

# SeaTac Community Garden

13815 24th Ave. S., SeaTac • Open from dawn to dusk.

Welcome to the City of SeaTac's community garden! The garden is open to residents of the City of SeaTac and those from surrounding communities when available.

**Plot Use:** Gardeners are free to grow flowers, herbs, vegetables and fruits in the individual plots, as long as they comply with the rules of the community garden.

**Growing Season:** March 1 through November 30

**Plot Size:** 80 square feet (8'x10')

**Fees:** \$40 per year (A \$50 refundable deposit will be charged to all first time plot holders. The deposit will be refunded at the end of the growing season when the rented plot(s) are properly cleared.)

**Amenities:** Water, compost, recycling and waste receptacles are available onsite. Restrooms and drinking fountain are located in the SeaTac Community Center and are available during business hours.

**Parking:** Parking is available at the SeaTac Community Center and on the east side of 24th Avenue South.

**Contact Information:** 206-973-4680 (SeaTac Community Center)



## Important Dates

Growing season begins on March 1.

Your plot will be reassigned, and payment forfeited, if it is not worked on by June 1. Exceptions will be made for weather.

Harvesting and cleaning up of plots must be completed by November 30. Failing to clear out your plot may result in being restricted from renting plots for future seasons.

Starting November 1, renewal applications will be accepted for returning gardeners.

## Application Deadlines

Applications for City of SeaTac residents will be accepted beginning January 2. SeaTac residents may apply for a second plot (if available) beginning March 1. Non-residents may apply for one or two plots (if available) beginning March 4. If space is not available, names will be added to a waitlist in chronological order until a plot becomes available.

Renewal applications for returning gardeners will be accepted beginning on November 1 and are due no later than December 31. Renewals received after the deadline will be assigned a plot if one is available.

## Eligibility

As the Garden is organized for the benefit of residents of the City of SeaTac, residents will have priority on assignment of plots. A person who is not a resident of the City of SeaTac may apply on or after March 4. Residency may be confirmed by a valid State of Washington driver's license or a current utility bill.

- A plot holder is a person 18 years or older and is assigned a plot and actively gardens within the Rules and Regulations of the Garden.
- For purposes of this document, a residence is defined as a structure in which people live and is differentiated from other such structures by having a different mailing address.
- A plot holder must be current in all fees due to SeaTac Parks, Community Programs and Services Department.
- All applicants, returning and new, must be in good standing with SeaTac Parks, Community Programs and Services Department.

## Applications

All individuals interested in a plot at the SeaTac Community Garden must complete a Plot Application. This applies to new and renewal applicants.

Plot applications are available:

- Online at [www.seatacwa.gov/communitygarden](http://www.seatacwa.gov/communitygarden).
- In person at the SeaTac Community Center, 13735 24th Avenue, South, SeaTac, WA 98168.

## Fees

- Plot fees are \$40 per year. Fees must be paid in full.
- Fees are reviewed annually and are subject to change.
- Fees are necessary for maintenance and administration of the Community Garden.
- There is no plot proration for mid-season or end-of-season assignments.
- Plots cannot be transferred to, sublet to, or exchanged with another person, including relatives.
- All fees are non-refundable.



## Assignments

All plots will be assigned by the Recreation Manager or designee. Plots are assigned on a first come, first serve basis.

- Plots may be picked at the time of registration at the SeaTac Community Center.
- SeaTac residents are given priority. If there are any remaining plots, non-SeaTac residents may have an opportunity for a plot.
- Once assigned a plot, plot holders will retain its use as long as he/she abides by the Rules and Regulations, their fees are current and they have not exhausted their 3 year consecutive term.
- Returning plot holders must reserve your plot by Jan. 2 to guarantee you get the same plot. After Jan. 2, you are not guaranteed the same plot as registration opens to all SeaTac residents at that time.
- Plots are assigned to a primary plot holder and cannot be transferred to, sublet to, or exchanged with another person, including relatives.
- Second plot requests will be accommodated on a first come, first serve basis beginning March 1 (if available). Maximum of two plots per household. Normal fees are charged for the second plot and the second plot will not likely be near the primary plot.

## Renewals

Plot holders are eligible to renew their application for two consecutive years after their first assigned plot is granted (a total of three years maximum). After the third year, the plot holder may apply to be on the waitlist. If there is no waitlist, you can register for an extra year. This allows our waitlist applicants to have the opportunity to garden and helps build equity among our community.

- Returning plot holders are given priority to renew their application if submitted by the renewal deadline. Renewals received after the deadline will be placed on the waitlist.
- Returning plot holders who have a second plot will only be allowed to renew one plot. Once all SeaTac residents have been satisfied, they will have an option for a second plot pending availability.
- Each plot can have only one primary plot holder with renewal privileges, regardless of how many people share the plot from the household.
- Returning gardeners are not guaranteed the same plot as previous years.
- All renewals must be in good standing with the SeaTac Parks, Community Programs and Services Department.

## Waitlist

You may apply to be added to the waitlist at any time. There is no fee to be added to the waitlist.

- Plots are offered to waitlist applicants in chronological order after the renewal deadline has passed. City of SeaTac residents are given priority; if there are any remaining plots, non-SeaTac residents may have the opportunity for a plot.
- Waitlist applicants must respond to plot offers within 2 business days, or the plot will be offered to the next waitlist designee.
- There is no requirement to accept an offer for a plot in a given year.
- There is no free proration for the mid-season or end of season assignments.

## Maintenance

Maintaining your plot is your responsibility. If you do not maintain and harvest your plot, it may be reassigned, and your fees forfeited. If this year will be difficult for you, let us reassign your plot. You may stay on the waitlist for four years if you choose.

- Do not expand your garden plot beyond its designated area. Keep invasive, vining and spreading crops confined to your own plot, or, preferably confined to pots within your plot.
- Cedar planters may not be altered in any way (i.e. painted, stained, drilled into, nothing can be attached to them, etc.)
- Working gardeners are expected to spend at least 2 hours per week, on average, tending the plot during the growing season.
- Plot may not be consistently weedy, untended or filled with debris.
- The use of pressure/chemically treated wood is prohibited within the garden. These products contain toxic substances which may leach into the soil. Paint or stain must be safe for vegetable gardening and applied outside of the garden. Non-arsenic treated wood (ACQ or CBA-treated) is preferred in the garden.
- Winds can be quite strong and growing plants quite heavy. Please make sure you stabilize any structure. Please keep your plants and structures out of the paths and neighboring plots.
- Trellises must be removed when not in use and/or by the closing date.
- Garden décor is not permitted. This includes but not limited to: statues, flags, bird baths and signs.
- Terracing above 60" is prohibited. Wire or mesh fencing less than 30" tall is permitted in the garden.

## Extended Absence

If you are going to be out of town during the growing season, please ensure your plot is maintained in your absence. It is your responsibility to find someone to water, harvest and weed as needed. If you have a non-community gardener assisting in your absence, it is your responsibility to make sure they are familiar with the boundaries of your plot and comply with the rules and regulations. It's also a good idea to introduce your garden assistant to your fellow gardeners and inform the Community Garden Manager.

## Unattended/Abandoned Plots

When a plot is unattended (overgrown, weedy, unharvested) for more than two weeks during the growing season, the gardener assigned the plot will be contacted and asked to maintain the plot. Failure to comply within one week can result in the reassignment of the plot. No fees will be refunded.

## Resignation & Reassignment

Your plot will be reassigned if it is not worked on by June 1. Exceptions will be made for weather.

If you no longer wish to garden, you must notify the Garden Manager or designee and remove all debris from your garden. Gardeners may not transfer their plot(s) to unregistered parties.

## Watering

- Water using a gentle, light spray as higher pressure compacts the soil. Regular cultivation will keep water from flowing away from the plants you are trying to water.
- Water is available April 1 through October 31, dawn to dusk, 7 days a week.
- Remember that water is a precious and expensive commodity that is paid for by your plot fees. Please water responsibly and use to conserve water so that we can keep our plot fee as low as possible.
- Each user is responsible to turn the water faucet off at its source after they are done using it. It is prohibited to use a shutoff device at the garden end of the hose and leave the water hose pressurized after they are done.
- If others are waiting to use the hoses, please limit your use to 5 minutes.
- When moving hoses, please make sure you do not damage other plants, drag them through other plots or drag them across anything sharp. Please treat hoses carefully and return them when finished.
- Hoses are stored and pipes are covered for the winter between November 1 through March 31.
- Water as frequently as needed but lightly. Watering less frequently but more deeply is effective as your plants roots spread. Please ask experienced gardeners about sensible recommendations.
- Shower head nozzle/water wands are encouraged for proper watering. Do not leave water on and hoses pressurized when not in use.
- Unattended watering is not permitted.
- Sprinklers and soaker hoses, are not permitted.
- Standing Water - Containers of open-standing water should be avoided, because they can be breeding ground for mosquitoes.

## Tools

Gardeners are responsible for bringing their own handheld tools. Gas, electric or battery-operated tools are not allowed.

## Fertilizer & Insecticides

Blood and livestock-based bone meals are currently NOT allowed as soil amendments. Fish and poultry-based products are acceptable. The community garden is for organic gardening only. Organic fertilizer and garden lime is acceptable. The use of fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides made from synthetic chemical materials is strictly prohibited. Manures must be fully composted. Raw manure from any animal, as well as any human waste, is prohibited.

There are a few organic insecticides permitted in the garden, such as rotenone, pyrethrum and insecticidal soap. These are powerful products, and some can have undesirable effects. Read and follow label instructions. Misuse of pesticides may result in forfeiture of gardening privileges. Any pesticide application must be kept within the confines of the single rented garden plot. Keep all pesticides out of children's reach.

Slug bait based on iron phosphate (e.g. Sluggo) is allowed, as is a slug bait of beer and sugar/yeast/water solution enclosed in containers. The latter must be removed from the site after use. Please make sure that any slugs you remove from your plot are dead before being placed in the trash.

The use of synthetic fertilizers in powder form or in pre-packaged potting soils is prohibited. Organic fertilizer is encouraged.

## Plants

Please be careful that sunflower or tall trellised plants do not shade your neighbors plot. Trees and permanent structures are not allowed in any plot. Crops over six feet high are not allowed in the garden due to the shadow effect it causes for neighboring gardeners.

Plants must be legal to grow, non-invasive and not on the King County noxious weed list: [kingcounty.gov/weed](http://kingcounty.gov/weed). Marijuana, grasses, shrubs, trees and weeds are also prohibited.

Winds can be quite strong and growing plants quite heavy. Please make sure you stabilize any structure in your garden. Please keep your plants and structures out of the paths and neighboring plots.

Vining and spreading crops must be confined to your plots. Consider confining them to pots.

Gardeners are free to grow flowers, herbs, vegetables and fruits in the individual plots, as long as they comply with the rules of the community garden.



*Sunflowers are beautiful however they can shadow neighboring gardeners plots. Please be careful that sunflower or tall trellised plants do not shade your neighbors plot. Maximum height is 6 feet.*

## Harvesting

As crops mature, keep them harvested. This helps prevent disease and deters vandalism.

Sharing produce is encouraged but it may not be sold for compensation. If you wish to share your produce, please pick and give it away yourself. Don't invite non-community garden members to come and pick when you are not at the garden.

The City will till all seasonal plots by the opening date. Unfavorable weather may lead to opening postponement or a cancellation of tilling, in which case gardeners will be notified. Individual exceptions to opening date will not be made.

Gardeners are responsible for winter preparation of their plots.

## Wildlife

Wildlife in the area is a reality. Birds, squirrels and other creatures may enter the garden and cause damage. We encourage you to become familiar with wildlife and gardening. If you would like additional resources; please contact the Community Garden Manager. The City of SeaTac Parks, Community Programs and Services Department are not responsible for any damage done to the garden plots by wildlife that enters the garden.



## Conflict & Communication

**Conflict:** Other gardeners are our neighbors. Resolve differences in a neighborly way. For problems with fellow gardeners, stay polite and listen carefully; usually solutions are easily reached. Verbal or physical abuse or intimidation will not be tolerated. Contact the garden manager or designee for serious difficulties. SeaTac Parks, Community Programs and Services staff reserves the final authority for all conflicts.

**Communication:** One of the main goals in community gardening is to work together or next to each other in relative harmony. Contact your Garden Manager or designee for guideline clarifications or plot delineation. Garden Manager or designee will check plot regularly to encourage productive use by participants. You should make arrangements for plot maintenance and notify the Garden Manager or designee if you will be away for more than a week or have decided to stop working on the plot.

## General Rules & Regulations

**Alcohol:** No alcohol, marijuana or illegal substances may be brought into or consumed on the entire park site. The sole exception to this is that slug bait containing beer can be used in enclosed containers within the plot.

**Children:** Please supervise your children. Running and disturbing other gardeners plots will not be tolerated. We encourage children to play in the open space and playground at the SeaTac Community Center. The garden provides a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about gardening and be a part of a special community. Please share these rules with your children. Encourage and model respectful behavior towards neighbors and their garden plots.

**Composting:** Diseased and pest-ridden plants must be removed from the site. Please treat them as trash and dispose of them in the trash bins or in your trash at home, NOT in compost bins. Our compost will not get hot enough to destroy pathogens or weed seeds and you will only spread the diseases and pests to other plots. Weeds that have developed seeds should be treated as trash and not put in the compost bins. Put them in the trash bins or take them home with you to dispose of them.

**Disabled Person/Service Animal Assisted Persons:** One of the purposes of this unique community garden is to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to learn gardening skills and interact with their neighbors and the community. Staff and people with disabilities must be treated with dignity and respect at all times. Please interact and get to know these talented citizens of our community.

**Discrimination:** No discrimination will be allowed based on race, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, disability, or economic status. Such practices will exclude anyone who engages in them.

**Garbage/Waste:** There is garbage service. Please pick up any trash and dispose of it in the trash receptacle provided. Unightly debris such as plastic bags, milk jugs, buckets, and/or other materials that are clearly not being used for the overall aesthetics of the garden must be removed. Dumping, composting or storing any materials in the lawn, pathways or natural areas around the garden is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

**Music:** Be considerate. If you bring a radio or other device to listen to, please use headphones.

**Pets:** Pets are not allowed in the garden. This includes any animal on a leash. Service animals must be cleaned up afterwards and must be under the care and control of the owner at all times.

**Primary Plot Holder:** One primary plot holder may be assigned per plot. Primary plot holder must be at least 18 years of age.

**Smoking:** Smoking any substance, including tobacco and marijuana, is prohibited on the entire site. Research shows that tobacco can transmit a lethal virus to tomatoes.

**Theft:** Stealing in any form will not be tolerated and will result in permanent loss of gardening privileges. Due to the open nature of the parks and garden sites, the City of SeaTac is not responsible for recompense in any form (i.e. drought, vandalism, acts of God, animals, broken water supplies). Please notify the police if you witness vandalism or theft.

**Work Parties:** If you would like to organize a work party at the garden, first talk to the Garden Manager or designee about what task you would like to accomplish. Then talk to other gardeners to gauge their interest in forming a work party. Talk to the Garden Manager or designee to finalize the details.

Also, there is a posted signup sheet to volunteer during the season to help maintain the walkways and overall landscaping of the garden area. Plot holders are encouraged to sign up.

### Violations

When a plot holder is not in compliance with any of the Operating Rules and Regulations, he/she will be issued a notification of Non-Compliance and will be given two weeks to correct the situation. If the issue is not rectified, a second notification of Non-Compliance will be issued and the plot holder will be given one week to remedy the situation. If the problem has not been corrected by the end of that week, a Final notice of Non-Compliance and Eviction will be sent and the plot holder will have one week to relinquish the parcel back to the SeaTac Parks Community Programs and Services Department. Anything in the garden parcel that has not been removed by that time will be subject to disposal by SeaTac Parks, Community Programs and Services Department.

Issuance of 3 notifications of Non-Compliance to any one plot holder in a 12 month period will result in termination of eligibility. Correction of a problem identified in a notice will not cancel the notice and the notice will be counted. Verbal notices are not counted in the three notice rule.

Membership in the garden may be terminated if false information is given.

Annual fees not paid by the end of the grace period will result in termination of gardening privileges.

A gardener whose membership has been terminated may re-apply after one year.

Termination for violent, disorderly or abusive behavior will result in the permanent loss of membership.

If you ever feel unsafe or threatened, please call 911.