

Falcon Heights Community Garden

Friendly Governance - Updated 12/1/2025

Governing principle: Gardeners understand that this is a community garden, and working together, we can grow healthy produce and enjoy gardening.

Garden Rules:

- Plots must be at least partially planted or tended by June 1. Plots not planted or tended will be reassigned unless previously communicated to staff.
- No harvesting from others' plots without their authorization is allowed.
- Be respectful of other gardeners and their spaces and communicate with neighboring gardeners to work out issues of borders, weeds or the size of plants.
- Gardeners provide their own tools and seeds.
- Water and hoses with nozzles are available in the garden. Gardeners need to comply with city-wide or regional watering regulations and shut off water after each use. Water hoses must not cross other plots and must always be attended. Water sprinklers are not permitted.
- Gardeners must maintain plots throughout the growing season: keep annual weeds from going to seed, perennial weeds from becoming established, and trash out of their plots.
- Gardeners will follow organic gardening principles and not use insecticides or weed killers.
- Gardeners will not bring in sand or gravel or make permanent changes (e.g., adding an underground watering system or changing the fence).
- Place weeds in designated receptacles. Because weeds are not heat-treated, they should not be used for mulch.
- Plots must be cleared of weeds at the end of the season. Crop residue need not be removed unless they harbor insect or disease pests. Please store your stakes and frames neatly.
- If a garden is abandoned during the year or the gardener fails to clean up their garden in the fall, no plot renewal/request will be allowed for that gardener in the following year, and no refunds will be issued.
- Pets are not allowed in the gardens.
- Do not plant trees or shrubs. Perennials are not allowed without prior approval.
- Growing or using illegal substances in the garden will lead to immediate expulsion with no return of plot fee.

Garden Management:

The Falcon Heights Community Garden, located within Falcon Heights Community Park (corners of Roselawn and Cleveland avenues), is a self-governing project of the City of Falcon Heights, which owns the property, and which has authority and responsibility for its use. The garden includes 38 plots, each approximately 10 ft by 12 ft in size. The implementation of garden rules is the responsibility of the Steering Committee, which is composed of three people: two gardeners elected by the gardener community and one Falcon Heights staff member. The gardening members of the Steering Committee act in an advisory capacity to staff and may assist them in decisions related to garden policies, rules and procedures, monitoring the plots, and mediating complaints. Election of two Steering Committee members by the gardener community takes place in spring after plots are assigned. The City of Falcon Heights maintains the property and equipment – garden paths, fencing, hoses, and hose nozzles. An annual rental fee is charged for each plot, and all monies are handled by the city of Falcon Heights. See [Fee Schedule](#) for current plot fees.

Plot Assignment Procedure

Returning gardeners will receive an application via mail in early January, and applications with plot fees must be submitted to the City on or by February 1. Returning gardeners will be granted the same plot. If a returning gardener's application is received after February 1, the application is handled as a new gardener application. If plots remain unassigned after February 1, then application forms will be available to new gardeners, **who must be current Falcon Heights residents**, online from February 4 to February 28. Open plots will then be assigned to applicants by lottery in early March. Those selected in the lottery will be notified by email and sent a request for payment with a deadline for payment stated in the email. Those applicants not selected in the lottery system will not be retained on file and must reapply during a subsequent open lottery period to be considered. Garden plots are assigned to one applicant and are not transferable. Others may garden at your plot, but the responsibility for payment of fees, cleanup and other duties at the site will be the responsibility of the individual whose name is assigned to the plot.