

Beech Bluff Community Garden

Wake County

3321 NC-42, Willow Spring, NC



Mission Statement: The Beech Bluff Community Garden was designed and established by Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) to nurture gardening opportunities for the community while producing locally grown, nutritious foods, and fostering community interaction, education, and collaboration. Staff and participants will work together to create a vibrant, productive, attractive, and positive space serving as a model for future community gardens in Wake County and beyond.

Plot reservation, Information, and Sizes: Application for the community garden plots will be accepted during the month of November. All reservations will be managed through Wake County's online ActiveNet system. Participants will be required to set up an online account to reserve a plot. If there are more applicants than plots, participants of both the annual and perennial plot rentals will be chosen via a lottery system. Those not selected during the lottery will be placed on that year's waiting list and contacted in order of placement if a plot becomes available during that calendar year. Please submit only one application per family.

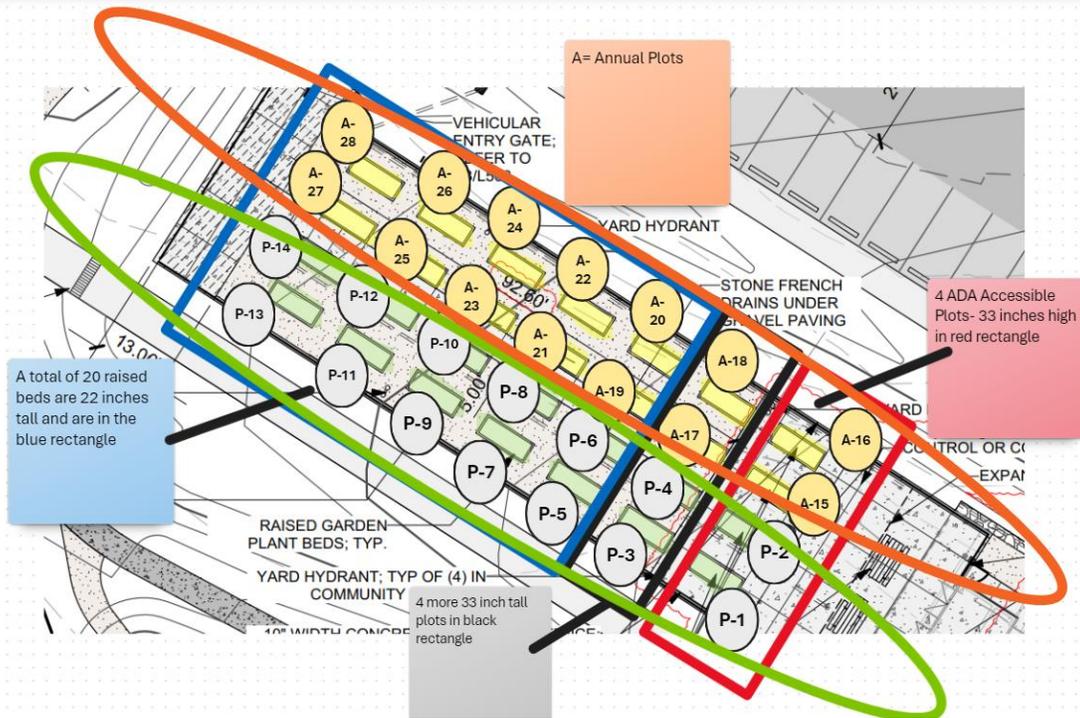
There are a total of 28 Garden Plots. All plots will be 4 feet by 10 feet in dimension. The four plots in the front of the garden closest to the entrance are ADA accessible and are 33 inches tall, these plots will allow for wheelchair accessibility. There are four additional 33" plots on the next row for people with limited mobility and the remaining 20 plots are 22" tall.

Annual Plots: Fourteen, half, of the garden plots are rented on an annual schedule from March 1 until January 31 without a guaranteed renewal. These plots provide beginning gardeners an opportunity to experiment and learn about gardening and perhaps, later translate what they have learned into their own spaces. At the end of the season, all plant material should be harvested and removed from the plots and participants may re-enter the lottery system for the next year.

Perennial Plots: The other fourteen plots are rented on a yearly basis beginning on March 1 with the option for renewal for up to 5 years. These plots allow more experienced gardeners an opportunity to mentor annual gardeners or give people an opportunity to garden who

otherwise don't have the space to do so. This perennial space also allows opportunities to build relationships and help create a sense of community and collaboration within the garden. At the end of the 5-year period, participants may re-enter the lottery system.

Community Garden Plot Numbers, Annual, Perennial Beds



General Maintenance, Guidelines, and Expectations:

- All participants are expected to follow Community Garden Guidelines and expectations in the Community Garden Agreement and are subject to eviction if these guidelines are broken.
- All participants will be expected to attend the January orientation each year and sign the Community Garden Guidelines and Waiver in order to participate.
- Garden plots are limited to one per household.
- Plot reservations are managed through the Wake County PROS ActiveNet system. The account holder will be the main contact and responsible party for the garden plot.
- Wake County shall be held harmless to damage done to contents of raised beds caused by inclement weather, vandalism or theft.
- Participation is encouraged and expected as community garden space is limited. If the garden plot is deemed not maintained or utilized, staff will give a notice via email or text. If notice is not addressed within 10 calendar days, staff will give a second notice via phone call and text or

email. If not addressed after another 7 calendar days, Wake County reserves the right to withdraw the participant from the community garden and reassign plot to the next person on the waiting list.

- The garden will not be open to the public except for open houses which will occur at least twice per year. There will be a code on the gate to allow participants access. Participants are allowed to bring guests into the garden, but they are expected to inform guest of and adhere to the Community Garden rules and guidelines.
- Removal of contents of another participant's garden without permission is prohibited and grounds for removal from the Community Garden.
- Pets are prohibited from entering the garden unless they are service animals.
- The use of non-organic herbicides and pesticides is prohibited thus supporting biological health within the community garden. When using organic pesticides, the least toxic alternative is highly encouraged. Park staff are available to consult and assist with pest and disease management strategies.
- Participants are responsible for maintaining their garden plots and controlling the weeds. They are expected to keep the vegetables and flowers within the boundaries of the raised beds. Participants may create trellising systems within their plots to take advantage of vertical space to produce food, flowers, and herbs but not extending past the perimeter of their raised beds. All trellising systems must be approved by staff to complement the aesthetic and safety standards of the Community Garden.
- Illegal, invasive, and highly poisonous plants are not allowed to be grown in the Community Garden.
- Park staff will assist in maintaining the pathways, but participants are expected to prevent plant material and weeds from overseeding in pathways. Participants are encouraged to help weed the pathways around their garden plots.
- Weeds and plant materials that are removed from pathways and garden plots should be placed in the appropriate, designated areas to be either composted or removed from site to prevent compost and soil contamination and weeds spreading in the garden. In addition, diseased and infested parts of plant material, fruits, and vegetables should be isolated and contained and should not be placed in compost or surrounding soils to prevent spread to the soil and garden. Attention should be given to planting disease resistant varieties of fruits and vegetables to prevent bacterial, soil borne diseases and to maximize food production.
- Pathways must be left open to allow other gardeners access. No personal or community items may be left in the pathways to maintain access and safety. If materials are brought in to amend raised beds or for any other reason, they should be placed in area that does not disrupt access and walkability and should not be left overnight or while the gardener is not on the premises.
- When accessing the service gate, participants must unload items in a timely fashion and park vehicles in approved parking areas only.
- Wake County will provide water, hoses, watering attachments, and hand tools. After use, yard hydrants should be turned off and hoses should be rolled up on the hose reel. All tools are the

property of Wake County and should be cleaned and put away in their designated spaces after use.

- Community interaction and collaboration is highly encouraged with public events, social opportunities, and open houses occurring annually. In addition, willing and experienced gardeners are encouraged to mentor people who might be new to gardening.
- Staff will help facilitate a seed saving and sharing program and educational events where the expertise and diversity within the garden can be highlighted.
- Annual maintenance will occur every January by staff in preparation for new plot owners.
- Cancellation of any perennial plot will need to be designated by November 30th and notification sent to Assistant Park Manager of Agriculture.
- Any major damage or concerns should be reported to staff onsite and/or Assistant Park Manager-Agriculture, Will Ammons, will.ammons@wake.gov, in a timely fashion.