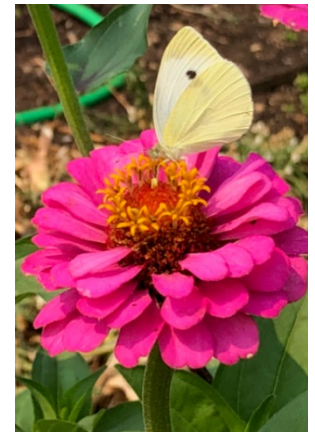

New Gardener/General Orientation



Welcome to the Garden Community!



Important Note:

- ❖ Please make sure you have signed a waiver!
- ❖ If you still need a waiver, please contact R. Lewis Ferguson at 503-681-5374 or Lewis.Ferguson@Hillsboro-Oregon.gov

Gardener Orientation



Topics Covered

- ❖ Garden/Parks & Recreation Contacts
- ❖ Online Resources
- ❖ Gardener Responsibilities
- ❖ Equipment Use
- ❖ Service Hours
- ❖ Getting Started
- ❖ Watering
- ❖ Weeds
- ❖ Composting
- ❖ End of Season

Gardener Orientation

RELAX!

- ❖ There are several rules and guidelines in place to keep the garden program running smoothly.
- ❖ These are not meant to intimidate new (or returning) gardeners!
- ❖ Guidance documents are online (see next slide)
- ❖ Have questions? Reach out to your garden manager or program facilitator – we're here to help you.
- ❖ We want this to be FUN too!



Gardener Orientation

Knowledge at your fingertips!

Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/CommunityGardens

Policy Documents

- [Garden Manual Information and Guidelines](#)
- [New Gardener Interest Form](#)

Refund Policy

Garden plot fees are generally non-refundable. Your garden plot fee may be credited to your Parks & Recreation account if you fail to complete your registration by the deadline and your registration is canceled. If you are removed from the program for any reason or need to relinquish your plot for any reason after registration closes, you forfeit your fee.

To complete your registration, you need to pay the plot fee, sign the Waiver and Release form and attend one of our spring orientation meetings after which you will sign our Garden Policy/Code of Conduct document.

Documents & Resources

Community Garden Guidance Documents

- [Bird Friendly Trellising](#)
- [Killdeer Nesting Guidance](#)
- [Plot Layout and Pathways](#)
- [Preparing Your Plot for Winter](#)
- [Weed Primer and Weed Control](#)
- [Watering and Drip Irrigation](#)



Garden Orientations

- [New Gardener Orientation](#)



The Community Garden Program



How Our Program Works

- ❖ We are a City of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Program.
- ❖ Our program is administered by Parks & Recreation staff, employed by the City of Hillsboro.
- ❖ Our program is managed at the garden level by active volunteers who participate in the program.

Parks & Recreation Staff



R. Lewis Ferguson

Community Gardens Program Facilitator

503-681-5374

Lori Prince

Outdoor Recreation Manager

503-681-6424

Susan Howard

Administrative Support Specialist

503-681-6206

Community Garden Volunteer Staff

Current Main Positions for Volunteer Staff

Garden Manager (GM)

- Main contact for gardeners
- Records service hours
- Schedules work parties and approves work events

Lot Inspector(s)

- Regularly inspects lots for weeds
- Sends reminders/notes to gardeners whose plots need attention

Compost Manager

- Manages compost bins at garden site
- Working with GM, schedules work events to maintain compost



Garden Calendar: sonrisegarden.weebly.com

Deadlines, work parties, events, and more!

CALENDAR

GP: Garden Program Events, DH: David Hill Garden, OR: Orenco Garden, SR: Sunrise Garden

Hillsboro Community Gardens

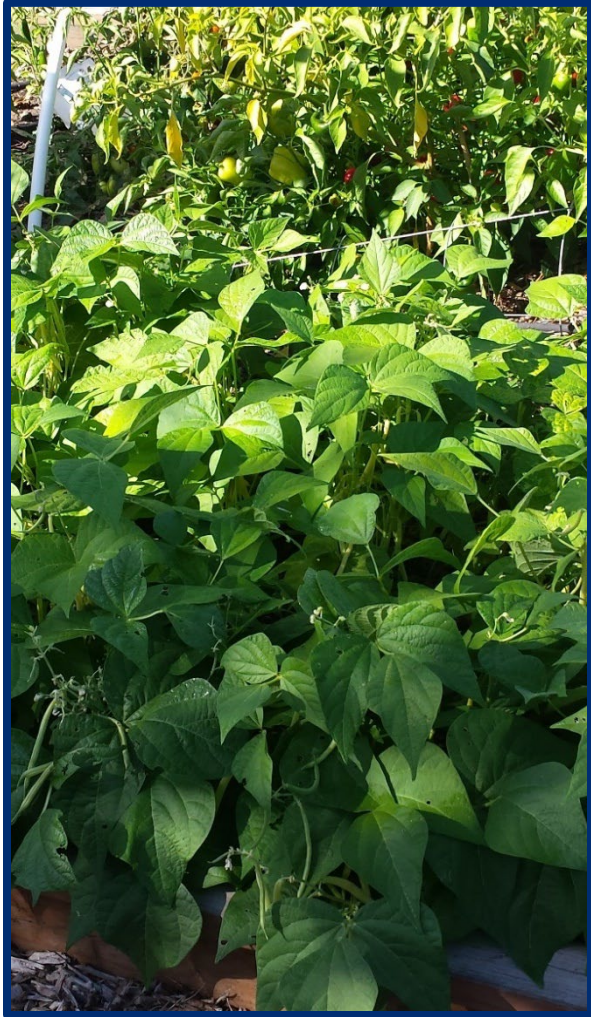
Events from one or more calendars could not be shown here because you do not have the permission to view them.

Today ◀ ▶ November 2021 Print Week Month Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Final Clean up Dead	16 GP: Final Clean up I	17	18	19	20
21	22 GP: Final Mulching I	23 GP: Final Mulching I	24	25	26	27
28	29 GP: Final Service Hc	30 12:30pm SR: Ronjon T	Dec 1	2	3	4



Hillsboro Community Gardens are Organic



Pesticides and Herbicides

- ❖ Do not use **herbicides** or **pesticides** not approved for use in organic gardening.
- ❖ Do not **spray** any substances in your plot **without permission** and without notifying neighboring gardeners.
- ❖ Check with your manager before using any herbicide or pesticide, even if they are on the OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) list.

Not following these rules may result in removal from the program.

Community Tool Shed Use



Please Do Not dump junk in or around tool sheds.

- ❖ Keep tool sheds **locked & clean**.
- ❖ Do **not** store personal items in tool sheds.
- ❖ Everything in the garden tool shed is for any gardener to use on a first-come, first-served basis.

Do not dump your tomato cages or other garbage in or around the tool sheds.

Garbage can put some of our gardeners with reduced mobility at risk.

Bird-Friendly Trellising



Making a Safe Home for Our Birds

- ❖ Birds are welcome members of our community.
- ❖ They are good company, fun, and beautiful and we all want to keep them safe.
- ❖ They are part of a healthy garden ecosystem and eat a massive quantity of insects and harmful grubs and slugs.
- ❖ Raptors help control mice, rats, voles, and moles.

Bird Friendly Trellises



For the Birds – Safe Trellising

- ❖ Best if trellises are one foot above the ground.
- ❖ No taller than 5 feet.
- ❖ Trellis openings should be 3 inches or more.
- ❖ Netting used for trellises needs approval.
- ❖ Trellis netting must be stretched tight and not allowed to sag.

Gardener Orientation

Knowledge at your fingertips!

Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/CommunityGardens

Documents & Resources

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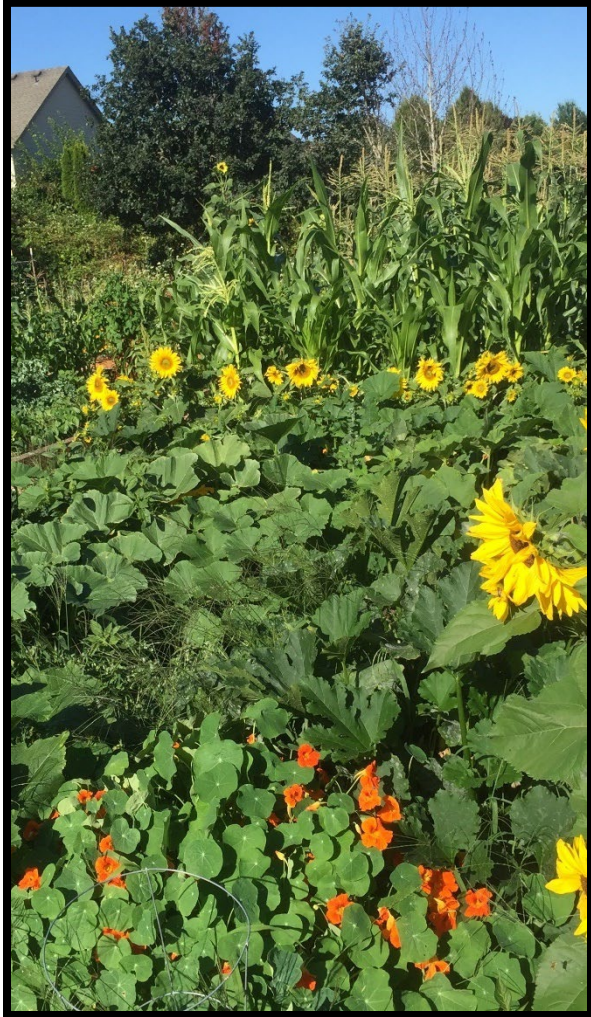


Garden Orientations

- [New Gardener Orientation](#)

Garden Resource Links

Gardener Responsibilities: Summary



- ❖ You **must participate** in the spring orientation meeting **EACH YEAR**.
- ❖ You must complete **8** service hours *minimum* (12 hours if a gardener has two plots) each season to be eligible to renew your plot for the next year.
- ❖ You must **maintain** your **plot** AND your **pathways** surrounding it all season.
- ❖ You must completely **clean** up your plot at the end of the season and **mulch** it down in order to renew for the next year (winter gardening is allowed).

Garden Service Hours



What are they?

The time we spend **working together in groups** looking after the **community areas** of our gardens.

Why do them?

To keep our gardens and program **SUSTAINABLE!**

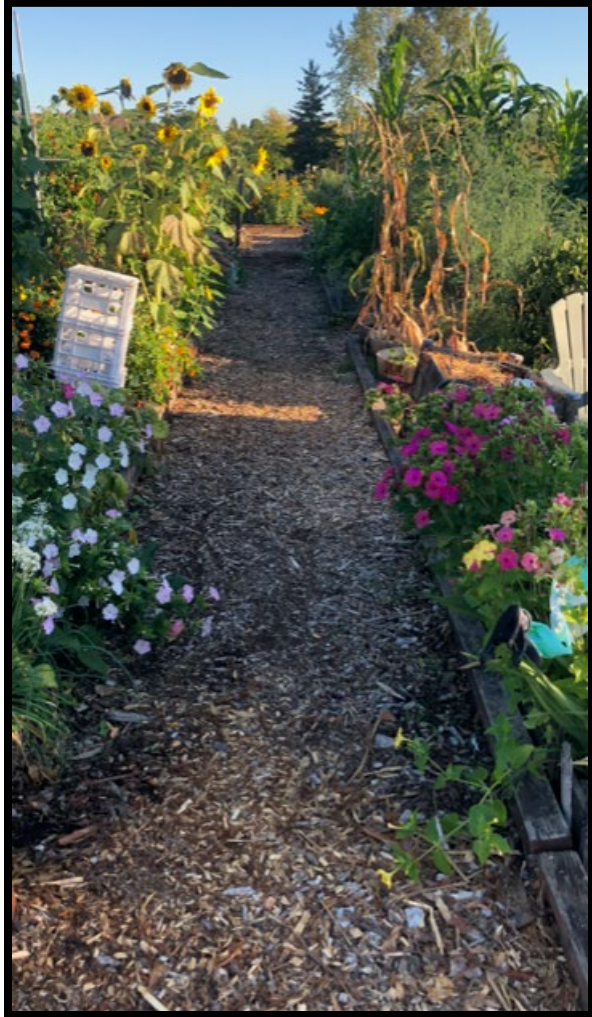
Garden Service Hours



- ❖ Management tasks
- ❖ Maintaining our community garden compost projects
- ❖ Weed control projects in open spaces of the gardens

Many of these projects benefit from group participation.

Garden Service Hours



Earning Your Hours

Only hours completed at hosted, pre-approved work events – or tasks specifically approved by the manager – will be counted toward service hours.

Garden Service Hours



Tips and Notes

- ❖ Spread your service hours over the full season. Plan to come out to three or four work parties.
- ❖ You will do all your service hours in your community garden.
- ❖ Plan to do four hours by the mid-season work party. This makes it easy to finish on time.
- ❖ Hours should be completed by the final clean-up deadline.
- ❖ There is no guarantee of service work after the fall work party.

Garden Service Hours



Friends and Family

At work events, hours done by **one person per plot ONLY** count toward garden service hours. For example, if 3 people from a single plot work 2 hours each at a work party, that equals 2 hours of garden service earned – not 6 hours.

- ❖ Friends and family are always welcome, but their hours do not count towards your 8 hours. Their efforts are very much appreciated!

Official Work Parties



Your garden manager will host multiple work parties each season. These are the only *guaranteed* work party opportunities and are scheduled well in advance for easy planning.

- ❖ Spring Garden Parties (2 – 3 hrs. per session)
- ❖ Mid-Season Garden Parties (2 – 3 hrs. per session)
- ❖ Fall Garden Parties (2 – 3 hrs. per session)

These work parties are generally scheduled over a weekend so you can come EITHER Saturday OR Sunday.

Garden managers may adjust event schedules as needed.

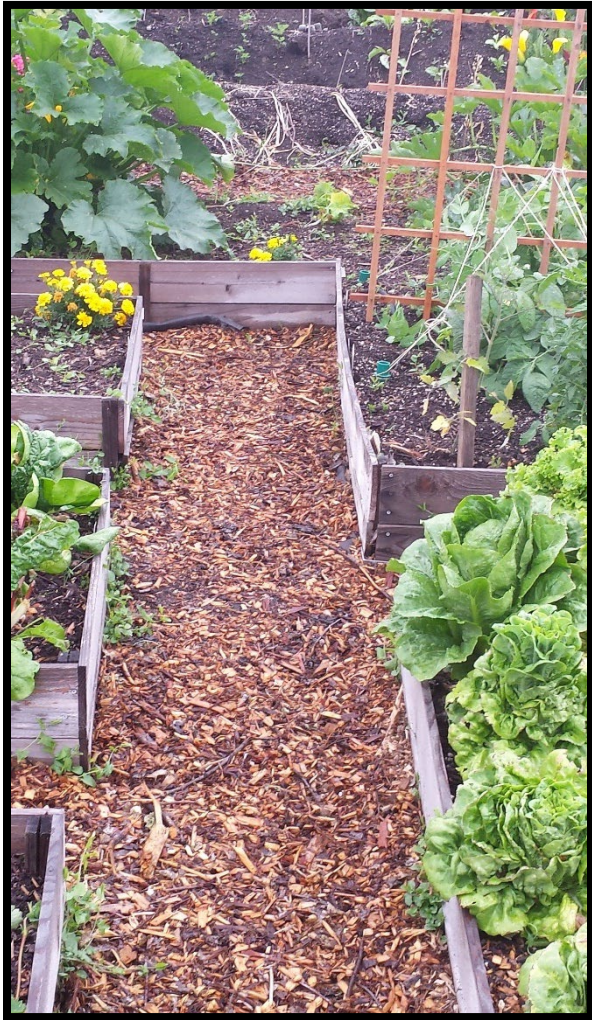
You can't earn more than the hours offered (2 or 3).

Other Work Parties



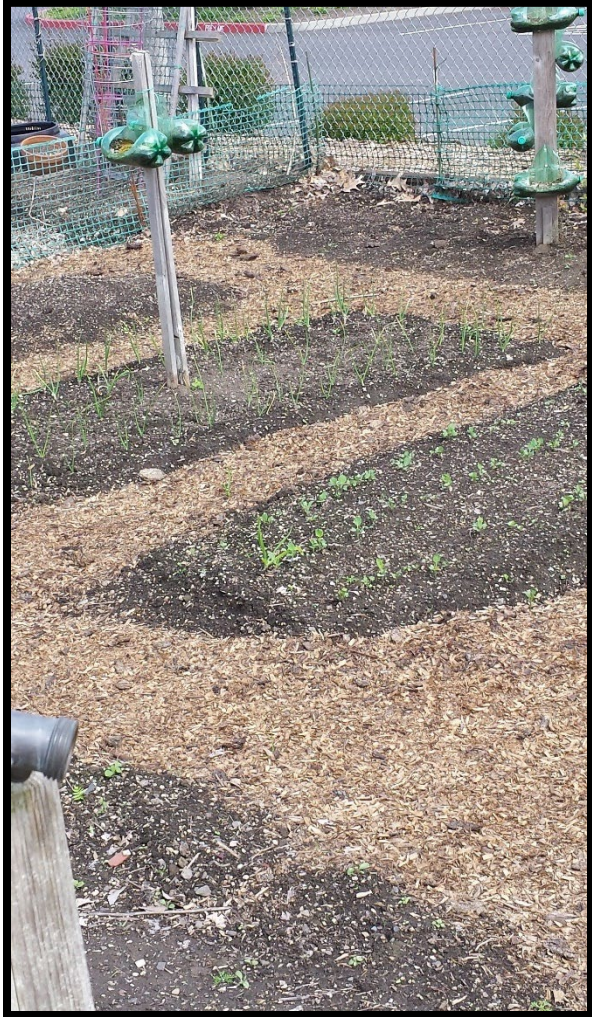
- ❖ Gardeners host all other work events.
- ❖ If you are unable to attend the official work parties, or someone else's event, you can arrange to **host an event of your own.**
- ❖ Check with your garden manager to arrange an event.

Starting Your Garden



- ❖ **Soil health** is the single most important input in your gardening.
- ❖ **Unhealthy soil = unhealthy garden!**
- ❖ **Compacting soil is BAD:**
 - Oxygen can't get into compact soil
 - Water can't get into compact soil
- ❖ Walking on your garden beds is not good for your soil or for your garden!

Starting Your Garden: Plot Layout



Plot Layout is Important!

The layout of your garden can help your garden to succeed!

“Plot Layout” means designing:

- ❖ where you **plant**
- ❖ where you **walk**
- ❖ how you want to get **amendments** to your plants (wheelbarrow?)
- ❖ where you have **open space**
- ❖ how you plan to **weed**

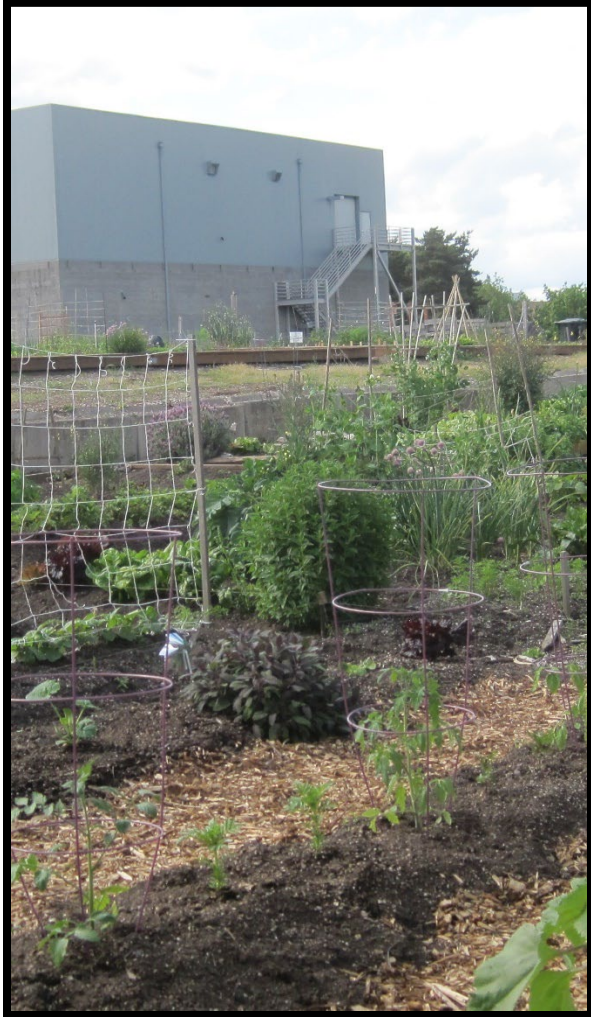
Starting Your Garden: Layout Considerations



IMPORTANT Considerations in Plot Layout

- ❖ You want to avoid stepping on the soil in your planting beds. **Compaction!**
- ❖ You must be able to get **amendments** to your plants.
- ❖ You must be able to reach every part of your garden so you can weed and work in every part of your garden.

Starting Your Garden: Layout Considerations



Considerations in Plot Layout

- ❖ Be respectful of neighboring gardeners.
- ❖ Plan to plant taller plants, or plants that may spread out a bit, in the center of your plot. This way you will not impact the other plots by blocking sunlight or infringing on someone else's space.

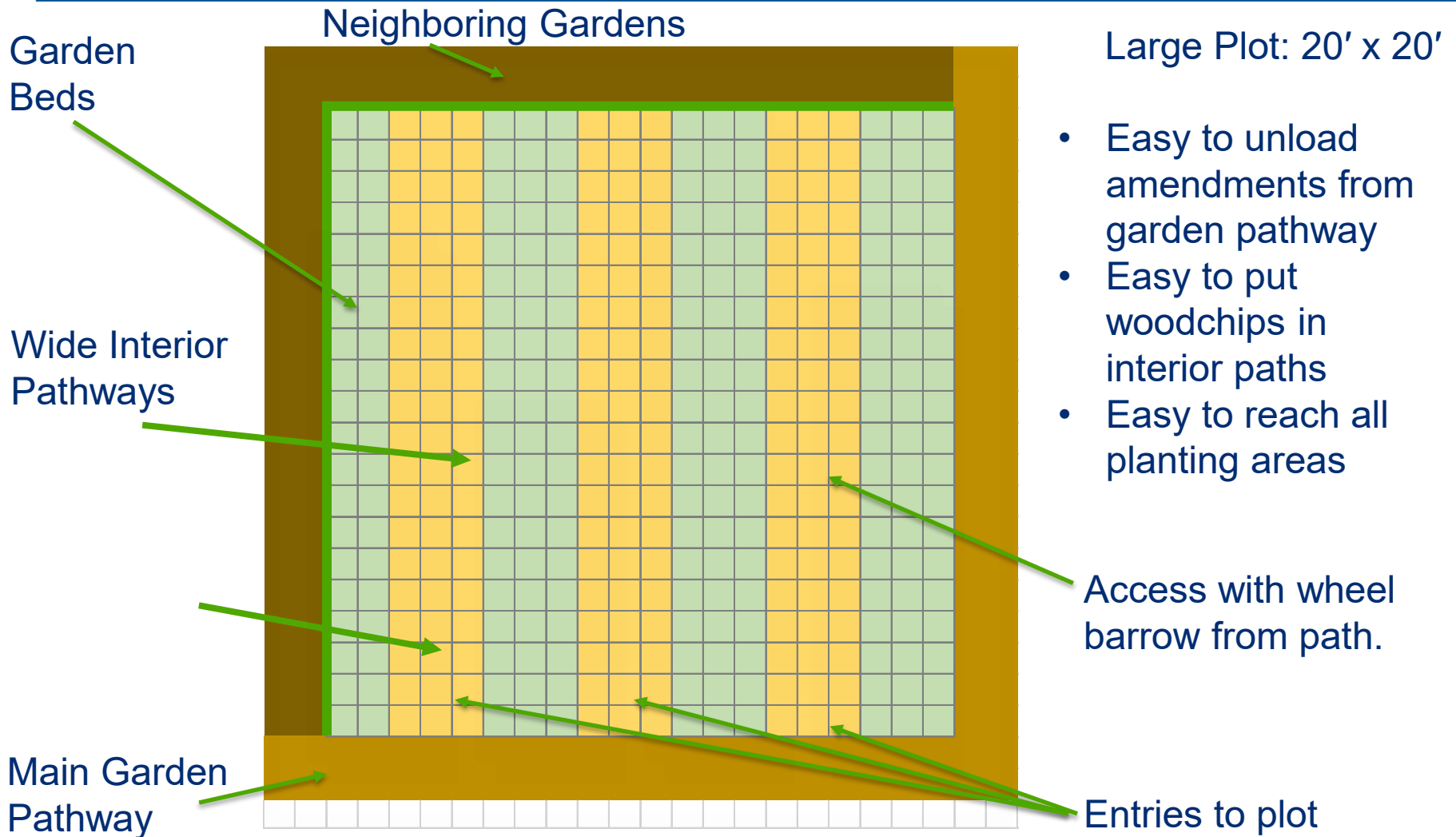
Starting Your Garden: Layouts



Beds and Pathways

- ❖ **Mark out pathways** where you will always walk or run your wheelbarrow.
- ❖ **Mark out your garden beds** where you will plant and not walk.
 - **Garden beds** need to be **narrow** enough so you can reach into them easily, at least halfway from each side.
 - Access from both sides makes things easier.

Starting Your Garden: Layout Examples



Starting Your Garden: Layout Examples



Starting Your Garden: Pathway Prep



In-Plot Pathway Preparation

- ❖ Dig out the topsoil from your path
 - This is the top layer of black soil
- ❖ Do not dig into the clay layer
 - This is lighter brown and dense
- ❖ Pile topsoil onto your garden beds
- ❖ Put down 2 to 3 layers of cardboard to suffocate weeds
- ❖ Cover with woodchips

Gardener Orientation

Knowledge at your fingertips!

Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/CommunityGardens

Documents & Resources

Community Garden Guidance Documents

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- [Watering and Drip Irrigation](#)



Garden Orientations

- [New Gardener Orientation](#)

Garden Resource Links



Accessing the Irrigation System

Water Keys!

To access the garden irrigation system, you will need a “4-way Sillcock Key” or similar tool.

- ❖ Key available in tool shed, but some gardeners prefer to have their own
- ❖ *Always* turn the water off with the key when you leave.
- ❖ Hose bibs can leak!



Using the Irrigation System: Rules



- ❖ You must be **on-site** to water.
- ❖ **No automatic watering systems** are allowed.
- ❖ **ALWAYS disconnect** hoses from community hose bibs when done.
- ❖ Do not leave any devices attached to hose bibs.
- ❖ **Report breakages** or leaks ASAP.

Using the Irrigation System: Hoses



- ❖ Store hoses **in plots**, NOT in pathways. This can pose a danger to other gardeners.
- ❖ Never attach a hose hanger or anything else to the irrigation tower.



Watering Your Plot: What to Know



- ❖ Watering is one of the most **time-consuming tasks** in the garden.
- ❖ Water is **expensive**.
- ❖ Water is easily lost to evaporation.
- ❖ Water needs to **penetrate the soil** to be any use to the plants.
- ❖ **Healthy, deep roots make healthy plants**. When water penetrates deep into the soil, roots are encouraged to grow down.

Watering Your Plot: Overhead Watering



Overhead Watering can be Wasteful!

- ❖ Most water evaporates before it hits the ground.
- ❖ Water runs off rather than soaking into the soil, so soil stays dry below surface.
- ❖ Roots stay shallow because water is on the surface; plant is unhealthy and unstable.
- ❖ Surface water means nutrients are not released from soil for plants to absorb
- ❖ A Drip Irrigation system can help!

Gardener Orientation

Knowledge at your fingertips!

Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/CommunityGardens

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Garden Orientations

- [New Gardener Orientation](#)

Garden Resource Links



Managing Weeds: Keep Soil Covered



Mulching and Cover Crops

- ❖ Keeping the soil in your planting beds covered with mulch until you plant helps to:
 - **Retain moisture**
 - **Discourage weeds** from sprouting
 - **Add organic matter** to your soil
- ❖ Any place you decide not to plant, mulch or use a cover crop to attract pollinators like:
 - crimson clover
 - flowers
 - perennial herbs
 - Fava beans...etc.

Managing Weeds: Flower Breaks

Flowers feed your pollinators.

Flower breaks form habitat for beneficial insects.

Flower breaks also provide beauty and color for your garden.

Managing Weeds: A Mix of Strategies



A Few Common Weeds



Learn more about weeds and how to mitigate them with our online resources!



Gardener Orientation

Knowledge at your fingertips!

Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/CommunityGardens

Documents & Resources

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- [Watering and Drip Irrigation](#)



Garden Orientations

- [New Gardener Orientation](#)

Garden Resource Links



Managing Weeds



Where they go ...

Put your weeds in the big onsite compost bins **except** (if you can identify them):

- ❖ Bindweed
- ❖ Thistle
- ❖ Crab Grass

Note: If you are confused, put it in the bin.

Forbidden Fruits



Plants NOT to Plant:

- ❖ No **federally controlled** plants (marijuana, opium poppies)
- ❖ No **cane berries** (raspberries, blackberries, Marionberries, etc.)
- ❖ No **trees**, except in pots
- ❖ No **mint**, except in pots off the ground
- ❖ No **tobacco**

Other plants may be added to this list if they become a nuisance.

Composting and Waste Management



Waste Disposal Options

1. Compost everything in your own plot.
2. Bag up waste and haul it off-site to dispose of on your own.
3. Use the community compost bins.

Community Composting Rules



- ❖ **ONLY** garden waste goes into compost piles – nothing from off-site.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself. Do **not** dump in front of the bins.
- ❖ Pile carefully.
- ❖ Cover waste with lots of high-carbon matter (e.g. leaves) each time.
- ❖ Follow the signs!

Personal Composting Solutions



Other Options:

- ❖ There are several small, self-contained compost bins available for purchase.
- ❖ Creating your own mini-compost bin on your plot is also an option.
- ❖ Worm Composting in your plot is also an option
- ❖ Learn more with our online resources

Gardener Orientation

Knowledge at your fingertips!

Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/CommunityGardens

Garden Resource Links

Organic Gardening

- [Metro Natural Gardening](#)
- [Oregon Tilth's Organic Gardening Resources](#) ↗

How to Grow Organically

- [Organic Materials Review Institute \(OMRI\) Product List](#)
No synthetic chemicals (herbicides, pesticides or chemical fertilizers) are allowed in any of Hillsboro's community gardens unless they are listed on the OMRI product list.
- [Oregon Tilth Getting Your Garden Started](#) ↗

Planting and Harvest Calendars

- [Oregon Tilth Planting & Harvest Calendar](#) ↗
- [Oregon State University Planting Calendar](#)
- [Oregon Tilth Four Season Gardening & Harvesting](#)

Composting and Soil

- [Metro Guide to Effective Composting](#)
- [Seattle Tilth Composting Guide](#)
- [OSU Extension Service Soil Testing Resources](#)
- [Guide to Rodent Prevention in Community Gardens](#)



Bugs and Slugs



There are many options to help control bugs and slugs in the garden without resorting to pesticides.

- ❖ Avoid watering late in the day, as slugs (and their eggs) thrive in wet conditions and are active at night.
- ❖ Drip irrigation also helps to keep foliage dry while delivering water to plant roots.
- ❖ Protective covers, such as those shown in the images, help to mitigate damage.

Fall Mulching



Fall Mulching is Important!

- ❖ Fall clean-up and mulching is **very important** to your plot's health.
- ❖ Weeds grow exuberantly in our mild winters.
- ❖ Un-mulched plots generate a verdant weed cover, with seeds spreading in early spring.
- ❖ A **thick layer of mulch**, like leaves, does an excellent job of discouraging weed growth over the winter.

End of Season



In Order to Renew....

- ❖ You need **at least 8 service hours** by end of season (12 hours if a gardener has two plots).
- ❖ You **must clean** up your plot by the clean-up deadline, usually about two weeks after the fall work party.
- ❖ You **must mulch** your plot by the mulching deadline (which may be later than clean-up deadline, dependent upon leaf delivery).
- ❖ If your plot is **not tidy by the clean-up inspection, a block will be placed on your renewal**. Once the plot is clean, the block will be removed.
- ❖ If another gardener must clean up your plot, you may not be eligible to renew or re-join the program.

Another way to help ...

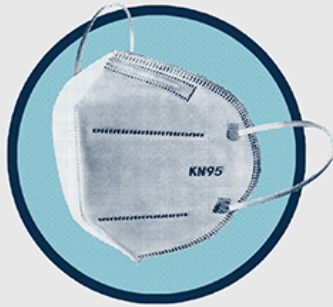
Benevity

A great way to double the impact of your service hours at the garden!

- ❖ Many companies offer the chance for employees to volunteer and will match their volunteer service hours with funding for that organization.
- ❖ Our gardens receive funding through Benevity!
- ❖ Check with your employer to see if your company participates in the Benevity program.
- ❖ For more information, please reach out to Lewis.



COVID Prevention Regulations



Masks Optional

While masks are not required here, please respect those who choose to wear one.

Thank you!

- ❖ Masks are optional at the garden and at garden work parties.
- ❖ Please respect those who choose to wear – or not wear – masks.
- ❖ If you are uncomfortable working in large groups due to health concerns, please let your garden manager and/or program facilitator know.

**End of orientation.
Thank you.**

**If you have any questions, please contact:
Lewis Ferguson,
Community Gardens Program Facilitator,
at 503-681-5374 or
Lewis.Ferguson@Hillsboro-Oregon.gov**

