

Monroe County Parks & Recreation (MCPR) Will Detmer Organic Garden Agreement

Contact Information and Administration

1. **Garden Address:** 4140 W Vernal Pike, Bloomington, IN 47404
2. **Garden Hours:**
 - a. Park and Garden hours are **dawn to dusk**. Please note that the park may be closed earlier in the day during the winter months due to shorter days
3. **Administration**
 - a. MCPR oversees the operation of the Detmer Organic Garden
 - b. MCPR settles all disputes and assesses any garden violations
4. **Contact Information and Communication**
 - a. Who to contact: Garden Manager/Naturalist
 - i. Autumn Brunelle, abrunelle@co.monroe.in.us or 812-349-2805
 - b. Receiving information
 - i. Email is the primary method of communication for updates, gardening tips, and other community garden related information throughout the season
 - ii. Keep your contact information and email current. Please contact the Garden Manager with any changes within one week of change

COVID-19

1. Gardeners shall comply with all COVID-19 orders issued by the Governor of Indiana and the Monroe County Health Officer. Gardeners shall follow related recommendations and requirements **including social distancing and wearing a face mask or shield as directed**. Failure to do so may result in renters being asked to leave Monroe County property. **If you are feeling ill, or experience any symptoms, please do not come to the garden and follow CDC and government guidelines.**
2. All gardeners should apply hand sanitizer upon entering garden space (sanitizer is provided within the entrance of the garden). If you handle shared supplies, please use the provided disinfectant wipes to wipe down all tools after use.
3. When sharing produce with others or yourselves, MCPR highly encourages you to wash hands, produce, and/or use sanitizer or gloves while preparing or handling produce for consumption.

Registration and Renewal Guidelines

1. **Rental Fees**
 - a. All gardens are \$25/plot for raised beds, ground plots, and/or seasonal/year-long plots. Rental fees are for the current season only and are used to offset direct costs of the garden program
 - b. No refunds on garden plots will be given
2. **Registration**

- a. New Gardeners
 - i. Registration for open garden plots in the current year begin on January 1st and are on a first come, first served basis (ex: registration for 2021 garden plots begin on January 1st, 2021)
- b. Returning Gardeners
 - i. Registration for the same plot or unused plots for the following year take place November 1st – December 15th (ex: registration for 2021 take place November-December 2020)
- c. Renewal of a garden plot for the following year will be at the discretion of MCPR Garden Manager and a maintenance fee may be charged to the primary gardener.

Rental Offerings

1. Raised Beds

- a. Year-Round and Seasonal rentals available
 - i. If renting a year-round raised bed, please be aware that crops close to water spigot may become damaged at the end of the season when the park water systems are flushed.
- b. Beds are rented by the half, each half bed is 4'x8'
- c. Maximum rental of 4; more with approval from Garden Manager
- d. DO NOT attach/insert anything that penetrates the raised beds' wooden frame. No nails, staples, screws, lags, or eyelets allowed.**

2. Ground Plots

- a. Year-Round and Seasonal rentals available
- b. Maximum rental of 4 ground plots per gardener; more with approval from Garden Manager
- c. Plots are 10' x 10'
- d. NO TREES**
- e. Gardener must maintain plot for duration of rented season

3. Seasonal Rentals

- a. Seasonal rentals begin April 15th and end November 7th; end date may be dependent on weather (unless otherwise stated by Garden Manager)
- b. All garden equipment, cages, and plants must be removed by November 7th (unless otherwise stated by Garden Manager)
- c. If you wish to grow a crop that requires a longer growing season, please choose a year-round plot

4. Year-Round Rentals

- a. Year Round rental season is January 1st—December 31st
- b. Gardener must maintain the plot year-round
- c. MCPR will not till rented year-round plots after initial tilling

Guidelines, Responsibilities, and Maintenance

1. MCPR Maintenance

- a. Garden area is maintained by the Detmer park supervisor. Maintenance includes tilling, covering raised beds, turning water on/off for start and end of seasons, and mowing.

2. Renter Maintenance

- a. Renters are responsible for maintaining everything within the plot boundaries. This includes regular weeding, harvesting ripe produce, removing all dead and/or diseased plants and disposing of them in proper methods.
- b. Making arrangements for maintenance if going to be absent for a period of time
- c. Keeping pathways free of overgrowing plants, gardening supplies, and other equipment
- d. **All plants, equipment, and supplies must be removed from plot by specified date**

3. Tilling

- a. In raised beds, soil must be turned by hand, no mechanical tillers.
- b. Mechanical tillers may be used in ground plots within the boundaries of the plot – not pathways or grass strips.
- c. MCPR will perform spring tilling in the garden plots, when weather permits.
- d. If you are a year-long renter and **DO NOT** want your plot tilled, you are responsible for communicating this to the Garden Manager at the beginning and end of the season.

4. Tools, Trellising and other Materials

- a. Storing tools, hoses, soil amendments, watering cans, etc. within their garden plots is not recommended. MCPR is not responsible for theft or damage of equipment/belongings/produce.
- b. If gardeners choose to leave tools and other items in the garden area they must be stored within the boundaries of their plot(s).
- c. All items must be stored in a way that does not collect water to prevent a habitat for mosquitoes.
- d. Trellising, stakes, cages and other hardscaping materials are permitted for use during the season, as long as the items are kept within the boundaries of that gardeners plot(s).
- e. Carpet, plastic sheeting or soil cloth **may not** be used for weed control purposes.
- f. **Plots that are unmaintained or not fully cleared at the end of the season will be charged a maintenance fee of \$15.00.**

5. Watering/Hoses

- a. DO NOT TUG HOSES OR PULL OR TWIST WATER HYDRANTS. THEY WILL BREAK.
- b. **NO UNATTENDED WATERING OR OVER NIGHT WATERING.**
- c. Water spigots are located in each raised bed and at intervals between garden plots.
- d. Gardeners must provide their own hose & gardening equipment.
- e. When using hoses, please be careful not to damage other garden plots.
- f. When finished with your hose, shut off water, and remove hose.
- g. Please conserve water and turn off water when not in use.
- h. Five gallon buckets will be provided for shared use. Do not remove buckets from

garden area.

6. Gates/Fencing

- a. Gardeners must close & latch the gates when entering & exiting the garden area to prevent animals or the general public from entering.
- b. Gardeners are not permitted to fence individual plots or blocks of plots.

7. Trash and Plant Debris

- a. Gardeners must pick-up all trash and dispose of it properly in trash bins
- b. Diseased or spent plants, and trimmings must be bagged and disposed of in trash bins. **DO NOT dispose in compost**

8. Pets

- a. Pets are NOT allowed inside garden area at any time. Pets may destroy/trample garden plants and pet waste is not sanitary in a garden area

9. Vehicles and Parking

- a. No motor vehicles inside the garden fence. Please park on the asphalt parking lot
- b. Those with mobility issues may use motorized chairs

10. Theft and Damage

- a. Gardeners should report any vandalism, theft or suspicious behavior/activity in the garden area or park to MCPR staff immediately.
- b. Gardeners are not permitted to use or remove anything from plots not rented by them
- c. The MCPR department and the garden staff, acting on behalf of the County, are not responsible for any damage to garden spaces, theft of produce or personal belongings in the vicinity of the gardens or elsewhere

11. Compost

- a. Plant material only (**no stakes/cages**) from garden plots must be composted in the concrete compost area. Signs will be posted indicating where materials should be placed
- b. Please **do not compost seeding weeds or Johnson grass rhizomes**. Put them in the trash bins
- c. Gardeners may use finished compost marked as available for use

12. Rhizome Plants

- a. Plants grown from rhizomes may be planted **in containers** within the boundaries of the rental plot. This includes berries.
- b. Gardener will be responsible for pulling any spreading plants.
- c. Garden manager may ban plantings of rhizome plants if unmanaged spreading occurs.

13. Garden Plot Utilization

- a. Gardeners unable to utilize or maintain their plot(s) and paths in the way described above, must contact MCPR staff immediately.
- b. **Turning in Garden Plots –**
 - i. Gardeners can turn in their plot(s) to MCPR at any time, no refunds will be given.
- c. **Unmaintained Plots –**
 - i. Gardeners with unmaintained plots will be given two weeks to comply

- with garden maintenance requirements.
- ii. If the gardener does not comply within two weeks the privilege to garden will be given up for the rest of the season.
- iii. Rental of a garden plot for the following season will be at the discretion of the MCPR Garden Manager.
- d. **Extenuating Circumstances –**
 - i. Gardeners may request an exception to the above rules for extenuating circumstances.
 - ii. Any exception is at the discretion of the MCPR Garden Manager.

Organic Guidelines

1. All gardeners must follow the organic guidelines provided by MCPR
2. **No chemical insecticides, herbicides, fungicides or other pesticides**

CONSENT FOR SERVICES & GENERAL RELEASE

I understand that I or members of my family, or any additional gardener will not be covered under any medical insurance through the County of Monroe, Indiana or through the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department.

I recognize that because of the nature of this activity that an injury may be sustained. In the event of an injury to myself, family member or additional gardener, I give my permission to call for ambulance or emergency personnel, and agree to pay the usual and customary charges for such service. I give permission to the attending physician to render such treatment as is medically necessary, and agree to pay the usual and customary charges for such treatment.

I now release the County of Monroe, Indiana, the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department, its employees, volunteers, agents, sponsors, officers, independent contractors, vendors and assigns for any personal injuries or damages to personal property caused by or having any relation to this activity. I understand that this release applies both to present and future injuries or damages, and that it binds my heirs, executors and administrators.

I understand that I or a family member may be photographed and/or videotaped during this activity and assign and transfer all right, title and interest in any prints, digital images and/or film footage to Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department for marketing purposes.

As the **Primary Gardener**, I am at least 18 years of age; I have read the Monroe County Parks and Recreation’s Detmer Organic Garden Agreement and understand all of its terms. I agree voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance. I understand that the Agreement remains in effect for the duration of my current and future garden plot/bed rentals.

First and Last name (print): _____

First and Last name (signature): _____