PAYSON COMMUNITY GARDEN
GUIDELINES 2027

These Garden Guidelines contain general information about the garden, garden policies, and guidelines to assist you in becoming a successful gardener and member of the community garden.

Some Things We Would like You to Know About The Garden

The Garden Staff are experienced gardeners, who are available to answer your questions, teach you how to recognize “diseased” plants, identify beneficial and non-beneficial insects, and how to eliminate or control them.

- The garden staff routinely walks through the garden looking for issues BEFORE the plant needs removal or treatment.
    - The staff will notify you by text or phone if problems exist in your garden.
- Feel free to stop and ask any staff member if you have questions or concerns.

Organic Gardening: We do not use chemically based synthetic fertilizers, insecticides, or pesticides. Please use only Organic, OMRI, or 100% natural approved products in your garden.

Web Page: www.paysoncommunitygarden.com
Facebook: https://facebook.com/paysoncommunitygarden
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/paysoncommunitygarden.com
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@paysoncommunitygardenpayso1214

Announcements regarding garden issues such as bugs to look out for, hours of operation, special activities, among other important information will be posted on these sites.

Garden Beds: The garden offers a variety of garden sizes and includes the cost of water:

- $30.00 4’ X 4’ elevated garden box for the gardeners with disabilities
- $40.00 4’ X 8’ raised garden beds
- $50.00 6’ X 10’ elevated garden box
- $75.00 6’ X 25’ raised and unraised beds

Hours of Operation: The garden opens the first Saturday in March and closes the second Saturday in December.

- Hours vary and are posted on the web page and the garden gate. Email reminders are sent out as hours change.
- We ask all gardeners to leave promptly by closing time so the staff members can close and lock the garden.
- The garden may close due to weather, especially during the monsoon season. The staff has been instructed to close the garden in the event of heavy rain and/or lightning within 10 miles of the garden.
    - Please leave the garden quickly when instructed to do.
    - An email will be sent out to inform gardeners of garden closures.

The Garden Shed: Near the entrance to the garden is “the shed.” Located at the shed you will find:

- Sign in sheets for tilling, workgroups, work teams, and special events, as needed
- Reference library
- First-aid kit and Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED)
- Hand tools, including moisture meters
- Task board
- Seed exchange basket

Garden Notifications: The garden staff strives to keep you informed of important garden-related information through emails and website messages. We make every effort to minimize the number of emails you receive. Additionally, notices will be posted in the garden, handouts will be made available, and the staff will pass on information as needed.

- Please keep in mind that you have 24 hours to respond to the text or phone call regarding garden issues. Additionally, you will have 1 week to resolve the issues.
- Issues you may be notified of include, but are not limited to:
    - Weeds
    - Sick plants
    - Bug infested plants
    - Water issues
    - Over ripe produce

Waterlines: Waterlines are located on the **north** end of each garden. We ask that you do not use this aisle for wagon or wheelbarrow traffic, as the weight of this equipment might damage the waterlines. Please do not block access to the automatic watering connections, yellow lines, or purple lines so the water team can repair the lines in a timely manner.

Automatic Watering: Gardens are automatically watered three times a week: Monday, Thursday, and Saturday

- Watering is done with the aid of an automated watering system. The amount of water to the gardens is based on varied criteria including temperatures and amount of recent precipitation.
- Members of the water team are on site during watering
    - Gardens with broken lines, flooding, or other water issues will be marked with a red flag and the gardener notified of the issue
    - Failure to respond to the notification will result in the water being turned off to that garden until the issue is resolved
- Hand watering is discouraged – please help us keep costs down:
    - EXCEPTION: seeds, seedlings, and young starts
    - Before watering your established plants, please utilize the water meters located in the shed to check on water level in the ground.
        - The low and slow automatic watering ensures the roots of your plants receive adequate water
        - The top several inches of your garden may appear or be dry, but checking with a water meter will ensure you see the moisture level at the roots of your plants
        - Over watering may be more detrimental to your plants than underwatering
- Identifying water lines:
    - The purple lines are for hand watering
    - The yellow lines are for automatic watering
    - The maroon Farmers Faucets are on in the spring before other lines are turned on
- Please disconnect your watering hose from the purple line when you are done

Special Events and Teams:

- **Garden Classes:** The Payson Community Garden staff and local experts may offer free in-person classes to the gardeners and public at the beginning of and throughout the season. Additional pop-up classes are offered as new topics arise.
- **Garden Projects and Teams:**
    - **Each gardener is expected to do 5 hours of volunteer work in the garden to help maintain the garden.**
    - At the shed, a task board of jobs to be done will be put out each day. Please take a card, complete the task, and if you have time, pick another. Additional workdays may be posted as necessary, please sign up for these workdays.
    - Work teams: We encourage gardeners to sign up for these teams which include food bank harvest team, water team, butterfly garden team, pumpkin festival, and others - such as painting or helping with social events.
- **Garden Social Activities:** Each year the garden staff provides opportunities for gardeners to get to know each other. These social events may include an ice cream social, gardener appreciation day, and pumpkin patch. Events are held outdoors for safety and as conditions allow.

Parking

- A large parking lot is available for use by gardeners and visitors. We ask that an area in front of the gates to the street be left open for use by emergency vehicles and heavy equipment.
- Once a month, a space in front of the trash dumpster will be marked to allow dumping of the bin.
- You may drive your vehicle into the garden to load and unload. Vehicles must be moved to the parking lot and not left in the garden.

Tools

- A variety of tools are offered for use by the gardeners at the north and south ends of the garden.
- Large tools such as wheelbarrows, wagons, rakes, and shovels are color-coded, purple tools live at the south side and yellow tools live at the north side.
- Hand tools are available near the shed.
- Please be considerate and return all tools to their appropriate place when you are done.
- If you find a broken tool, please notify the staff.

Amendments

- The garden offers a variety of soil amendments on the north side of the garden for gardener use.
    - Aged manure and homemade compost
- If you prefer to supply your own amendments, we ask that you ensure that they are certified organic.
- We do not allow any synthetic pesticides or fertilizers.
- If you have questions regarding your amendments, please ask a staff member. Look for “OMRI” to help ensure its organic before you buy.

Rototilling

The garden offers rototilling once a year.

- Please ensure that your garden is free of any visible rocks, wire or metal pins, string or other items that may get caught in the tiller tine.
- All desired amendments must be added and raked in before tilling occurs.

- There is a sign-up list at the shed.
- If you prefer, you may bring your own tiller

Compost Pile
A compost pile is located on the north end of the garden

- All vegetation from your garden may be placed on the pile at the north end of the garden
    - **Exception:** diseased plants, bug infested plants, and weeds with seed heads should be discarded in the dumpster at the south end of the garden

Weeds
Each gardener is responsible for keeping their gardens and the aisles surrounding their garden weed and debris free.

- Weeds are the biggest issue in the garden, please pull weeds as soon as possible to decrease the possibility of reseeding.
- Bindweed is very difficult to remove permanently
- Woodchips, when available, should be spread in the aisles to minimize weed growth.

The Store
Located on the southwest side of the garden

- Gardeners may place used and unneeded equipment and supplies in the store
- This equipment is available on a first come, first serve basis by any gardener.

Sharing
By the shed, there is a bench; this is the designated “free zone”. When you have extra plants, you may place them on the green bench for others to take. Additionally, you may place or remove seeds from the seed exchange basket at the shed.

Food Bank Harvesting
Harvest days are Mondays and Thursdays

- Please harvest your produce and place it at the washing station
- If you cannot harvest on Monday or Thursday, please harvest beforehand and give your produce to one of the staff
- If you are on vacation, please ask another gardener to harvest for you
- Give often. The food bank participants love our produce.

Pest Control
It is important that you examine your garden bed for bugs and disease each time you visit the garden. The staff and the garden classes can help you recognize beneficial and non-beneficial bugs and diseases.

- Row covers, diatomaceous earth, and other organic methods will help prevent infestation
- Handpicking bugs/eggs off the plants is the best way to rid your plants of pests
- If you have an infested plant, please cover it with a plastic garbage bag, remove the bag and plant at one time from your garden and place it in dumpster

Dogs are not allowed in the garden unless they are service dogs
Children are welcome in the garden and must be supervised
We are a Non-smoking no alcohol, and no weapons environment

Thank You for participating in our community garden!