

The Alamo Heights Community Garden

*Make a new friend. Reconnect with a neighbor. Learn something new. See something beautiful.
Enjoy fresh produce. Welcome to the Alamo Heights Community Garden.*



How can I enjoy and support the garden?

For whom is the Alamo Heights Community Garden?

The garden is for everyone in the community who wants to personally participate and see the garden flourish.

There are some yummy and beautiful things here. Can I pick whatever I want whenever I want?

Please wait to pick. Instead, come join us during an upcoming garden work day. During work days, we share the harvest.

When are garden work days? What happens during garden work days?

Work days are: 1) every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. and 2) once a month usually on the weekend.

Weekend work days last about 1-2 hours. Come roll up your sleeves and meet new friends.

We will work through a checklist as a group. A couple of garden leaders will assign jobs and guide you.

It is good, hard fun!

How do I know when the garden work days are?

Garden work days are posted on the website (www.ahgarden.org/) and are emailed out to people on our distribution list. If you would like to receive emails, please email us at info@ahgarden.org.

What jobs do you need the most help with?

We need the most help with:

- Weeding in and around beds weekly;
- Weeding around the fruit trees and keeping them mulched;
- Watering using the drip irrigation system and hand held hoses according to schedule;
- Cutting grass, mowing, and edging (every 2 weeks on average);
- Picking up trash; and
- Managing fire ants.



When I come to help, what should I bring?

Please bring: water, sunscreen, bug spray, closed-toe shoes, garden hand tools (clippers, small shovels), and gloves.

If I can't make a garden work day, can I help out during another time?

Yes. Please email us at info@ahgarden.org so we can arrange a time to meet you at the garden.

What if I don't know anything (or much) about gardening?

Come join us. We will welcome you and teach you what we know.

We are always learning more about gardening ourselves.

Are kids welcome?

Yes! We love having kids help with the supervision of a participating adult.

There is almost always a kid-friendly job to do, and kids love playing in the nearby creek bed.

Digging isn't my thing, but I love the idea of the garden. How can I participate?

- Enjoy the garden as a park. Walk around. See its beauty. Watch the birds that call it home.
- Enjoy a book from the Little Free Library under the shade of the big Cedar Elm tree. Donate a book to the library.
- Provide material for the compost bins. (See the list below for what is and isn't allowed for compost.)
- Donate tools in good working condition for our storage shed or donate money.

What kind of donations is most helpful?

Please contact us at info@ahgarden.org first so that we can let you know what we need and arrange a drop off time.

We frequently need the following: seasonal vegetable plants; seed; organic fertilizer (granular and liquid); organic pest control products; natural, double-shredded mulch (in dump truck loads); new commercial grade garden hoses; new nozzles for hoses; gasoline for the lawn mower; oil/gas mixture for the weed eater; and vinegar.

How do I donate money? How do I know that the money is being used responsibly?

We appreciate any amount—big or small.

Please make your check out to the City of Alamo Heights. Write "AH Community Garden" in the memo line.

Mail your check to our treasurer, Jamie Bloodsworth at 863 Estes Ave., San Antonio, TX 78209. Our treasurer turns all money donated over to the city treasurer and makes sure the donations are earmarked for the garden fund.

If you have any questions about garden funding, please contact Jamie Bloodsworth at jbloodsw@me.com.



How does the community garden work?

How did the garden get started? What is the history of the garden?

In 2010, a group of citizens began talking with the Alamo Heights City Council about creating an urban garden for the community to enjoy. The city granted them permission to create a garden located at the southeast corner of Ogden Ln. and Imlay St. near the Judson Nature Trails. The first raised beds were built, installed, and planted in January of 2011.

How does the garden work? How do you divide up the beds?

Everyone shares the beds. We do not divide them up by family or participant. By sharing, we get lots of delicious variety, less plant duplication, and greater sense of community as we work together. We rotate crops regularly to optimize soil health.

How does watering work?

We use a drip irrigation system and hand held watering.

How is the harvest divided up?

The harvest is divided up during garden work days. In other words, work days are harvest days.

Who decides what to plant?

Linda Hallstead and Karla Toye plan the garden planting seasonally with input from other gardeners.

Is the garden organic?

We use organic gardening practices; organic pest control measures; and organic fertilizers in the garden beds. Not every seed or plant we purchase is organic. Sometimes we need to use conventional (i.e. not organic) means to maintain the surrounding grounds and keep them free of pests.



How does the compost bin work? What can be composted? Can I add things from my household to the compost bins? Yes, please! Some of your household waste can become rich fertilizer for our plants.

We need: vegetable scraps, fall pumpkins, coffee grounds, and egg shells.

Please bag leaves and grass clippings. Put the bags behind the compost bins so that we can add them at the ideal time.

We cannot use: any oils, meats, or dairy products to the compost bins.

How is the garden funded?

Any amount is appreciated. Active gardeners give \$20 quarterly.

Participants also donate plants and supplies as needed.

We occasionally receive one-time gifts of money and supplies from members of the community.

The Green Spaces Alliance allocates donations of gardening supplies that others have donated.

What is the role of the City of Alamo Heights in the Alamo Heights Community Garden?

The garden is located on city property and functions as a city park. The city exercises oversight of the money that individuals donate for the garden. Individual citizen gardeners maintain the land directly around the planting beds.

How can I get more information?



How do I sign up to get updates about the garden?

Email us at info@ahgarden.org to join the mailing list.

Come to a garden work day and introduce yourself. We would love to have you!

What if I have a concern about the garden?

We want to hear from you. Please give us the opportunity to listen and understand where you are coming from.

Maybe you can help us improve in areas where we need help. While we can't make everyone happy, we want to be good neighbors. Overall, we desire to promote community and beauty in our neighborhood. Remember that we live here too.

What if I have more questions?

Karla Toye (Garden "Guru"): karlatoye@gmail.com

Linda Hallstead (Garden "Guru"): linda.hallstead@gmail.com

Jamie Bloodsworth (treasurer): bloodsw@me.com.

Website: www.ahgarden.org/

Email contact: info@ahgarden.org (Send an email to this address to get on the mailing list.)

