

City of Charlottesville Garden Plots
2026 Rules & Regulations

Renting Garden Plots

	RENTAL RATES	
Location (Plot Size)	City Resident Rate	Non-Resident Rate
Azalea Park (~ 30' x 30')	Full Plot: \$50.00 Half Plot: \$30.00	Full Plot: \$70.00 Half Plot: \$40.00
Meadowcreek Gardens (~ 30' x 30')	Full Plot: \$50.00 Half Plot: \$30.00	Full Plot: \$70.00 Half Plot: \$40.00
Michie Drive (20' x 20')	\$30.00	\$40.00
Rives Park (20' x 20')	\$30.00	\$40.00

- The rental period is from March 1 through December 31. Annual fees are non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to "City of Charlottesville."
- All remaining plots will be rented on a lottery system. Prospective gardeners may apply during their designated application period and be randomly selected by lottery. City Residents receive priority.
- If there are no plots available at your preferred location, you will be placed on a waiting list for the year.
 - Fees will be prorated for waitlisted gardeners that are given a place mid-season. Calculated by months remaining in the season.
- For new garden plot applicants, only one plot will be issued per person.
- Garden plots are not rented to commercial growers. Produce grown in City Garden Plots is for personal consumption only and may not be sold.
- Gardeners may not transfer or sublet their plots. If you no longer wish to garden, or you are moving out of the area, please call (434) 970-3260 and return your plot to the City for use by other gardeners.

Application Type	Application Period
Renewal	Nov. 10 – Jan. 11
New City Resident	Jan. 12 – Jan. 31
New Non-resident	Feb. 1 – Feb. 21

Gardener Maintenance Responsibilities

- Gardening is permitted dawn to dusk.
- All gardeners must maintain their plots in a reasonable manner throughout their term. Weeds and garden debris can serve as cover and food for undesirable insects, rodents, and other vermin.
- Soil preparation and regular clean up are the responsibility of each gardener. Parks and Recreation trash cans are for small trash only. All organic gardening debris and non-organic debris such as fencing, and garden stakes must be carried off-site. It is illegal to dump trash in the woods near the gardens.
- Tools and related gardening equipment left at a garden plot site are left at your own risk. Hoses must be neatly rolled up and stored. Hoses, stakes, bags, and debris must not be left outside of your plot; it is a danger to the mowers. Please remove all standing water to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.
- No furniture or lighting is permitted in the garden plot.
- Use of pesticides must conform to the current recommendations of Virginia Cooperative Extension as outlined in publication 456-018 "Pest Management for Home, Grounds, and Animals," available on the web on their Home Gardening/Pest Management site (www.ext.vt.edu/resources). Use caution when spraying any type of pesticide or herbicide to prevent drifting into other plots.
- Planting of any invasive plant species or cannabis is prohibited. If found in a garden plot it must be removed. Consult the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's list of Invasive Plant Species (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspdflist>).
- Use of rain barrels or any other rainwater collection are not permitted at Azalea Park, Rives Park, or Michie Drive.

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Responsibilities to Your Fellow Gardeners

- Please do not block garden paths with vehicles, equipment, or debris.
- At no time should gardeners build a structure or plant anything that will shade or interfere with another plot. Building berms or channeling water from your plot is not allowed if it adversely affects neighboring plots.
- Fencing may be used around your plot but it must be made of chicken wire or other open mesh materials that allow light transmission. Fencing may not exceed five feet in height and may not be attached to the numbered garden plot stakes. Under no circumstances should numbered garden plot stakes be removed or relocated. The City of Charlottesville reserves the right to disallow any fencing or other structures which may be detrimental to the site.
 - No structures of any kind permitted at Rives Park or Michie Drive.
- Theft or other illegal activity at garden plot sites should be reported to the Police Department. Call the non-emergency number, 434-977-9041.
- Gardeners may dig, plant, weed, and harvest within the confines of their own garden plot. With these exceptions, gardeners must follow these rules and regulations.

Penalties

- Parks and Recreation staff will, at its discretion, inspect and send notices to gardeners whose plots are weedy, unsightly, or used in an inappropriate way. The letter will instruct the gardener to take corrective action.
 - If no corrective action is taken within 14 days of the date of the letter, the plot will revert back to the City to offer to a waitlisted gardener. No refunds will be given.
- Garden plots that haven't been worked and prepared for gardening by May 1st may be assigned to a waitlisted gardener.

Liability Release

I understand the nature and scope of the activity listed above, and agree to abide by these guidelines. I understand that there are risks and dangers associated with this activity. I understand that it is not the function of the City of Charlottesville, its employees, agents, operators, or instructors to guarantee the safety of participants with respect to this activity. I also understand that each participant has the responsibility to exercise due care in the performance of the activity for the safety of himself/herself and the other participants.

I hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Charlottesville, its employees, agents, operators and instructors from any and all claims, demands, costs, charges, and expenses for harm, injury, damage or loss which may be sustained by me/the participant as a result of or relating to participation in this activity. My signature below is my acknowledgement that I have read, and I understand the above Liability Release.

Signature

Date

**Please Return Completed Application and Payment to:
City of Charlottesville, Parks and Recreation-Garden Plot Rentals
P.O. Box 911, Charlottesville, VA 22902
(434) 970-3260**