, conditions, rules and regulations regarding a gardener's use of the Community Garden that it deems necessary.