Coventry Hills community garden FAQs

1. What is the Coventry Hills community garden?
   - It is an open public space where community residents can rent individual raised garden beds and grow their own vegetables. There are also some garden beds reserved to grow vegetables for the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank and community residents.
   - It is located at 90 Covepark Square NE.

2. How do I rent a garden bed?
   - Any individual or group can rent a garden plot online through the Northern Hills Community Association (NHCA) website. You will be required to purchase a NHCA membership and be committed for a few weeks of communal garden maintenance (eg. watering, mowing).
   - Registration for a garden bed usually begins in ~April and you pay to rent the garden bed from May until the end of October.

3. How much does it cost to rent a garden bed?
   - There are 2 sizes of raised garden beds: 4'x8' = $20 and 4'x12' = $30
   - A subsidy is available for low income gardeners.

4. Why do I have to participate in the volunteer duties (mowing, watering, monthly work bees)?
   - All the gardeners must work together to maintain the beauty of the community garden. Many hands make the workload lighter.

5. What is provided when I rent a garden bed?
   - The community garden's water supply is provided by the City of Calgary via underground water lines. There is a community garden shed that has watering equipment, a gas mower, an electric trimmer and compost that is brought to the garden every spring.
   - You are responsible for providing your own seeds/vegetable plants, fencing and small garden tools.

6. What can I grow?
   - Carrots, potatoes and onions do especially well at the garden as does cucumber and zucchini. Gardeners have had success planting corn, fenugreek and garlic as well. As long as the vegetable does not grow taller than 4 feet as this may block the sunlight available to neighbouring beds.

7. Is there a problem with theft/vandalism at the garden?
   - The community garden is an open space that is accessible to everyone so some theft/vandalism may occur.
   - Theft from small animals may be prevented by installing fences (min. 24" in height) along the perimeter of your raised garden bed.
   - Theft from humans may be deterred by placing "Do not pick" signs (provided inside the community garden shed) in your garden bed. Some theft may be unintentional as many people do not understand how a community garden works so feel free to educate others in a friendly manner.

8. What do I do if there is a problem with any of the garden equipment or if there has been vandalism/theft at the garden?
   - Please immediately email the Coventry garden volunteer team coventrygarden@nhca.ca

9. What do I do if there is no water available during the scheduled times?
   - Since the water is provided by the City of Calgary, please first call 3-1-1 and report the problem to the city and they will work to resolve the issue.
   - Secondly, notify the Coventy garden volunteer team by sending them an email through coventrygarden@nhca.ca

10. Are there any community garden social events?
   - Spring clean-up (usually around mid- or end of May) – meet and greet for gardeners.
   - Fall garden potluck (October)

<u>Any other questions? Please contact:</u>

Harvest garden volunteer team: coventrygarden@nhca.ca