

The Basics

The parkway strip is the area between the sidewalk and the curb. It is public property and, with the exception of the City street trees, it is your personal responsibility to beautify and maintain. Please ensure that any gardens do not interfere with the health of the trees or create unsafe conditions for pedestrians or drivers. Do not attempt to trim or remove the trees or roots as all maintenance may only be conducted by the City.

Make sure that at least 50% of your parkway is covered with plant material. Do not replace your entire parkway with dirt; start with small areas and grow your garden over time. You may use any permeable natural material (mulch, gravel, stones) to cover areas not used for gardening or grass.

Plants may not exceed certain height limits. Plants may not be in excess of 2 feet when within 4 feet of a driveway. When no driveway is present, plants must be maintained to be a maximum of 4 feet tall.

Plants must be at least 4 feet away from any tree trunk. This is to prevent any damage and allows for access to the trees by City maintenance crews.

Make space for parked cars. If you live on a street with high density curbside parking, please ensure that an 18 inch walking path is clear so that passengers may safely exit parked vehicles without damaging your garden.

Make a walkway through the space. Also known as a house path, this is a walkway through the parkway connecting the street to the adjacent sidewalk. This path allows pedestrians to access the sidewalk without trampling your garden.

No sharp edges or thorns! Make sure these public areas are safe for our pedestrians and animal companions. Plants to avoid include artichoke, cactus, roses, and blackberry.

WASH YOUR PRODUCE BEFORE EATING

Even though your plants are freshly grown and organic, it is still very important to **wash your produce thoroughly before eating.** The recommended 1:3 water/vinegar mixture will remove 98% of bacteria and give your veggies and fruits a healthy sheen. Also, bacteria and dirt are usually trapped at the blossom and stem ends of the fruit, so slicing off both ends after rinsing is a good idea.

RAISED BEDS, TRELISES AND FENCES FOR YOUR GARDEN

While raised beds, trellises and fences are popular, the City discourages the use of them within the parkway as they can pose a trip hazard for pedestrians and be a liability issue for you. If you do wish to use a raised bed, trellis, or fence, you must contact the City's Public Works Department first. The City Engineer requires drawings of your garden, an Encroachment Permit, insurance indemnifying the City of liability as well as other conditions.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Planting a garden is a great way to grow your own edible food. Please remember that your garden is located in the public parkway, which means that your plants are in a public space and can be subject to unwanted picking, theft, vandalism and other disturbances.

Water conservation is a top priority for the City. Make sure the watering of your garden adheres to the City's requirements.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about your garden and parkway regulations, please call the City of West Hollywood Department of Public Works at **(323) 848-6400.**



City of West Hollywood
California 1984

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PLANTING
AND GETTING
THE MOST
FROM THE
**PUBLIC
PARKWAY
STRIP**

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

The Guidelines

MAINTAIN AND ENJOY!

Gardening can be hard, albeit rewarding, work. The more time you dedicate to your garden, the better the results you get. Bug problems, rotting, and withering are very common so don't get discouraged! Keep an eye on your garden. Do regular weeding, trim plants when necessary, fertilize, and treat any infestation with organic solutions. Most gardeners are able to get away with an hour of maintenance per week, but the more the better.

Gardening is a fulfilling experience even if all of your plants do not turn out picture perfect. Some will fail, and some will look strange but still taste great. Don't be discouraged! Gardening is a great way to spend time outside and maybe you'll make a new friend who is interested in your work.

Planning a raised bed? Design approval is necessary (see back panel).



PREPARE THE SOIL

CALL 811 OR LOG ONTO DIGALERT.ORG BEFORE YOU DIG. IT'S THE LAW!

This is a critical step to help protect yourself from underground utilities and applies to any soil that you are digging in outside of your personal property whether in-ground or in a raised bed.



If planting directly in the parkway, dig down at least 12 inches and discard any debris, weeds, roots, rock or dead plants. Work the dirt to break up any clods and clear obstructions.

Use care to prevent any loose soil from entering the street and storm drain system.

Mix in a layer of potting soil into the top of your native soil before planting. The use of commercial fertilizers will help establish your garden whether from seed or seedling and will give you the best quality vegetables. The use of an organic vegetable fertilizer or compost is widely recommended for best results. Always follow the instructions on any bag of purchased fertilizer or compost and mix into the top layer of soil.

PLANT BENEFICIAL FLOWERS

Flowers can be beneficial to parkway gardens in several ways. First, they improve the look and feel of your garden. Second, they will attract butterflies and other pollinators which will help your edibles flourish and grow. In addition to your flower of choice, consider these helpful herbs as well:

- Chamomile Groundcover
- Borage
- Yarrow
- Creeping Thyme



PICK YOUR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

In Southern California, most plants on this list can be planted throughout the year. Consider:

- Lettuce
- Strawberries
- Arugula
- Tomatoes
- Collards
- Peppers
- Kale
- Beans

Root vegetables are a great option for parkway gardens:

- Carrots
- Radishes
- Parsnips
- Beets
- Rutabaga

Got room for some vine plants? Go for it!

- Snap Peas
- Green Beans
- Cucumbers

Any small fruits or vegetables will do, and as always, consult the garden experts at the stores where you buy your seed or seedlings. A few random options:

- Strawberries
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Eggplant
- Brussels Sprouts
- Broccoli
- Spinach
- Chili Peppers

EXPERIMENT AND HAVE FUN

- When starting out, consider buying and planting seedlings in your garden as opposed to seeds. Seed germination can be a difficult process.
- Planting various herbs, chives, onion and garlic will help to keep pests away and nothing's better than having home-grown seasonings. You can really taste the difference.
- If you want to grow from seed, the following options are more durable and easier to grow: carrot, radish, lettuce and sugar snap peas.