

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many gardens are available?

Up to 30 temporary gardens will be placed across the city to provide spots to over 300 gardeners. Each selected site will be provided with seven to 15 planter boxes for community food production. Some exceptions for sites with more than 15 planters may be considered.

How many planter boxes can each household get within a community garden group?

To ensure fair and equitable distribution, it's recommended to limit one planter box per household, unless the household is growing food for others in need. Groups may also consider a collective or co-operative model, in which everyone volunteers to maintain the garden with shared distribution of the harvest. Alternatively groups may consider blending the two models, resulting in both individual/family plots and collective/co-operative spaces being available.

Where can I choose to place a Pop-Up Community Garden?

Locations for the Pop-Up Community Gardens have to be on City-owned parkland or community league licensed land. Preference will be given to gardens that will be placed on hard surfaces (pavement, cement or gravel) and sites that have existing access to water. Example: Community League parking lot or a parking lot of a district park.

Tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts, ice rinks, sports fields and the North Saskatchewan River Valley are excluded.

How does the City determine who receives a Pop-Up Community Garden?

The Pop-Up Community Gardens Pilot is aimed at supporting community groups with individuals who have been experiencing greater social and emotional impacts from COVID-19. Applicants would preferably be the lead of a community group or an organization and have members ready to garden.

The City performs the adjudication process based on the following criteria (in random order):

- Preference for proposed gardens to be located on hard surfaces or access by way of hard surfaces (pavement, cement or gravel).
- Preference for increasing the distribution of gardens throughout the City.
- Considerations to social vulnerability in the proposed garden location.
- Higher priority to those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- Demonstrate initiatives to utilize the Pop-Up Community Gardens to benefit the community beyond participating gardeners.
- Willingness to create a plan or organize gardening groups to facilitate the operations of Pop-Up Community Gardens.
- Operational logistics about planter delivery and watering. Approval to access water for the garden from an adjacent water source is preferred.

How are Pop-Up Community Gardens different from permanently installed Community Gardens?

Pop-Up Community Gardens are temporary raised bed gardens that will be removed after the growing season has ended. Permanently installed community gardens are approved to be constructed and operated on City land for many years. They can be composed of a variety of amenities including raised garden beds and/or in ground gardens, waste receptacles, seating, compost bins, onsite storage, and landscaping, among other features. Another difference is the Pop-Up Community Gardens pilot has a shorter application process and gardening can begin this year, whereas a Community Garden has a more thorough application and design process. The more complex application process will not allow for gardening to occur this growing season if the application hasn't already been submitted.

What can I plant in my Pop-Up Community Garden?

These pilot community gardens are for growing edible plants only.

When will the Community Gardens Guidelines be available?

The Community Gardens Guidelines are currently being updated to align with the Alberta Health Services (AHS) public health orders and will be available before the gardening season.