



Naperville Park District 2012

Garden Plot Guidelines

Welcome gardeners to the Naperville Park District's 39th year of the Community Garden Program. Gardening is an enjoyable and rewarding activity for both individuals and families. The benefit and satisfaction received from participating in a community garden comes not only in the harvesting of food for the table, but in developing new friendships with people who have a common interest.

We hope you have a wonderful gardening experience!

Plot Information and Identification

The Garden Plots are located on West Street, across from Knoch Park. Weather dependent, the program will run from April 21 through October 9. Plots will be staked and ready for planting with consideration to weather and soil conditions.

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. Please do not remove the numbered stake and corner flags. The Park District has both full and half sized garden plots; full plots are marked with a number and single letter; half sized plots are marked with a number and double letter. For example, full plots are 7A, 8A, 9A, etc; half plots are 1DD, 2DD, 3DD, etc.

Parking

Parking for vehicles with a vehicle pass is located along the garden plot roadways and in the parking lot. Passes are issued upon registration. The pass must be placed on the rear-view mirror or dashboard.

Persons without a vehicle on site must have their User Permit/Vehicle Pass in their possession while on site. Violators may be ticketed for trespassing.

User Permit/Vehicle Passes may be used to access the Garden Plots for parking during Ribfest for the purpose of maintaining your garden plot. The pass may not be used for event parking.

"No Parking" areas are designated at the plots. Parking will be limited to one side of the road on the interior lanes of the garden plots to assist traffic flow and maintain emergency vehicle access routes during times when numerous vehicles are at the plots. Vehicles parked in "No Parking" areas may be ticketed.

Gardeners' Responsibilities

The Park District requests that gardeners assume certain responsibilities for their plot(s):

- All plots must be planted by June 4. No refunds will be issued after June 4. The Park District may reassign unplanted plots, without refund, after this date.
- Before planting, check the numbered stake to be certain you are on the correct plot. If you are not sure of your plot number, contact the Park District before planting. The Park District is not responsible for costs incurred for replanting.
- It is suggested that you use string to mark the boundary of your plot lines. This makes the boundaries visible to the mower. The Park District will take care of areas surrounding the garden site. You may not extend your plot beyond the designated boundary lines.
- While the Park District tills the soil at the beginning of the season, gardeners may need to till again just prior to planting.
- Gardeners are expected to weed and maintain their entire plot from corner flag to corner flag throughout the program – April 21 to October 9. Trash barrels are provided; do not leave weeds in aisles. The dumpsters are for garden plot waste only and are not to be used for yard waste from home.
- If weeds are growing 12" tall on more than 1/3 of your plot or if you have extended your plot beyond the assigned boundary lines, you will be contacted by the Park District by phone/email. You need to respond to this communication. **Gardeners will then have two weeks from the day we notify you to take the appropriate action before the plot/extended area will be mowed.** You are expected to maintain your plot during any extended absences.
- If the Park District has to take over your plot due to lack of maintenance, you will not receive priority registration for the following year.
- Plastic bags, rocks, string, wooden stakes or other materials should not be left in the garden aisles. The objects can be very dangerous and destructive when mowing. It is the gardener's responsibility to remove these items at the end of each season.

Garden Plot Help Desks

We are pleased to announce that the University of Illinois Extension will return to host garden plots help desks. The desks will be staffed by DuPage County Master Gardeners and are located near the demonstration plots at the north end. The Master Gardeners are a group of volunteers trained by University of Illinois Extension educators to provide a network of gardening and horticultural programs to educate the public. Receive expert gardening advice on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00-10:00 a.m. (mid-April through mid-October).

Watering Reminders

Please note that hoses are not allowed and you must transport your water using other means. Any exceptions must be approved by the Park District.

Mulch

Mulch is available for registered gardeners for use at their plots. Leaves are stored in snow fencing and are located at the south end driveway. Manure is also available and can be found in cement bins at the north end of the plots. Gardeners may bring bagged clippings from home.

Organic Section

Plots R-V have been designated organic. The use of pesticides, fungicides and herbicides are not permitted in this area. Park District personnel will not use these chemicals as well, but will continue with an appropriate level of maintenance.

Tips for Good Gardening

- Mulching is a necessary part of your garden because it provides a protective covering for the soil. Mulching also controls weeds, saves moisture, and prevents the soil temperature from rising too high.
- Arrange crops properly. For example, early maturing crops, such as lettuce and radishes, can be planted between slower growing crops, such as tomatoes, peppers and corn.
- Keep in mind that taller plants tend to shade smaller plants, so be sure to put the tall plants to one side of the garden.
- Vine plants should be planted away from the garden plot aisles for better protection. Otherwise, they risk damage by mowers.

Food Donations

If you have extra produce please consider donating it. A stand will be provided for drop off and the produce will be donated to Loaves and Fishes Community Pantry. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Nonprofit Groups

If your nonprofit group would like to harvest a garden plot this summer and donate its produce to the hungry, please contact the Naperville Park District and you may receive a free plot, if available, after June 4. All garden plot guidelines and responsibilities apply.

Garden Plot Ambassador Program

We are looking for individuals to be part of our Garden Plot Ambassador Program. These individuals will walk throughout the plots at various times of the day answering questions and explaining Garden Plot etiquette. The average volunteer time is 10 hours per month. Training will be held prior to the opening of the Garden Plot season. To volunteer or learn more, please contact Lynnette Hoole at 630-848-3606 or lhoole@napervilleparks.org.

The Park District will not be responsible for theft, damage, vandalism or any other acts of destruction, loss or irresponsibility. To report vandalism, call Park Police at 630-601-0925 or Park Watch at 630-848-5050.

Jumpstart your gardening adventures with Miracle-Gro® Kids™!

The advertisement features a collection of Miracle-Gro Kids gardening products. On the left is a box for the 'Ready, Set, Gro Greenhouse' which includes a small greenhouse and plants. In the center are bags of 'ORGANIC CHOICE POTTING MIX' and 'Miracle-Gro POTTING MIX'. On the right is a bag of 'GARDEN SOIL' for flowers and vegetables. Several cartoon vegetables with faces and arms are scattered around the products, including a tomato, a pepper, a strawberry, and a large daisy flower. The background is a light, textured surface.

For learning activities and recipes, visit:
MiracleGro.com/kids

ScottsMiracle-Gro is a proud partner of the Naperville Park District Garden Plots

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