

# Watering Policy

Water is a precious resource and plays an essential role in the daily life of living things. Gabba Hill Community Garden Incorporated is committed to using water wise practices. By conserving water today we not only save time and money but we ensure this resource is there for years to come. Through smart watering habits we can encourage plants to develop deep root systems giving them greater tolerance to dry spells and climate change.

Our wicking garden beds water plants from below rather than above. They're basically containers with water reservoirs at the base - like a giant self-watering pot. Moisture is drawn up through the soil via a process called capillary action or wicking. This allows moisture to be more evenly distributed through the soil, creating better growing conditions for the plants. These gardens are filled up via a pipe in the corner of the garden and should only need a top up every couple of weeks depending on weather conditions.

Our shelter has a rainwater tank connected to it to collect rainfall from the roof run off. This water is then able to be used on the pots and planters around the garden with a watering can helping to enhance water conservation.

There is a water tap onsite which requires a special tap key to turn it on. Please use this water wisely.

Please see watering procedure below.

## Procedure

1. Identify which plants need watering – touch soil, is it dry, semi moist, moist, wet
  - Plants can be overwatered
2. Collect hose and tap key from storage location and connect to tap and turn on or use water tank and fill watering can if only doing smaller watering tasks
3. Water accordingly
  - Water each plant deeply and thoroughly. Less often, deep watering is better than frequent, light watering as it promotes the development of a deep, extensive root system allowing them to reach the moisture deep in soil in hot dry weather.
  - Water uniformly. This prevents water waste and produces more even growth
  - Mornings and evenings are excellent times to water the gardens. Early morning is the BEST time to water. A morning application allows the water to soak deeply into the ground with little water lost to evaporation. When watering is completed, the plant foliage dries quickly. Watering at midday is less efficient because evaporation is rapid. Watering in strong winds may cause uneven water distribution.
  - Ensure the soil surface has enough mulch. Mulch cuts down on water loss due to evaporation. A thick layer of mulch or compost is recommended. If garden needs mulch please notify the management team.
4. Once watering is complete, return equipment (and key if used) to storage location and lock up. Notate in the watering book/sign in book what you have watered so the log is maintained.

Please take care of the watering equipment and conduct maintenance checks on them (ie hole in hose, nozzle blocked, etc)

If you have any questions, please contact the Garden Secretary [gabbagarden@gmail.com](mailto:gabbagarden@gmail.com)