



Managing Accessible Plots - Pilot Program

Supported by Gardens Advisory Committee June 14, 2007

Introduction

The City of Santa Monica gives a high priority to providing a variety of active living opportunities that are accessible to all community residents. Euclid Park, opened in June 2007, provides a number of wheelchair-accessible planters to provide people with physical disabilities the opportunity to experience the joy and fulfillment of gardening.

Outreach

The City will conduct outreach through the following outlets to encourage local residents with a physical disability to apply for a wheelchair-accessible garden plot.

1. Current Santa Monica Community Gardeners
2. Santa Monica Community Garden Waiting List Gardeners
3. Seascape and Local Newspapers
4. City TV
5. The City's Web Site
6. Santa Monica Housing Complexes Serving Seniors and People with Disabilities
7. Local Agencies Serving People with Disabilities
8. City Parks and Libraries
9. Other Outlets as Recommended by City's Disabilities Commission and Commission for the Senior Community

Applications will be accepted beginning in June 2007 on an ongoing basis.

Qualifications for Wheelchair Accessible Plots

1. Applicant must have a condition that necessitates the permanent or long-term use of a wheelchair or other mobility device; OR
2. Applicant must have a permanent or long-term condition that limits or prohibits his or her ability to kneel or bend down or to otherwise access a non-accessible plot; OR
3. Applicant must have a permanent or long-term condition that would not allow him or her to effectively garden in a non-accessible plot but would allow him or her to successfully garden in a raised, accessible plot.

4. If necessary, a letter from the applicant's healthcare provider may be required. All applications for an accessible plot will be considered on an individual basis, as required by state and federal law and City policy.

Vacant Accessible Garden Plots

If no qualified individual has applied for an accessible garden plot, the accessible plot will be issued to a City program or school for conducting gardening classes until the end of the growing season. If a qualified applicant is added to the waiting list, he/she will be offered the plot at the beginning of the next growing season.

If a class cannot be offered, the vacant accessible plot will be offered to the next person(s) on the master community garden waiting list for the upcoming growing season (usually a designated 4-6 month time period).

If a gardener from the master list exercises this opportunity, he or she will also remain on the master community garden waiting list and will be eligible for a non-accessible garden plot when he or she reaches the top of that list. This "temporary" gardener will be allowed to use the accessible garden plot until such time as he/she is assigned a non-accessible plot, voluntarily vacates the plot or a qualified applicant has been added to the accessible plot waiting list. In this case, the qualified gardener will be offered the accessible garden plot and the "temporary" gardener must vacate the accessible garden plot at the conclusion of the existing growing season.

Gardening Maintenance Rules

All gardeners using an accessible plot must abide by the same rules and regulations for governing all other community gardening plots. To request a reasonable accommodation to use the Community Garden, please contact Ginna Muzingo, Supervisor, Community Recreation Division at 310-434-2654, gardens@smgov.net or Stacy Rowe, Acting ADA Coordinator at (310) 458-8701 voice or (310) 458-8696 TTY, stacy.rowe@smgov.net for assistance with and/or questions about requesting an accommodation.

The City of Santa Monica does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. For questions, complaints, concerns or requests for information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact Stacy Rowe, Acting ADA Coordinator using the contact information above.