



## Water Conservation Policy in Community Gardens

2020

**Green Village Initiative (GVI) understands that water is not a limitless resource and strives to conserve water in all operations.**

**Our community gardeners are stewards of resources. The following points outline GVI's water conservation policy, in place at all community gardens.**

1. **Water Conservation:** Water conservation through good gardening practices is critical for long-term use of community garden sites. This includes:
  - a. **Efficient Watering:** Focus on watering root systems to maximize water intake vs. foliar watering that quickly evaporates. Inclusion of weekly rainfall measurements when deciding how much to water.
  - b. **Soil Building:** Use of mulch to mitigate evaporation and integration of compost and organic matter to increase absorption of water
  - c. **Smart Planting:** Focus on planting crops that require less water, and are more tolerant to dry conditions and less watering. Intensive spacing is taught and encouraged to maximize shade and water retention, requiring less water.
  - d. **Limiting Watering Hours:** In order to facilitate the points made in our water conservation training, we advise that watering not take place during high temperature times of day (10am-2pm)
2. GVI will work with the City's Department of Public Facilities, and Aquarion, to ensure that **water is provided from May to November.**
3. **Water Measurement Tools:** Rain gauges are available for every garden to deter gardeners from using water during times of rainfall.
4. **Accountability and Eyes in the Garden:** Each garden has a Garden Captain responsible for observing, reporting and dealing with any circumstances that might result in an overuse of water. Broken pipes, running hoses or over-watering are some of the most common ways that water can be wasted. Garden Captains report any challenges to GVI.
5. **Standing Water/Mosquito Prevention:** A No-Standing-Water Policy is in effect at every garden. This policy, and training sessions to ensure its implementation, are communicated during monthly workshops for gardeners. GVI checks for standing water when visiting gardens; any standing water is eliminated by GVI.
6. **Communication With City Officials:** GVI will identify and communicate any issues or concerns with the City Parks and Recreation Department. Community gardeners are instructed to communicate any observations or concerns to GVI, who will then communicate with the Parks and Recreation Department.