

City of Charlottesville Garden Plots  
Rules & Regulations

**Renting Garden Plots**

	<b>RENTAL RATES</b>	
<b>Location (Plot Size)</b>	<b>City Resident Rate</b>	<b>Non-Resident Rate</b>
Azalea Park (~ 30' x 30')	Full Plot: \$150.00	Full Plot: \$300.00
Meadowcreek Gardens (~ 30' x 30')	Full Plot: \$150.00	Full Plot: \$300.00
Michie Drive (~ 20' x 20')	\$90.00	\$180.00
Rives Park (~ 20' x 20')	\$90.00	\$180.00

\*\*\* Fees are eligible for discounted scholarship rates

- The rental period is from March 1 through December 31. Annual fees are non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to "City of Charlottesville."

- Plots may be renewed by renters from year-to-year. City Resident gardeners may rent a plot for no more than 5 consecutive years; Non-residents may rent a plot for no more than 3 consecutive years. Renewal registration begins January 15 and concludes on January 26.

<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Application Period</b>
Renewal	Jan. 15 – Jan. 26
New City Resident	Begins Feb. 5
New Non-resident	Begins Feb. 12

- City Residents that have reached their 5 year limit and Non-Residents that reach their 3 year limit may reenter the lottery pool after their term.
  - Current gardeners (2024) that renew their plot will start 2025 in their second year.
- 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 first 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.
- 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.

**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. The 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](http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources)). Use caution when spraying any type of pesticide or herbicide to prevent drifting into other plots.
- Any invasive plant species found in a garden plot 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.

### Responsibilities to Your Fellow Gardeners

- Please do not block garden paths with vehicles, equipment, or debris.
- At no time should you 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 1<sup>st</sup> may be assigned to another applicant.

### 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

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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

## Garden Plot Regulation Revision Notes:

Garden Plot Rules 2025 Draft.docx - New/updated rules are in green.

### Garden Plot Fees:

Garden plot fees vary widely across the state. I limited my scope primarily to municipal run garden plots. Fees may vary widely due to the varied maintenance and amenities the sites offer.

Location	Size	Price	Price/SqFt
Charlottesville (Current)	30' x 30'	\$50	\$0.06
Charlottesville (Proposed)	30' x 30'	\$150	\$0.17
Fairfax (Municipal)	20' x 30'	\$140	\$0.23
Arlington (Municipal)	20' x 20'	\$60	\$0.15
Leesburg (Municipal)	20' x 20'	\$45	\$0.11
Chesterfield (Municipal)	20' x 20'	\$30	\$0.08
Roanoke (LEAP – nonprofit)	15' x 15'	\$100	\$0.44

### Term Length:

Primarily terms run for one year with no cap on the number of years a renter can renew. Fairfax was the only locality that explicitly stated that they do give preference to new gardeners over returning gardeners.

### Management/Oversight:

In my research I have seen a variety of styles for managing garden plots. Some entities have chief gardeners for individual sites, enlist the help of a non-profit, or have a dedicated garden plot manager. Others simply don't have any one person responsible for the management of their garden plots.

### Garden Plot Forum:

Through contacting other agencies, we have set up a group of 11 Garden Plot Managers to share rules, regulations, and common issues amongst ourselves. We plan on having a meeting over the coming weeks. In preparation for our meeting, Kristina McCullough has thrown together a data table with some key attributes of the affiliated garden plots. An attachment with the document will be emailed to you for you to review if you wish.

## Gardener Distributions

### Charlottesville- Rental Term Length

<b>Term</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Tier 1 (1 – 2 yrs)	38	32%
Tier 2 (3 – 5 yrs)	28	23%
Tier 3 (6+ years)	54	45%

### Charlottesville- Resident vs Non-Resident

<b>Residency</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
City Resident	97	78.2%
Non-Resident	27	21.8%

## Charlottesville Garden Plot Pricing

			100% PPL	101-138%	139-150%	151-200%	
Current	Size	Res.	90%	75%	50%	25%	Non R.
\$ 50.00	30' x 30'	\$ 150.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 37.50	\$ 75.00	\$ 112.50	\$ 300.00
\$ 30.00	20' x 20'	\$ 90.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 45.00	\$ 67.50	\$ 180.00

FEE COMPARISON	Location	Owner	Size	Price	Per Sqft
	C'ville	P&R	30' x 30'	\$ 150.00	\$ 0.17
	C'ville	P&R	20' x 20'	\$ 90.00	\$ 0.23
	Hogge Park	F CPA	6' x 9'	\$ 80.00	\$ 1.48
	Roanoke	LEAP	15' x 15'	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.44
	Fairfax	F CPA	20' x 30'	\$ 140.00	\$ 0.23
	Laurel Park	F CPA	20' x 30'	\$ 140.00	\$ 0.23
	Arlington	V. Assoc.	20' x 20'	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.13
	Leesburg	LPR	20' x 20'	\$ 45.00	\$ 0.11

POP : PLOT	Location	Pop (1,000)	Plots	Ratio
	C'ville	45	122	369
	Leesburg	49.3	70	704
	Roanoke	97.2	150	648
	Arlington	234.2	300	781
	Fairfax Co.	1,142	774	1,475

Charlottesville Metrics			
RES:NR	Residency	Count	Percentage
	Resident	97	78.2%
	Non-Res	27	21.8%
TERMS	Term	Count	Percentage
	1-2 years	38	31%
	3-5 years	28	23%
	6+ years	54	44%

