2018
GARDEN PLOT
GUIDELINES

NAPERVILLEPARKS.ORG/GARDENPLOTS
PLOT IDENTIFICATION & PREPARATION
Garden Plots are identified with a numbered wooden stake placed in the center of each plot. Four corner flags also mark each plot; adjoining plots will have common flags. Full size plots will be marked with a number and a single letter; half size plots are marked with a number and a double letter. Please do not remove the stake or the flags.

Before planting, check and make sure you are in the correct plot. You may mark the boundaries of your plot but you may not extend your plot beyond the designated boundary lines. The Park District is not responsible for costs incurred for replanting.

While the Park District tills the soil at the beginning of the season, gardeners may need to till again prior to planting.

Full garden plots are 29’ x 18’. Half garden plots are 14.5’ x 18’. Raised plots are 4’ x 20’.

AISLES
The Park District is responsible for maintaining the aisles.

Do not leave or place any materials in the aisles. Even grass clippings can be dangerous or destructive to the mowers.

Plantings that have grown past plot boundaries and into the aisles will be mowed.

PARKING
Registered gardeners will receive a Parking Permit which must be visibly displayed in your vehicle (or be in your possession if you walked or rode your bike). Be sure to place your Parking Permit on your dash or hang it from your rear view mirror. Violators may be ticketed for trespassing.

Parking is available in the parking lot and along the roadways. Parking is limited to one side of the road on the interior lanes to assist traffic flow and to allow access for emergency vehicles. Vehicles parked in the “No Parking” areas may be ticketed.

During Ribfest, vehicle permits may only be used for the purpose of maintaining your Garden Plot. Your Garden Plot parking permit may not be used for event parking.

MULCH & MANURE
Mulch and manure are available for registered gardeners only. Feel free to use these items to amend your garden plot soil. Mulch is stored on the south end of the garden plots. Manure is available in the first cement bin at the north end of the plots. The other bins are marked for Park District Use Only.

Gardeners may bring bagged grass clippings or woodchips from home for use in their plots. Wood chips and grass clippings are not to be placed in the aisles.

Do not place rocks or gravel of any kind inside or outside of your garden plot.

GARDEN WASTE, TRASH & RECYCLING
Yard waste dumpsters are available throughout the plots. At each dumpster site we have also provided garbage and recycling bins. Please use the appropriate receptacle and do not use them for garbage or garden waste from your home.

GOT EXTRA PRODUCE?
Please consider donating your extra produce to Loaves & Fishes community food pantry. A collection stand (Donation Station) is located on the east end of the plots close to the Idea Gardens. Your donations are appreciated!
ORGANIC SECTION
Plots R-U have been designated as organic. The use of pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides is not permitted in this area.

Park District personnel will not use chemicals either but will continue with an appropriate level of maintenance.

THEFT IN THE GARDEN PLOTS
Unfortunately, due to the open nature of the garden plots there have been instances of gardeners’ produce and/or gardening items being stolen. Please note that personal property should not be left on your plot. The Naperville Park District is not responsible for vandalism or theft. If you see vandalism or theft taking place, and want someone to respond right away, you may dial 911. Get a license plate number if you can. You will need to remain in the garden plots until the Naperville Police arrive. If you discover missing produce or items after the theft takes place you may call the Naperville Park District Police (630-601-0925) to file a report. Again you will need to stay onsite until a Park Police officer arrives or if you get voicemail leave a message with your contact information and a Park Police officer will follow up with you.

To help aid Park Police in determining who should and who shouldn’t be in the Garden Plots, it’s essential for you to visibly display your Parking Permit in your vehicle while you are gardening. Be sure to place your Parking Permit on your dash or hang it from your rear view mirror. This allows Park Police to quickly determine which vehicles and persons may be trespassing.

HAVE GARDENING QUESTIONS?
Master Gardeners are a group of volunteers trained by the University of Illinois Extension educators to provide a network of gardening and horticulture programs to educate the public.

Receive expert gardening advice from the onsite Master Gardeners every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. by visiting their garden plots 1D, 2D, 1E, and 2E.

Call (630-955-1123) or visit the Master Gardeners Help Line: U of I Extension office 1100 E. Warrenville Rd., Suite 170 Naperville, IL 60563

• Calls can be made anytime and are transferred to voicemail if no Master Gardeners are in the office. Return calls are made during the hours listed below.
• DuPage residents can bring in samples of plant material for identification or diagnosis during the hours listed below.

Hours: April – August: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
         September – October: Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/dkk/

A NOTE ABOUT JAPANESE BEETLES
The use of Japanese Beetle traps actually increases the number of beetles in the garden plots. Chemical scents, or pheromones, are used in the traps and this scent draws the beetles into the gardens. Please refrain from putting out Japanese Beetle traps in order to keep their populations low.

IDEA GARDENS
Visit the Idea Gardens at the north end of the garden plots to learn more about native plants and habitats, composting and more. Educational signs are found throughout the gardens. This area is now certified as a Monarch Waystation. A Woodland Demo Garden will be coming soon in the area west of the Idea Gardens.

GARDEN PLOT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM
If you enjoy meeting the other gardeners and promoting the Garden Plots community you would make a great ambassador!

Garden Plot Ambassadors answer basic questions, provide general information and share gardening ideas and tips with fellow gardeners.

For more information please contact our Volunteer Manager at lhoole@napervilleparks.org or 630-848-3606.
GARDENER’S RESPONSIBILITIES:

• Read and abide by the guidelines and rules set forth in this brochure.

• Visibly display your Parking Permit in your vehicle while you are gardening.

• Plant in your assigned plot and within the plot boundaries identified by the Park District.

• Plant your garden by the deadline noted to the right under “Important Dates”. Unplanted plots quickly become weedy.

• Weed and maintain your ENTIRE plot(s) throughout the April to October gardening season, even while you are out of town.
  ♦ No more than 1/3 of your plot may be covered with weeds 12” or taller.
  ♦ Gardeners will be contacted by the Park District if their plot is considered weedy.
  ♦ Once contacted gardeners have 2 weeks/weekends to remove weeds from their plot.
  ♦ If your plot is still weedy after two weeks, your garden plot will be mowed.
  ♦ Gardeners placed on the weedy list for a 3rd time will have only one week to weed their plot.
  ♦ If your plot is placed on the weedy list a 4th time it will be mowed that week.
  ♦ Please note: If your plot is mowed you cannot continue to garden in it and you will not receive Priority registration for the following year.

• Transport your own water from the spigots. Hoses are not allowed. Any exceptions must be approved by the Garden Plot Manager.

• Place weeds and garden waste in the dumpsters that are located throughout the plots. Dumpsters are not be used for garbage and garden waste from home. Do not place garden waste in the trash or recycling containers.

• Remove stakes, fencing, plastic sheeting, tools, etc from your plot(s) by the end of the day on the Garden Plot closing date, Monday Oct 8. If non-plants materials are not removed you will not receive priority registration for the following year.

• In the non-organic plots, use herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, and fertilizers responsibly so that they do not impact other gardeners.

• Be respectful of other gardeners.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 14
Opening Day – weather and soil conditions permitting

May 12
Plant Sale, 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

June 1
Last day for refunds

June 7
All plots must be planted

June 10
Limited access to plots until 1:00 p.m.

July 4
Plots closed due to Fireworks

August 5
Limited access to plots until 1:00 p.m.

August 12
Limited access to plots from 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

October 8
Garden Plots officially close at the end of the day (one hour after sunset)

All non-plant materials must be removed – fences, stakes, plastic sheeting, watering cans, etc; last day to remove produce from your plot

October 9
Gleaning starts at 8:00 a.m. (Remaining produce is collected and sorted by volunteers and donated to Loaves & Fishes)

November 3
Pumpkin Smash, pumpkin composting event, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Have a great gardening year!

305 W. Jackson Ave.
Naperville, IL 60540
630-848-3615
napervilleparks.org/gardenplots