Naperville Park District™

Ron Ory Community Garden Plots

2024 RULES & REGULATIONS

Photo by C. Bello

NAPERVILLEPARKS.ORG/GARDENPLOTS

HOURS AND ACCESS

- **Based on feedback from gardeners during the Master Site Plan process, upgrades to the plots, including a new front parking lot and more raised beds are planned for fall of 2024. Please visit the website for more information on these projects and the impact they may have on garden plots access.**
- During the open season, 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 Plot webpage. 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.

Please note: Garden Plots are temporary fixtures. The Park District reserves the right to relocate or remove plots as community needs change.

Photo by L. Gruette

Photo by B. King

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 this year will be Sunday, October 20. The Garden Plots will close the following day. The closing date will remain the same even if the garden plots opening date is delayed.

Photo by S. Neufelder

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/RonOryCommunity GardenPlots/

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 (early) REGISTRATION information check:

- The Park District's Garden Plots webpage, napervilleparks.org/gardenplots
- The Naperville Park District Garden Plots Facebook page: facebook.com/RonOryCommunityGardenPlots/
- All Priority Gardeners will receive an email from the Park District regarding how to register early. **Notify us promptly if your email or phone number changes.**

Photo by S. Dixon

Photo by J. Hamilton

Photo by V. Tena

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 double letters. **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.** Planting outside of your designated plot, or in open areas around your plot, is not permitted. *These planted areas will be mowed and planting in these areas may result in the loss of priority status for the next season.* 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 approximately 29' x 18'. Half garden plots are approximately 14.5' x 18'. Raised plots are approximately 4' x 20'.

Growing *Cannabis or Nicotiana tabacum* is not allowed at 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. The perimeter, as well as the interior, of your plot must be weeded. Growing a "weed fence" is not permitted. Weedy species such as amaranth, lambs quarters and purslane, although considered to be edible, may not be left to grow uncontrolled within a plot. Plots overgrown with these types of plants will be considered weedy plots. 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. Gardeners must make alternate arrangements when they are out of town.** Weed whackers and small 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.

Photo by L. Eales

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 or in grassy areas. **Vehicles parked in these no parking areas may be ticketed since this compacts the soil.**

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 rental season. You may not enter/access/use the Garden Plots when they are closed. Violators may be ticketed.

OTHER RULES

No livestock may be raised on a garden plot. No bird feeders are permitted since spilled seeds add unwanted weedy plants to the plots.

PLOT AMENDMENTS

Leaf mulch, pine needles and manure will be offered each year, for registered gardeners only, based on availability. Due to supply limitations, we may not be able to provide, or replenish amendments during any given gardening season. Feel free to use these items, if they are available, to amend your garden plot soil. Leaf mulch, pine needles, and horse manure are located at the south end of the garden plots across from Row 30. Horse manure is also available on the north side of the plots across the road from the Idea Gardens. **Do not use any items located in the Park District Use Only sections. (e.g., woodchips).**

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. **Garden/landscaping stakes are not allowed. Do not place rocks or gravel inside or outside of your garden plot.** *Adding any of these items to your plot may result in loss of Priority Registration for the following year.*

GARDEN WASTE, TRASH AND RECYCLING

Yard waste dumpsters are available throughout the plots. Do not overfill a yard waste dumpster; take your plant material to another dumpster instead. 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 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

The last section of the garden plots, 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.

KIOSK

The Garden Plots kiosk, located in the first section of the garden plots, will display the current map. Park District property may not be used to advertise events or services. No signage, banners, or flyers are allowed in the kiosk or anywhere else within the garden plots, including the West St. fence line.

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 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. Their phone number is on your parking permit. 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.** 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 at the Garden Plots. Chemical scents or pheromones are used in the traps and this scent draws the beetles into the gardens. Studies have shown that most of the lured beetles land on and begin eating the surrounding plants instead of going into the traps. Please refrain from using 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.

HAVE A GARDEN PLOTS OR GARDENING QUESTION?

There are several ways to get answers!

1. Take a free ***Garden Plots Tour*** or attend a free ***Basic or Organic Gardening Workshop***. Refer to our Spring 2024 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 Plots/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 map listing your GPA's garden plot location.

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.

- extension.illinois.edu/dkk/dupage-county-master-gardeners

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: 1E, 2E, 1F, and 2F.
OR call, email or visit the extension office's Master Gardener Help Line:

- 630-955-1123
- uiemg-dupage@illinois.edu
- In-person

Available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please call to confirm open hours prior to arriving.
1100 E. Warrenville Rd, Suite 170,
Naperville, IL 60563

DuPage residents may bring in samples of plant material for identification or diagnosis during the hours listed above.

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 along with native plants found throughout the area and along the fencing.

ANNUAL GARDEN PLOTS PHOTO CONTEST

Would you like for your garden plots to be featured in next year's Garden Plots brochure? Then enter our **Annual Garden Plots Photo Contest**!

1. Send your photo to: GardenPlotPhotoContest@napervilleparks.org (max. size 12 mb)
2. One entry per gardener.
3. **Entry deadline is September 27, 2024.**
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 2025 Garden Plots Rules & Regulations brochure.
7. Honorable Mentions will appear *within* the 2025 Garden Plots Rules & Regulations brochure.
8. Any photos used on the Garden Plots Facebook Page and in the Garden Plots Rules & Regulations brochure, will be credited with the gardener's first name initial and last name.

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 at 630-848-3606.

GARDENER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Each garden plot is rented to one person who has the sole responsibility for following the rules and regulations and making sure that any plot guests follow the rules as well.
- **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. Failure to comply with the Park District's rules may warrant expulsion from the program.
- **Only enter the Garden Plots during the designated growing season;** accessing the Garden Plots before they 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 have one week/weekend to weed.* If your plot is still weedy after one 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. Refunds are not issued for garden plots that are 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 in your plot that can blow into other plots.

END OF SEASON CLEAN-UP RULES:

- **By the end of the day on Sunday, October 20, remove all non-plant materials, including stakes, fencing, tools, etc from your plot(s).** Vegetation may remain. Disposal of non-plant materials must fit in the onsite trash or recycling cans. Larger items must be taken home and disposed of at your residence. Any gardening items left in your plot will be disposed of and excessive amounts of items left in your plot will result in loss of Priority Registration for the next year. *Please leave plant material in your plot.*
- **Sunday, October 20 is also the last day to harvest/ collect produce from your plot.** Any leftover produce will be collected the following day for donation to Loaves & Fishes.

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 4
Opening Day – weather and soil conditions permitting

JUNE 7
Last day for refunds

JUNE 9
All plots must be planted

AUGUST 4
Closed until 1:00 pm

OCTOBER 20
Closed until 1:00 pm

OCT 20
Last day to clean up your plot

OCT 21
GARDEN PLOTS CLOSE

Gleaning starts at 8:00 am. (Remaining produce is collected and sorted by volunteers and donated to ***Loaves & Fishes****)*

NOV 9
(If possible)
Pumpkin Smash
9:00 am-noon
pumpkin composting event

HAVE A GREAT GARDENING YEAR!

Still have questions? Send an email to gpcoordinator@napervilleparks.org