

## **Dunawi Creek Community Garden 2026 Policies and Procedures**

Dunawi Creek Community Garden, named for the watershed in which we're situated, is a program of the Corvallis Environmental Center (CEC). Our mission is to educate, engage, and inspire people to create a healthy, sustainable community through food & agriculture education and nature & play-based learning.

As a community garden, this space supports personal gardening, learning, and shared stewardship. Gardeners may share the abundance they grow with family, friends, neighbors, or community food pantries, but may not sell it.

### Membership & benefits

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#### **What You Receive**

- Personal garden plot for January–December
- Access to communal areas: berry patches, food forest, composting center, and other shared spaces
- Access to the community garden shed and tools
- Water + hoses at every spigot during the main growing season (billed separately in 2026)
- Leaf mulch and donated wood chips, as available
- Support from the CEC garden coordinator and a community of gardeners

#### **Plot sizes, fees, and water bill estimates**

Gardeners may choose from three different plot sizes, as available. Plot dimensions are approximate and water costs are estimates, dependent upon metered water use.

Water will be billed separately from plot fees as two installments in 2026.

- 400 sq ft plot: \$110 + ~\$50 water
- 200 sq ft plot: \$65 + ~\$25 water
- 100 sq ft plot: \$50 + ~\$12.50 water

Beginning July 1st, plot fees, water bills, and service hours will be 50% of the above totals. Beginning September 1st plot fees and water bills are waived, while community service hours are still 50%.

Gardeners in their second year may garden up to 800 sq. ft. To register for a second plot, gardeners must sign on to the [waitlist](#) as we assign plots according to the waitlist order.

### **Priority for Returning Gardeners**

- Gardeners in good standing may renew their plot before new gardeners are assigned.

To remain in good standing gardeners must fulfil their responsibilities as outlined below.

- Returning gardeners must notify the Garden Coordinator by December 1 and pay fees by January 14 to secure their plots for the following year.

### Responsibilities & Expectations

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**As a Dunawi Creek Community Gardener, you agree to:**

#### **1. Keep communication channels clear**

- Check your email regularly.
- Ensure CEC emails do not go to your spam folder.
- While there are no strict rules for using the listserve/Google Group for general communication among gardeners, please use it thoughtfully and respectfully so important garden announcements are not overlooked.

## **2. Contribute to common spaces via community service hours**

Community service helps keep the garden healthy, productive, and enjoyable for everyone.

**All gardeners are required to contribute the following hours per plot size:**

- Large plots (400 sq. ft.): 6 hours per plot
- Medium or small plots (200 or 100 sq. ft.): 3 hours per plot

**Gardeners can complete their community service hours in one of two ways:**

- Join garden teams for scheduled work parties in the Food Forest, Compost, Berry Patch, Pollinator Garden, or with the Education & Events team. Opportunities will be communicated in advance by the Garden Coordinator or team leads.
- Independently work on tasks such as mowing, cutting back Himalayan blackberry along garden edges, maintaining bark chip pathways in community areas, or other tasks assigned by the Garden Coordinator or team leads. Up to half of your service hours may be filled by maintaining bark chip pathways between plots.

### **Timeline:**

- At least half of your hours must be completed and reported by June 30
- Remaining hours must be completed and reported by November 30

### **Reporting Your Hours:**

It is the gardener's responsibility to report completed service hours. Hours can be reported by:

- Writing them on the physical sheet hanging in the DCCG Tool Shed
- Searching the URL posted in the Tool Shed  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAaJLBAwfcak4P73ht\\_hfTa1UKHAXplAvt2hy8Tvq\\_SgkNdAQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAaJLBAwfcak4P73ht_hfTa1UKHAXplAvt2hy8Tvq_SgkNdAQ/viewform) in your browser
- Clicking the direct link to the [Google Form](#)

### **Alternative Option for Completing Your Service Hours:**

If you are unable to complete your required hours, you may make a \$20/hour payment to CEC to fund someone to complete the work.


## **3. Maintain your plot**

- Care for your soil by keeping your plot planted, cover cropped, or mulched with at least 4" of mulch.
- Do not allow noxious weeds or invasive plants to flower. Priority species include Canada thistle, field bindweed, mint, horseradish, crabgrass, lesser celandine, and others as determined by the Garden Coordinator.
- If you plan to be away for two weeks or more, please arrange for someone to take care of your garden plot.
- Plants expected to grow to 6 feet tall or taller should be planted 5 feet away from neighboring plots to avoid shading out others' plots. Perennial plants

are welcome but no trees (even dwarf varieties) may be planted in garden plots.

- 2026 is the last year that plastic fencing will be allowed at DCCG – all plastic fencing must be removed by the end of November 2026. All plastic use is subject to Garden Coordinator approval and deteriorating plastic items will be removed.
- Gardeners will not leave water running unattended. This includes the use of timers.

#### 4. Use Organic Practices

- If purchasing fertilizers, ensure they are OMRI-certified. 
- Remember: “organic” does not automatically mean safe for people, pollinators, wildlife, soil life, or waterways. Always read product labels, do your own research, and ask the Garden Coordinator if you’re unsure.
- Bark chips, most straw, leaf mulch, and manure-based composts are rarely *certified* organic, but they are acceptable for use at DCCG.
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to prevent and manage pests. Healthy plants are your first line of defense. Other options include physical barriers (insect netting, sticky traps, crushed eggshells), crop rotation, and trap crops.
- Treated lumber may not be used.

#### 4. Uphold a welcoming environment & follow garden etiquette

- There is absolutely no tolerance for theft, harassment, and other discriminatory language or actions to fellow gardeners or CEC staff. Please report theft, harassment, and other incidents or concerns to the Garden Coordinator or, if the concern is about the Garden Coordinator, please bring

the issue to the CEC leadership team.

- Respect other gardeners by not entering plots other than your own unless you are invited. Please do not pick produce, flowers, or herbs growing on fence lines unless invited.
- Keep pets leashed or contained within your plot, and clean up after them. Work collaboratively to maintain clear pathways and shared spaces. Pathways must be wide enough for a wheelbarrow to pass through.
- Follow “Pack it in, Pack it out” or use the trash can located at the garden’s south entrance by the green gate. Do not leave trash around the tool shed.

## **6. Maintain shared tools & equipment**

- Tools are stored in the shed; return tools to their original place in the shed and lock after use. The lockbox code is shared with each gardener upon registration.
- Do not duplicate keys or share shed combination with others
- Please report broken/missing tools and broken/leaking spigots so they can be repaired or replaced in a timely manner

## **7. Communicate about plot surrender & reassignment**

- Inform the Garden Coordinator if you plan to leave the garden.
- To respect folks on the waitlist, plots may not be reassigned by the gardener who is leaving.

### Disciplinary Actions

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Gardeners are expected to uphold Agreements 1–7. Communication, support, and accountability help the garden thrive so please stay in touch, seek help when needed, and contribute to a positive community. Any unmet agreements may

initiate or advance a step in this process, with extenuating circumstances and proactive communication considered at each stage.

In general, the process is as follows:

- **Initial notice** – emailed by the Garden Coordinator; gardeners should respond to acknowledge receipt.
- **Second notice** – one week after the initial notice if the concern persists.
- **Final notice** – one week after the second notice if the issue is still unresolved.
- **Loss of plot** – one week after the final notice if no resolution is reached.

Other notes about the disciplinary process:

- **Theft, harassment, discriminatory behavior, or any other serious infractions may result in immediate forfeiture of plot. This is at the discretion of the Garden Coordinator and/or the CEC leadership team.**
- Voluntarily relinquishing a plot before the end of this process may allow earlier reapplication.
- If the full process is completed without resolution, reapplication is possible after one year at the Garden Coordinator's discretion.

## **Disclaimer**

City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation, Corvallis Environmental Center, and all project volunteers shall be held free from any liability for any personal injuries or damage or loss to materials or property resulting from your participation in the

Community Garden.

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**AGREEMENT**

I have read and understand the application and accept these rules, terms, and conditions stated above for the participation in the Dunawi Creek Community Garden.

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PRINTED NAME

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SIGNATURE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLOT NUMBER (returning gardeners): \_\_\_\_\_