HOURS AND ACCESS

- Access to your rented plot(s) is only allowed during the designated growing season/rental period.
- During this time, the Garden Plots are open from sunrise to one hour after sunset.
- Registered gardeners receive a Parking Permit which must be visibly displayed in your vehicle.
- Be sure to place your Parking Permit on your dash or hang it from your rear view mirror.
- The opening date, notification of limited access dates, any closings, and the end of the year closing date will be posted on the Park District’s Rainout Line and on the Garden Plots Facebook page. See the COMMUNICATION section below for more details.
- Your garden plot rental and parking permit expires at the end of the growing season.
- There is no entry/access allowed once the Garden Plots are closed. Violators may be ticketed.

OPENING AND CLOSING DAY

- The opening day, listed on the back of this brochure and on our website, is weather dependent and may be delayed.
- The Park District does not guarantee a certain number of gardening weeks per season.
- The last day to garden each year will always fall on a Monday in mid-October. The Garden Plots will be officially closed the following Tuesday.
COMMUNICATION

All information regarding ACCESS to the Garden Plots Opening and Closing Day as well as closures or limited access will be communicated:

- Via the Naperville Park District’s Weather Cancellations & Facility Closures Rainout Line
  - Call 630-883-4242 or visit napervilleparks.org/cancellations
  - Sign up for Email and Text alerts!

- Via the Naperville Park District Garden Plots Facebook page.
  - facebook.com/Naperville-Park-District-Garden-Plots-137495489657127/

All OTHER INFORMATION regarding Weedy Garden plots, etc. will be communicated:

- Via emails and/or phone calls
  - Eblasts will be sent from our ActiveNet registration system.
  - If you do not receive emails from us, check your Spam/Junk Folder for emails from ActiveNet@active.com.
    - If you find emails in your spam/junk folder you will need to add the ActiveNet email to your contacts.
  - Notify us promptly if your email or phone number changes.

- Call the main Park District number, 630-848-5000, to update your Park District account.

FOR PRIORITY REGISTRATION information check:

- The Park District’s Garden Plot webpage, napervilleparks.org/gardenplots
- The Naperville Park District Garden Plots Facebook page: facebook.com/Naperville-Park-District-Garden-Plots-137495489657127/
- All Priority Gardeners will receive an email from the Park District regarding how to register early. Notify us promptly if your email changes.
PLOT IDENTIFICATION AND PLANTING

Each garden plot is 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 to 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’.

Growing Cannabis is not allowed in the Garden Plots.

WEEDING

Letting weeds grow and go to seed affects other gardeners’ plots. For this reason, no more than 1/3 of your plot may be covered with weeds 12” or taller. Staff walk the gardens early each week and make note of which garden plots are overgrown and weedy. You will be contacted by the Park District if your plot is considered weedy.

Please note: Gardeners are expected to weed their ENTIRE plot throughout the entire gardening season. That means that gardeners will need to make alternate arrangements when they are out of town. Weed whackers and mowers are allowed.

For more details on the rules regarding Weedy Garden Plots see the GARDENER’S RESPONSIBILITIES section below.
**AISLES**

The Park District is responsible for maintaining the aisles.

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

Grass clippings are allowed in your plot(s) and the aisles around your plot(s) but spread them out evenly; do not drop them in clumps.

**PARKING**

Visibly display your parking permit at all times.

Parking is located in the front parking lot and along the roadways only. Parking is limited to one side of the road on the interior lanes to assist traffic flow and to allow access for emergency vehicles. Parking is not allowed within the garden plot rows or off to the side of a plot. **Vehicles parked in these no parking areas may be ticketed.**

During special events vehicle parking permits may only be used for the purpose of maintaining your Garden Plot during open hours. **Your Garden Plot parking permit may not be used for event parking.** **Violation of this rule may result in a ticket and loss of Priority Registration.**

Your parking permit and garden plot rental expires at the end of the gardening season. You may not enter/access/use the Garden Plots when they are closed. Violators may be ticketed.

**PLOT AMENDMENTS**

Leaf mulch, pine needles and manure are available for registered gardeners only. Feel free to use these items to amend your garden plot soil. Leaf mulch, pine needles, and horse manure are available on the south end of the garden plots across from Row 30. Horse manure is available near the organic plots, near Row 12, and on the north side of the plots across the road. **Do not use any items located in the Park District Use Only sections.**

Plastic sheeting is not allowed in the garden plots. Landscaping fabric, which is made of cloth not plastic, is allowed but must be removed at the end of the season.

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

**GARDEN WASTE, TRASH AND 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 Services 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 and 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 at your plot. The Naperville Park District is not responsible for vandalism or theft.

If you see vandalism or theft taking place that requires an immediate response, dial 911. Get a license plate number if you can. You will need to remain at the Garden Plots until the Naperville Police arrive. If you discover missing produce or items following a theft, you may call the Naperville Park District Police to file a report. Again, you will need to stay onsite until a Park Police officer arrives. If you call Park Police and get voicemail, leave a message with your contact information and an 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.

A NOTE ABOUT JAPANESE BEETLES & ASIAN JUMPING WORMS
The use of Japanese Beetle traps actually increases the number of beetles in at the Garden Plots. Chemical scents, or pheromones, are used in the traps and this scent draws the beetles into the gardens. Please refrain from setting Japanese Beetle traps in order to keep their populations low.

Asian Jumping worms are considered an invasive species, but a local expert does not believe their presence will negatively impact areas like the Garden Plots. More information on these worms will be shared as it becomes available.

HAVE A GARDEN PLOT OR GARDENING QUESTION?
There are several ways to get answers!

1. Take a free Garden Plot Tour or attend a free Basic or Organic Gardening Workshop. Refer to our Spring Program Guide, under Nature Programs (Adults) for more details or search online at apm.activecommunities.com/napervilleparks

2. Garden Plots Ambassadors
Our volunteer Garden Plots Ambassadors (GPAs) can answer your basic Garden Plot/program questions, provide Park District contact information and share gardening ideas and tips with you.

3. Garden Plots Kiosk
The kiosk, located in the first section of Garden Plots, will display the current Garden Plots Guidelines brochure, a map listing your GPA’s garden plot location along with timely topics about weeding, dealing with pests, etc. Only NPD approved items may be placed in the kiosk.

4. 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 8:00-10:00 am by visiting their garden plots: 1D, 2D, 1E, and 2E.

OR call (or visit) the Master Gardeners Help Line:
U of I Extension office
1100 E. Warrenville Rd., Suite 170
Naperville, IL 60563
630-955-1123 • uiemg-dupage@illinois.edu

• 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 – October: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
  extension.illinois.edu/dkk/dupage-county-master-gardeners

**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. A Woodland Demo Garden and a Fruit Tree Guild, an example of permaculture, were established in the spring of 2018 near the Master Gardener plots. A large Pollinator Garden was planted at the SE corner of the Garden Plots. Pink, white and blue Bachelor's Button flowers blossom each spring. A small Tree Nursery is found south of the Woodland Demo Garden and fruit trees have also been planted in the parking lot.

**FIRST ANNUAL GARDEN PLOTS PHOTO CONTEST**
Want your garden plot to be featured in next year's Garden Plots Guidelines brochure? Then enter our 1st Annual Garden Plots Photo Contest!

1. Send your photo to: GardenPlotPhotoContest@napervilleparks.org (max. size 12 mb)
2. One entry per gardener.
4. Entries must include the gardener's full name, description of the photo, garden plot # and phone number.
5. Winners will be notified by phone or email before being announced on our Facebook page.
6. The winning photo will appear on the cover of the 2021 Garden Plots Guidelines brochure.
7. Honorable Mentions will appear within the 2021 Garden Plots Guideline brochure.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 11</td>
<td>Opening Day – weather and soil conditions permitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 22</td>
<td>Last day for refunds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE 7</td>
<td>All plots must be planted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE 14</td>
<td>Closed until 1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY 4</td>
<td>Plots close at 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUG 2</td>
<td>Closed until 1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 12</td>
<td>Last day to garden and clean up your plot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 13</td>
<td>Garden Plots are officially closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 7</td>
<td>Pumpkin Smash, pumpkin composting event, 9 am – 12 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HAVE A GREAT GARDENING YEAR!**
GARDEN PLOTS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM
If you enjoy meeting the other gardeners and promoting the Garden Plots community, you would make a great ambassador!

Answer basic questions, provide general information and share gardening ideas and tips with fellow gardeners.

For more information, please contact our Volunteer Manager, lhoole@napervilleparks.org or 630-848-3606.

GARDENER’S RESPONSIBILITIES:
• Read and abide by the guidelines and rules set forth in this brochure.
• Adhere to our Participant Behavior Code of Conduct and all other Park Ordinances, state and local laws.
• Only enter the Garden Plots during the designated growing season; access before the Garden Plots open and after they close is not permitted. Violators may be ticketed.
• 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 in this brochure. Unplanted plots quickly become weedy.
• Weed and maintain the ENTIRE plot throughout the entire gardening season, and make arrangements for your plot to be attended to when 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 for the 1st time, 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 2nd time will have only one week/weekend to weed. If your plot is still weedy after this week, your garden plot will be mowed.
  • If your plot is placed on the weedy list for a 3rd time, it will automatically be mowed.

Please note: Once your plot is mowed you cannot continue to garden in it and you will not receive priority registration for the following year, even if you agreed to have it mowed.

• Transport your own water from the spigots. Hoses are not allowed. Any exceptions must be approved by the Garden Plots 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.
• 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. Keep your garden plot neat and tidy. Do not leave items like plant containers, drinking cups or water bottles, etc., that can blow into other plots.
• By the end of the day on Monday, October 12, remove all non-plant materials, including stakes, fencing, tools, etc from your plot(s). Any gardening items/tools/etc. left behind will be disposed of accordingly. Excess items left behind will result in the loss of Priority Registration for the following year.
• Monday, October 12 is also the last day to harvest/collect produce from your plot. All leftover produce will be collected the following day for donation to Loaves & Fishes.