



## Welcome to the inaugural year of the Chapman Community Garden!

We are excited to launch the new *Grow Chapman* community garden in 2019. This garden, located south of the city pool, is a wonderful addition to our community and city park. A community garden means many things to many people. For some it is a place to grow food, flowers and herbs in the company of friends and neighbors. For others, it's a place to reconnect with nature or get physical exercise. Regardless of why you are choosing to take part in a community garden, the activity comes with many benefits and some shared responsibility. This Welcome Packet will guide you through the rewards, responsibilities and procedures for growing the in the *Grow Chapman* community garden.

Besides good food what rewards will our community garden bring to Chapman?

**Nutrition** — Community gardens enable people to grow high quality fruits and vegetables for themselves, their families and their communities. Research indicates that community gardeners eat more fruits and vegetables than nongardening families.

**Exercise** — Gardening requires physical activity and helps improve the overall physical and mental health of gardeners.

**Community** — Community gardens foster a sense of community identity and stewardship among gardeners. They provide a place for people of diverse backgrounds to interact and share laughter, stories and traditions.

**Environment** — Gardens help increase biodiversity, reduce runoff from rain, recycle local organic materials and reduce fossil fuel use from long-distance food transport.

**Learning** — People of all ages can acquire and share skills and knowledge related to gardening, cooking, nutrition, health, culture, etc. Throughout the year you will be provided with tips and recipes to enhance your gardening experience.

**Youth** — Community gardens provide a place for youth to explore gardening, nature and community and with the *Grow Chapman* garden adjacent to the pool we hope to peak youth interest in gardening!

**Income** — Produce grown at community gardens may be sold or used to offset food purchases from the grocery store through the Chapman Farmer's Market or individual sales.

## FAQ

Questions about how the *Grow Chapman* community garden operates will arise throughout the year. Here are answers that may help shed some light on a few questions. Other questions can be directed to the garden monitor at 785-313-3078.

**1. How much does it cost to garden here?**

4x12 \$15/yr	Fees include the use of utilities, garden tools and providing security for the garden (8ft fencing, security cameras and regular patrol).
4x16 \$20/yr	
4x24 \$30/yr	
4x32 \$35/yr	

**2. What kinds of tools, equipment and supplies are available at the garden?**

Shovels, rakes, hoes, small hand tools and light rotor tiller are available for use.

**3. Can I leave a sprinkler or soaker hose “on” if I am not at the garden?**

No, you must stay with your garden plot when watering your plants.

**4. What do I have to do to stay in good standing with the garden?**

Keep your garden free of weeds and debris and in good health, see the Garden guidelines to learn more and how to find assistance if you will be out of town for a period.

**5. Can I bring fruit and vegetable scraps from home to compost in the bins at the garden?**

Yes, you may as long as they are free of disease and easily compostable

**6. How are plot sizes determined?**

Each plot is 4 feet wide so that a gardener can easily reach into the raised bed from either side to weed or harvest and not need to walk through their plants. The lengths are offered in varying sizes so that a gardener can choose a plot that fits their need without worrying about keeping up excess bed area not in use.

**7. How many plots may I rent?**

You can rent up to three plots per year, depending on availability. You will also have the first right to reserve your current plot for the following year when registration opens up for that year, as long as you are in good standing as a garden member.

**8. Is this an organic garden?**

Although organic is not mandatory, it is encouraged. You will be gardening in close proximity to other gardeners who may choose to grow organic so please be very mindful when using a chemical element (choose low wind days and a concentrated spray nozzle).

**9. Who do I contact for gardening advice?**

The Grow Chapman leadership team has several experts on hand who can offer advice and share best practices. They can be reached at 785-313-3078. You may also contact the DK County Extension Office for assistance at 785-263-2001 or search for vegetable and fruit gardening bulletins from KSU Research and Extension online.

**10. How much time should I expect to spend at the garden?**

Depending on the size of your garden, you should plan for 4-6 hours/week.

**11. What should I do if I experience or see theft or vandalism?**

Immediately call the Chapman Police Department then notify the garden monitor at 785-313-3078

## Community Garden Guidelines

Successful and vibrant community gardens rely on the dedication of each and every gardener to maintain his or her own plot and contribute to the upkeep and management of the entire garden. The adage many hands make light work is appropriate. If everyone pitches in according to their ability and desire, then the garden will prosper and grow. Please read the guidelines and direct any questions or comments to the garden co-leaders.

1. All gardeners are required to complete an application form. The plot fee is due upon registration in RecDesk or when taking the application to City Hall. (Fees are on the Gardener Application form)
2. Keep your plot and the adjoining pathways tended. If your plot appears to be untended for a period of time, and you haven't contacted the garden monitor, you will be contacted and your plot may be assigned to another gardener. Call the garden monitor if you need help or if you will be out of town for an extended period of time. If you plan to discontinue use of your space, please let the monitor or registrar know as soon as possible so that your plot can be assigned to another gardener.
4. Plant tall plants and vines in places where they will not interfere with your neighbor's plot. Planting illegal plants is prohibited.
5. At the end of the gardening season, all dead plants and non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, metal, plastic, etc.) must be removed and disposed of properly and all gardens left neat and tidy. If your garden is not cleaned-up by Dec 31st, you could lose your gardening privileges for the next season.
6. Please pick up litter when you see it.
7. Please put weeds and dead plants into the compost bin provided. Do not leave them in the pathway. Any diseased plants or seedy or invasive weeds are to be bagged and put in the trash so as not to contaminate the gardens. Old woody plants are to be placed in the brush pile to be carted to the recycling center.
8. Do not apply anything to or pick anything from another person's plot without their express approval.
9. Please do not leave the water on unattended. When finished gardening for the day, please roll up the hose at the faucet area, return tools to the shed and lock the shed before leaving the garden.
10. Smoking and chewing tobacco is not allowed. Tobacco can transmit a lethal virus to tomatoes and cigarette butts are loaded with toxins. Use of alcohol is also prohibited on the garden grounds.
11. Please supervise children and pets in the garden area.
12. For your safety, only garden during daylight hours. Consider gardening in pairs or keeping a cellphone nearby if something were to happen.
13. Report theft, vandalism and unusual activities to the garden monitor and police.
14. Use common courtesy, be considerate of your gardening neighbors and **enjoy the experience!**

Violation of Gardener Guidelines: If any of the guidelines are violated you will be contacted by phone or email and have one week to address the violation. After one week, if the violation has not been remedied, you may lose your gardening privileges.

## Gardener Application Form

(not applicable if you signed up via RecDesk)

1. Gardener: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Gardening partner (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Gardener address: \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Gardener phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner phone: \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Gardener email: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner email: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Number of plots this year: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee per plot: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total plot fee paid: \$\_\_\_\_\_

- If you are a new gardener, would you like an experienced gardener to help you? Yes No
- If you are an experienced gardener, would you like to help a new gardener? Yes No
- Photo permission: From time to time, gardeners, garden leaders and the media will take photos of the garden. Please check here  if you do not give your permission for your photo to be published. If you do not give your permission, please let photographers know when you encounter them at the garden.
- Phone and email: All gardeners are required to share their phone number and email address with garden leaders. In addition, a gardener phone and email list is shared with all gardeners. Please check here  if you do not give your permission to share you phone number and email with all gardeners.

By signing below, I agree that I have read and understand the Gardener Guidelines and plan to abide by all of the garden rules. I understand that neither the garden group nor owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the garden group and owners of the land for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or my guests.

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Signature

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Date

### 2019 Garden Plot Fees

4x12 \$15/yr	Fees include the use of utilities, garden tools and providing security for the garden. Each plot rental fee is annual and gives you access to your garden plot from May 7, 2019 to Dec 31, 2019. You will have first right to reserving your plot for the upcoming year, as long as you have abided by the rules of the community garden during the current year.
4x16 \$20/yr	
4x24 \$30/yr	
4x32 \$35/yr	

*The Grow Chapman Community Garden project was made possible due to a grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas, in partnership with the Dk Co Quality of Life Coalition. We thank them for their support!*

## Getting Started!

Now that you have secured a plot in the *Grow Chapman* community garden its time to get growing! Your plot will consist of a wooden raised bed in the dimension you chose with easy access to one of four water hydrants and hoses. The beds are filled with quality river-bottom soil and will be weed free when you take them over. Wood chipped paths surround the garden beds and benches provide a place to rest in between chores.

Within the garden you will find a shed with various tools available for your use (shovels, rakes, hoes, cultivators). Feel free to bring your own tools or borrow ours. As the season progresses you will also be encouraged to utilize a compost bin that will be used to enrich the following year's soil.

The garden is ready for you---it's time for you to plant! Bring your seeds or started plants and get to work. Remember a few friendly guidelines to help your neighboring gardeners...

1. tall plants should be planted where they won't over-shade another bed (you may use metal cages or trellis systems).
2. If you are using chemicals in your garden spray on calm days and make sure only your bed is coming in contact with the chemicals.
3. Don't plant anything illegal or invasive
4. Keep your garden weeded and under control

### Successful Gardening Tips

- **Plan to visit your garden two to three times a week during the growing season.** Make a schedule with yourself or other gardeners. Write it in your calendar. Post a colorful reminder on the fridge. Because your garden is not located outside your front or back door, it's sometimes easy to forget that there is weeding, watering, staking or harvesting to do.

- **Attend scheduled meetings and workdays.** This will help you meet other gardeners and become part of your gardening community. You'll also learn about the various jobs and projects that need to be done to keep your garden in shape.

- **Make friends with other gardeners.** Experienced gardeners are an invaluable resource at your garden. Pick their brains for gardening tips. Visit their plots to see how they stake their tomatoes or trellis their beans.

- **Share the abundance.** Too good at gardening? Don't let your excess produce go to waste, share with neighbors and family or consider selling it at the Chapman or Abilene farmer's markets.

- **Educate yourself.** Check out books from the library. Attend classes. Research gardening tips online (<https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/publications/>). There's always something to learn about gardening. The more you learn, the more success you'll have.

- **Have fun!** This should be a relaxing, rewarding experience for you and your family. Invite others to join you, paint fun plant markers, show your work on social media. Enjoy the garden!