

Garden Permit Terms and Provisions

Get started with your garden project by submitting your Garden Permit application to the Division of Real Estate. The application will be quickly reviewed to determine the status of the requested lot, ownership, if the site is on hold for a City program or project, and restrictions due to known subsoil conditions, easements or lease agreements, etc. If the lot you have chosen is not available, you will be notified and you may request an alternate location. After your application is approved, you will have a permit for the current growing season.

It is important for the permit holder to understand the responsibilities and time commitment necessary to plan, establish and properly maintain the site. In brief, no permanent structure can be installed on the lot. Vegetables or fruits may only be grown in raised beds. Gardening guidelines must be followed to ensure acceptable aesthetic and sanitary conditions for neighboring homes and community. Details of these and other conditions can be found on the first page of the Garden Permit entitled 'Terms and Provisions'.

Note: These are temporary permits only, valid from March 1 through December 15, and cannot be carried over to the next year, although you get first rights of refusal the next season. Permit holders may renew by submitting a new application on an annual basis. The City reserves the right to revoke a permit at any time, including during through the growing season, for violations of permit guidelines or when the land is needed for another purpose.

For further information about the Garden Permit, please contact the Division of Real Estate at 585-428-6951, via e-mail at powelld@cityofrochester.gov or visit City Hall in person at Room 125B, 30 Church Street, Rochester, NY 14614 between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm.

For information about gardening practices, advice, training sessions and other field questions, please contact the City's Coordinator of Horticultural & Environmental Planning at 585-428-8820.