

Kaysville's "Hometown" Community Garden Description and Guidelines

The Kaysville Yard and Garden Civic Committee in collaboration with the Kaysville Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a community garden. A plot in this garden is available to any resident who desires to participate. Gardening offers healthy exercise as well as vegetable produce which enhances good nutrition. A community garden also adds a wholesome and cooperative spirit to the city as well as providing a sense of connection.

The land for this garden is located at 478 South Main. This land is currently owned by the Cottrell family of Kaysville who are an advocate for our enterprise. Kaysville City has a "Use Agreement" with the Cottrells. Participants are encouraged to park on the side street of 478 South and avoid parking on Main street.

Garden Manager is Ron Zollinger who is also Chairperson for the Kaysville Yard and Garden Civic Committee. His contact phone # is 801-682-9832; Email: rrzolly@gmail.com.

Shared Space. Our community garden will be inclusive and welcoming to all people. Priority space, however, will be offered to Kaysville city residents. Garden participants will not be discriminated on the basis of race, creed, color, national, or ethnic origin, religious, marital status, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability. Our community garden is a shared space arrangement. As such, participants will need to be considerate of other gardeners and their plants.

Benefits and Rewards. Community gardens are common ground for growing plants that feed, heal, and give aesthetic pleasure. They become a civic space where people work to nourish themselves, their families, and friends. Gardeners' shared labor builds a stronger sense of belonging to their physical environment as well as encouraging interaction with nature and nurturing green spaces. Community gardens are also places of cultural exchange, sprouting new friendships among diverse groups of people. By choosing to be in a community garden, you'll be gardening in close proximity to others. You can learn from other gardeners either actively (by asking questions) or passively (by observation). People of diverse backgrounds may garden differently. You may be surprised at what you'll learn even if you've been gardening many years.

Fee Assessment. There is a use fee of \$20.00 assessed to each plot. These fees will be used toward the purchase of support materials, watering systems, a few tools that may be made available to participants, and future enhancements.

Safety Issues. Personal tools should not be left at the plot or unattended. Rebar or other metal staking is not allowed. Tomato cages and trellis structures must be removed at the end of the growing season in order for the plot to be tilled for the winter. Every attempt will be made to create drip irrigation lines and controls which are secure and safe for public use. A first aid kit and emergency contacts will be available during operating hours at the city hall. Liability waivers will be required for all gardeners and volunteers. The closest public restroom services available during normal hours of operation are at the Central Davis Senior Activity Center or at the Kaysville city library.

Plot Assignment & ADA Services. Participants will be entitled to one or two plots based upon availability. Plots will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Plots are assigned contiguously until the total area is filled to capacity. At the beginning of the 2019 garden year, an Eagle Scout project created a raised garden bed for interested gardeners confined in wheel chairs or senior citizens who are unable to kneel down to work a plot. Each of the 55 plots will be identified with a laminated name sign.

A Typical Growing Season. A garden plot requires time and constant effort at least seven months out of the year in order to produce a healthy harvest.

Preparation of soil for planting. The land dedicated for our community garden will be power tilled by the Kaysville Parks and Recreation department early in the Spring. The soil will be power tilled to a depth of six to eight inches to create an ideal growing environment for seeds or seedlings. Participants are welcome to add into their own plots soil amendments to enhance the fertility and structure of the soil.

Watering. A drip system is installed and water lines extend down through each garden plot. Each plot has its own control valve. Participants will be responsible to tend to their own watering requirements. Participants may want to consider the use of a top dressing of private or commercial mulch which would help inhibit moisture evaporation as well as to build up soil quality. Water restrictions which are associated with Hights Creek Irrigation users will be expected to be observed. Watering should be avoided after 10:00 a.m or before 6:00 p.m.

Weed Control. All who participate in our community garden must agree to a weed-free environment. This community garden is intended to help Kaysville become a “City Beautiful.” Encouragement is given to not only care for one’s own plot but be willing to provide assistance to other plots where needed. Our community garden acknowledges the perennial nature of some weeds (e.g. morning glory). These weeds cannot be killed just by hoeing them out. Our long-term goal is to completely eliminate these perennial weeds. Therefore, we acknowledge the value of effective perennial weed-killing herbicides. However, extreme care should be taken when using spray type weed-killers so that no drift will effect one’s neighboring plants.

Equipment. Participants will need to bring their own tools or equipment in order to work on and weed their own plot. Such tools may include a tiller, hoe, spade, rake, or other planting accessories.

Planting. All participants are responsible to provide their own seeds or seedlings. Chose plants that can be contained within plot dimensions. Avoid overcrowding. Plan for the natural expansion that comes from summer growth. Do not plant invasive type plants that can spread unwanted growth (e.g. many herbs have a spreading habit). Perennials can be grown but all plots will be tilled in the fall or spring. Healthy soil leads to healthy plants. Our goal is to create and nurture a healthy soil and environment. We encourage garden plant trimmings to be worked back into the soil. Adding compost is a healthy way to provide added fertilization. Healthy plants are more resistant to pests and disease.

Harvesting. As plants mature and begin to produce, participants will be responsible to harvest the fruits of their labor – the best reward of gardening! Keeping ripe produce picked reduces garden pests and vandalism. This community garden is not intended for commercial use. Unused or unwanted produce can be shared with other gardeners, donated to charitable services, or freely given away.

Preparing for Winter. At the end of the season, a large commercial waste container will be delivered to the garden site. Unwanted garden produce, plants and vines should be collected and placed in this container. This will eliminate undesirable reseeding during the next growing season.

Outside of Your Plot. Participants are encouraged to feel a sense of ownership to the whole of our community garden. Help will be appreciated to remove trash that blows in or assisting others who may be out of town for an extended time. This will lend to a spirit of participant cooperation. Gardeners are encouraged to pack out any garbage. No green garbage container will exist on-site.

Forfeiture of Garden Privilege. Plots will be inspected regularly. Participants which have not planted their plots or have not met these guidelines will be notified. Failure to remedy the situation within 14 days will result in forfeiture of the plot. It is each participant's responsibility to notify the Garden Manager if they are no longer able to tend their plot. If participants plan on being absent for a long period of time, they will be expected to arrange for the care of their plot.

Community Behavior. Participants should harvest their ripe produce regularly to reduce garden pests and vandalism. Taking produce from other plots will not be permitted and will result in immediate loss of gardening privileges and forfeiture of crops. Disrespectful or abusive language, or destructive behavior (including vandalism) may result in the immediate loss of all gardening privileges and forfeiture of crops. Participants are encouraged to resolve amicably any conflicts which may arise between neighboring gardeners. Try to resolve any issue directly. Contact the garden manager if needed. Avoid use of online discussion groups to vent frustrations with other gardeners.

Family-Friendly. Kaysville's community garden is intended to be a family-friendly enterprise. However, care should be taken to monitor small children and provide for their safety. Gardening together as a family can help educate concerning all aspects of the gardening process as well as to help support a healthy work ethic. Gardening done well can help instill values of responsibility, pride, and accomplishment. Ultimately, the reward of eating the fruits of one's own labor can hardly be overestimated.

Created: May 22, 2019.