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# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Allotment Garden Scheme Related - General**

### **1. What is an allotment garden?**

Allotment gardens are areas located within parks and gardens that house gardening plots available for lease to the community to grow their own plants. With most of the population living in high-rise flats with minimal space for gardening within their household footprint, these allotment garden plots provide them with further opportunities to garden. To date, more than 2000 allotment garden plots have been made available to the community with plans for further expansion. In tandem, NParks is working with Town Councils and Grassroot Organisations to provide advice on setting up of allotment gardens in public housing estates so that residents can garden closer to their homes.

### **2. Which parklands can allotment gardens be found?**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Parks with allotment garden plots</b>
1.	Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West
2.	Aljunied Park
3.	Bedok Reservoir Park
4.	Bedok Town Park
5.	Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park
6.	Bukit Gombak Park
7.	Choa Chu Kang Park
8.	Clementi Woods Park
9.	East Coast Park
10.	HortPark
11.	Jurong Central Park
12.	Jurong Lake Gardens
13.	Kallang Riverside Park
14.	Lower Seletar Reservoir Park
15.	One North Park
16.	Pasir Ris Park
17.	Punggol Park
18.	Punggol Waterway Park
19.	Sengkang Riverside Park
20.	Tiong Bahru Park

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21.	West Coast Park
22.	Yishun Park
23.	Yishun Neighbourhood Park

### **Allotment Garden Plot – Amenity Related**

#### **3. Can I plant anything that I like?**

All plants and gardening structures should not exceed 1 metre in standing height (measured from soil level in the planter bed). Gardeners are advised not to plant poisonous plants or those with sap as these plants can cause discomfort and are harmful to the public. Plants that are illegal are not allowed to be planted.

Please also be mindful of the neighbouring plots when planting up your mini garden and ensure that your plants do not encroach into their space. Keep your space clean and tidy for the safety of all your fellow allotment gardeners.

#### **4. Can I use pesticides at the allotment garden plot?**

Chemical pesticides, herbicides and fungicides are not allowed to be used at the allotment garden plots as they may kill insects, such as bees and wasps, which play an important role in the pollination process of flowering plants. Such chemicals may also spread to other plots and may cause adverse reactions to gardeners tending to other plots or public who visit the plots.

#### **5. Where can I store my tools and gardening related materials?**

There is a storage area in each allotment garden planter where tools and other gardening-related materials (eg soil, compost) must be kept when not in use. All items stored at the allotment garden plot must be kept neatly within storage area at all times and not in common spaces or along pathways.

(For Sengkang Riverside Park, there is a separate storage area due to site constraints).

#### **6. Will NParks provide fencing, security or surveillance at allotment gardens?**

- As all allotment gardens are situated in our public parks and gardens, they are unfenced to enable the public to visit and appreciate the gardens. NParks has put in place signs reminding park users not to remove plants within the allotment garden plots that do not belong to them.
- Allotment gardeners are responsible for the security of all items kept within their planting plot (including plants, produce, structures and gardening materials) and items stored within storage box.
- NParks will not be responsible for the loss or damage of any items including all produce from the allotment garden plots.

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- However, if there are recurrent reports on incidents of theft or vandalism at particular locations, NParks will consider additional measures to deter such occurrences.
- Allotment Gardeners are not to install any structures (including any type of video surveillance equipment or security system equipment such as personal CCTV cameras) at their allotment gardening plot.

### **7. Will water and electricity be provided?**

Shared water points are available for use at the allotment garden. No electricity will be provided.

### **8. Will NParks or their contractors help me to maintain the allotment garden plot if I am unable to do so? Who is responsible/pay for any mosquito breeding summons?**

You are required at all times and at your own expense, to maintain the allotment garden plot and its immediate surroundings in a good and presentable condition, including trimming overgrown shrubs, removing weeds, pest-infested plants, dead and damaged plants/products.

NParks will also not be responsible for any instances of mosquito breeding detected by the National Environment Agency (NEA) at the allotment garden plots. You are responsible for taking all precautions and measures to prevent breeding of mosquitoes at your allotment garden plot.

### **9. What if I am unable to maintain my plot for a period of time?**

If you fail to maintain your allotment garden plot, and within the time stipulated by NParks, we reserve the right to terminate the lease, so that the plot can be allocated to another gardener.

### **10. Who can I approach when there is a beehive or rodents in my plot?**

You may contact NParks at [www.nparks.gov.sg/feedback](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/feedback) to seek assistance.

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### **Allotment Garden Plot - Application Related**

#### **11. How many plots can I apply for and how many plots can I lease?**

Each household is allowed to apply for and lease only 1 allotment garden plot at any one time, regardless of the number of persons in the household.

#### **12. Will submitting multiple applications per household increase my chances of getting a plot?**

No. If there are multiple applications received from the same household address, only 1 entry will be considered for balloting.

#### **13. Can I choose the plot to lease?**

All plots (waist- or knee- height) are assigned strictly through a balloting system.

#### **14. How would applicants know if they are successful? When can I expect to start gardening after applying for a plot?**

All successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer from NParks. In this Letter of Offer, we will state the date in which you will be able to start gardening on-site.

#### **15. Can you call me back when the allotment plots in the park I am interested in are open for application?**

Please check our NParks Allotment Gardens webpage and our social media platforms for updates on available plots and registration details.

#### **16. I missed the Allotment Garden registration exercise/opening, can I be placed on a waitlist?**

There are no waiting lists as all available plots will be assigned to successfully balloted applicants. You may apply for a plot when the registration opens again for other allotment gardens. Please check our NParks Allotment Gardens webpage and our social media platforms for updates on available plots and registration details.

#### **17. I am a foreigner, can I apply for an allotment garden plot?**

Yes, but Singaporeans and Permanent Residents will be given priority.

#### **18. What is the minimum age to apply for an allotment garden plot?**

The minimum age to apply for a plot is 18 years old at the time of application.

#### **19. If I live close to the new allotment garden plot, do I stand a higher chance to secure a plot?**

Singaporeans and Permanent Residents are eligible to register for an allotment garden plot when registration exercises open on NParks website. Each household is allowed to apply for and lease only 1 allotment garden plot at any one time across the island. The minimum age to apply for a plot is 18 years old at the time of application. New allotment

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garden plots are allocated by computerised balloting. No priority is accorded to applicants by virtue of proximity of the allotment garden to the applicant's address. This ensures fair opportunity for all applicants to secure a plot.

### **For Existing Gardeners**

#### **20. Can existing gardeners re-apply to continue gardening at their allotment garden plot after the end of the 3-year TOL?**

Before the 3-year TOL expires, existing gardeners who have maintained good gardening etiquette will be contacted by NParks officers to offer them renewal of the 3-year TOL. The terms and conditions and fees for the allotment garden plot may be updated from time to time and allotment gardeners are requested to read the updated terms and conditions of the TOL.

#### **21. What does it mean to maintain good gardening etiquette?**

Good gardening etiquette includes keeping the allotment garden plot tidy and clean, maintaining the plants well and keep them pest free, storing all gardening items neatly, ensure all planting structures installed are compliant with terms and conditions, and conducting regularly checks for stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding. Having a well-kept and maintained allotment garden plot ensures that it is safe and enjoyable for everyone. More information on gardening etiquette can be found at [www.nparks.gov.sg/gardening/gardening-resources/gardening-etiquette](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/gardening/gardening-resources/gardening-etiquette).

#### **22. Why are existing gardeners being given the opportunity to renew their gardening plots? Why not keep the existing system of computerised balloting?**

We hope to continue fostering a love for gardening by allowing existing gardeners who have maintained good gardening etiquette to renew their allotment garden plots. We will continue making available more plots across the island for new gardeners. New allotment garden plots will also continue being allocated by computerised balloting. 3

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### **For New Gardeners**

#### **23. How can new gardeners get an opportunity to secure an allotment garden plot, if existing gardeners are staying on with their plots?**

NParks will continue to roll out new allotment garden plots in more parks across Singapore to provide the community with opportunities to garden near their homes. To date, more than 2000 allotment garden plots have been introduced in 23 parks and gardens across Singapore. We will also continue to provide more allotment gardens in the future. More details will be released when ready. All this will allow us to continue fostering a love for gardening among Singaporeans and nurturing a community of gardeners.

#### **24. Out of all the allotment garden plots, how many will NParks renew and how many will be given to new gardeners? Are all gardeners eligible for renewal? How many will be given to new gardeners? Is there a cap for the number of plots that NParks will allow renewal for?**

Existing gardeners who have maintained good gardening etiquette will be allowed to renew their allotment garden plots. Should they choose not to continue gardening their plots will be released for balloting. NParks will also continue to provide more allotment garden plots in our parks.

#### **25. When can new gardeners apply for allotment garden plots?**

More details will be provided when ready. We will be updating the NParks website([www.nparks.gov.sg/gardening/allotment-gardens](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/gardening/allotment-gardens)) and social media sites when plots are open for application.

### **Allotment Garden Plot – Temporary Occupation Licence (TOL) Payment Related**

#### **26. Can I get refund of my TOL once I have made payment?**

It is important to read all Terms and Conditions of the TOL document. The TOL, once paid, is non-refundable.

#### **27. Can I just pay the fee for 1 year?**

The allotment garden plot is leased on a 3-year basis. You will need to pay for 3 years at the start of your leasing period.

#### **28. Will I get a refund if I need to end the lease before the third year?**

No refund will be given if you decide to terminate the Licence before the lease expires.

#### **29. When must I pay for the plot and what is the payment mode?**



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A Letter of Offer will be sent to all successful applicants. Payment will be by bank transfer to an NParks bank account or by scanning the unique PayNow QR code provided. The details will be provided in the Letter of Offer.