



# Polaris Habitat Vision & Guidelines

Guidelines were altered from [Anchorage Parks & Recreation](#) Vision

At Polaris Habitat, we envision a harmonious sanctuary where individuals from diverse backgrounds converge to nurture a thriving ecosystem in unity. Anchored in education, and environmental stewardship, our habitat embodies a shared commitment to cultivate a sustainable haven. Through collective engagement, we strive to empower our community to embrace regenerative practices, champion local biodiversity, and address ecological challenges. Polaris Habitat is a welcoming and positive environment for gardens and visitors alike.

## Garden Guidelines

### What can I plant?

You may plant vegetables, herbs, flowers, and small fruit plants that do not shade out neighboring garden plots. If you do not use your entire garden yield, consider donating extra produce to a local food pantry or shelter.

### Where can I garden?

Keep all work within your adopted plot. Do not garden past plots or into garden pathways. Gardeners are responsible for the pathways surrounding their plot. Pathways must remain free from weeds and obstructions. Plants may not grow into or hang over the paths. Tools and garden refuse may be in the pathway while you are working on your plot but must be removed when you are finished for the day.

### When can I garden?

Garden during park operating hours of 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. To properly maintain your garden, you are expected to perform a minimum of three to five hours of work each week.

### What about harvesting?

Harvest mature crops to minimize excess waste, garden rot, and the number of free pickers who may enter the gardens in search of ripe produce.

### What about end of season care?

Water is not accessible in mid-September, and gardeners are responsible for leveling and cleaning their plots by the end of October. If a plot is not closed down for the season by this time, Polaris staff will notify the gardener that they have five days to complete their clean-up. If clean-up isn't completed, the gardener won't be able to participate in the Polaris Habitat the following season.

### Must my gardening be organic?

Yes, organic gardening is required. Chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are prohibited.

### What about compost and litter?

Please help keep the Habitat tidy by picking up litter and plant waste and taking them with you. Our hope is that one day we may have a usable compost for our community.

## May children garden?

Yes, children are encouraged to learn the benefits of gardening at a young age. Please make sure children are supervised and respect the neighboring garden plots, walkways, and other gardeners.

## Are pets allowed in the habitat?

Pets must remain on-leash and may not disturb/soil garden plots. Please pick up your pet's waste and take it with you.

## What if I cannot care for my plot?

If you are leaving town and will not be tending your plot or if you are abandoning your plot for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible.

## Utilities and Tool Guidelines

### Water

There is no access to building water. Please use the water from rain barrels to water your garden plot. If you see that the water is low please contact Polaris staff so that we may fill up the barrels for use. Please secure the water output valve before leaving the grounds.

### Tools

Gardeners are expected to bring their own seeds, gardening tools, hoses, and other supplies for their plots. Power tools may be used by adults, if they supply their own power. Electrical hook-ups are not provided. If you are willing to maintain other areas of the Habitat please sign up here. Tools for Habitat maintenance are available in the Blue shed. You will need to sign out keys to access the shed.

## Parking

Use the designated parking area or legal street parking. Motor vehicles are prohibited from entering the community gardens or driving on the grass.

## Forfeiture

Failure to follow these guidelines and maintain your garden plot could result in forfeiture of your gardening privileges. A notice will be sent via text message if a violation has occurred. You will have five days to correct the violation. If there is no response to the text your plot will be forfeited for the year.

## Blue Shed Use & Land Maintenance Guidelines

- Sign in/out of the Blue Shed - this helps Polaris staff keep track of access and keys.
- Maintain main lawn, amphitheater, and pathways around garden plots.
- Clean up any community tables.
- Properly dispose of waste/trash.
- Check water barrel levels and add water when appropriate.
- Place tools back in their original position.
- Lock the Blue Shed before leaving the grounds.

## Greenhouse Use Guidelines (when we eventually rebuild it)

- Sign in/out of the building.
- Avoid blocking sunlight from other plants.
- Clean up any community tables.

- Only tend to your pots/plants.
- Lock the door behind you.

## New to Gardening?

University of Alaska Fairbanks has published “16 Easy Steps to Gardening”.

[Check out their website here.](#)

The Habitat has been overgrown with weeds. Please [check out this website](#) to understand the nature of these weeds and how to help keep them at bay - chemical free.