

General Rules & Acceptance of Terms - Garden Plots

General Rules & Acceptance of Terms - Garden Plots

General Rules

Renters shall comply with all COVID-19 Orders issued by the Governor of Indiana and the Monroe County Health Officer. Renters shall follow related recommendations, 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.

Registration Information

1. Rental Fees
 - a. \$25 per season for raised bed and ground plots
 - b. Garden season is generally April through November but is dependent on weather and maintenance staff needs. Rental fee is for current season only and used to offset direct costs of the community garden program.
 - c. **NO REFUNDS** on garden plots will be given

Guidelines, Responsibilities, and Maintenance Requirements

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 pathways
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. Gardeners must make arrangements for weeding, watering, & harvesting in their absence
 - c. Keeping pathways free of over growing plants, gardening supplies, and other equipment
 - d. **All plants, equipment, and supplies must be removed by renter by specified date set by Garden Manager**
3. **Tilling**
 - a. **Will Detmer Organic Community Garden is a NO-TILL area** in order to grow soil health, prevent soil erosion, minimize underground pest emergence, and increase nutrients, water retention, and good bacteria needed for crops to thrive.
 - b. GROUND PLOTS:
 - i. Soil may be disturbed using hand tools such as broad forks, scuffle hoes, rakes, etc.
 - ii. Renter is encouraged to build up the soil using woodchips and compost
 - c. RAISED BEDS:
 - i. Renter may till raised bed soil using hand-tools. Large tilling machinery is not allowed.
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)

General Rules & Acceptance of Terms - Garden Plots

- e. Carpet, plastic sheeting or soil cloth may not be used for weed control purposes
 - f. **Plots that are not maintained 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 ground plots
 - d. Gardeners must provide their own hose and gardening equipment
 - e. Communal equipment is available in garden shed and must be put back after each use.
 - f. When using hoses, please be careful not to damage other garden plots
 - g. When finished with hose, shut off water, **AND REMOVE** hose from spigot
 - h. Please conserve water and turn off water when not in use
 - i. Watering cans and 5 gallon buckets are available for shared use. Do not remove buckets from garden area
- 6. Gates/Fencing**
- a. Gardeners must close and latch the gates when entering and exiting the garden area
 - b. Gardeners are not permitted to install permanent fencing for individual plots or blocks of plots
- 7. Trash and Plant Debris**
- a. All trash must be disposed of in trash bins
 - b. All spent plants, weeds, and trimmings must be composted and/or disposed of in labeled cans
 - c. **DO NOT put spent plants or weeds in trash cans or pathways**
- 8. Pets**
- a. **Pets are NOT allowed inside garden area** at any time due to safety, health, and sanitary needs
 - b. All pets outside of garden area are required to be leashed at ALL times
- 9. Vehicles and Parking**
- a. No unauthorized motor vehicles inside garden area. Vehicles must be parked in asphalt parking lot
 - b. Motorized chairs for those with mobility issues are allowed
- 10. Theft and Damage**
- a. Gardeners should report any vandalism, theft or suspicious behavior/activity in the garden area or park to MCPD staff immediately
 - b. Gardeners are not permitted to use or remove anything from plots not rented by them
 - c. The MCPD department and 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 and other organic material (i.e. woodchips, leaves) from garden plots must be composted in designated compost area
 - b. Please read and follow all compost area signage
 - c. **DO NOT** compost seeding weeds or rhizome plants
 - d. **FINISHED** compost is available to ALL garden renters for rented plots
- 12. Rhizome Plants**
- a. Plants grown from rhizomes may be planted in containers within the boundaries of the rental plot. This includes berry plants
 - b. Gardener is responsible for maintaining and pulling any spreading plants
 - c. Garden Manager may ban plantings of rhizome plants if unmanaged spreading occurs

General Rules & Acceptance of Terms - Garden Plots

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

14. Turning in Garden Plots

- a. Gardeners can turn in their plot(s) to MCPR at any time, no refunds will be given

15. UNMAINTAINED PLOTS

- a. Gardeners with unmaintained plots will be given **TWO WEEKS** to comply with garden maintenance requirements
 - i. If the gardener does not comply within two weeks the privilege to garden will be given up for the rest of the season
- b. Rental of a garden plot for the following season will be at the discretion of the MCPR Garden Manager
- c. **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

16. Organic Guidelines

- b. All gardeners must follow the organic guidelines provided by MCPR
- c. **NO chemical insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, or other pesticides**

Contact and Administration Information

Garden Address: 4140 W Vernal Pike, Bloomington, IN 47404

Garden Hours: Park and Garden hours are dawn to dusk.

- *Note: the park may be closed earlier in the day during winter months due to shorter days.*

Administration

- MCPR oversees the operation of the Detmer Organic Garden.
- MCPR settles all disputes and assesses any garden violations.

Contact Information and Communication

- Contact mcpr@co.monroe.in.us or 812-349-2800 for assistance with garden questions.
- Garden Manager: Autumn Brunelle (Naturalist), abrunelle@co.monroe.in.us

Receiving and Sharing Information

- Email is the primary method of communication for updates, gardening tips, and other community garden relation information throughout the season.
- Gardeners will receive garden tips, newsletter, and other pertinent garden information throughout the season via e-mail.
- Keep your contact information & e-mail current and contact the Garden Manager with any changes.

Rental Options

1. **RAISED BEDS**

- a. Year-Round and Seasonal rental options may be selected during registration
 - i. *If renting a year-round raised bed, please be aware that crops close to water spigot may become damaged during park winterization when the park water systems are flushed. Winterization begins early November (may be earlier or later due to weather)*
- b. Beds are rented by the half; each half bed is 4 feet x 8 feet
- c. Maximum rental of 4; more may be rented after May 1st with approval from Garden Manager

General Rules & Acceptance of Terms - Garden Plots

- 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. Seasonal AND YEAR-ROUND options available
- b. Plots are 10 feet x 10 feet
- c. NO TREES or rhizomatic plants allowed

3. **YEAR-ROUND RENTALS**

- a. Garden season is January 1st – December 31st.
- b. Gardener must maintain the plot year-round
- c. Renter must notify Garden Manager when done with plot
- d. If renter is NOT renewing, plot MUST be cleared by December 31st.

4. **SEASONAL PLOTS**

- a. Garden season begins mid-April and ends early November. Open/End date may change depending on weather.
- b. All garden equipment, cages, and plants must be removed by NOVEMBER 7th (unless otherwise stated by Garden Manager)
- c. All plants that require a growing season that begins or ends outside of the seasonal rental timeframe, renter must choose a year-round plot.

Registration and Renewals

1. **New Gardeners**

- a. Registration for available garden plots begins on January 1st and are on a first come, first served basis (ex: registration for 2021 plots begin on January 1st, 2021)

2. **Returning Gardeners**

- a. Registration for the same plot for the next garden season begins on November 1st and ends on December 15th unless otherwise stated by Garden Manager (ex: registration for 2022 plots take place November-December 2021)
- b. 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.

Acceptance of Terms

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.

Signature (Required): _____

In signing above, you agree to the General Rules & Policies and Acceptance of Terms.