**2024 Community Garden**

1)  You must be a Vernon Hills resident to enter the lottery. Make sure your proof of residency information is up to date (must be renewed annually).

2)  A $75 payment must be received at the time of registration, $25 of which will be refunded upon the clearing of your plot at the end of the season.

3)  Lottery winners will be notified the week of April 8. Residents who are not selected in the lottery will receive a full refund.

4)  Open registration for any remaining plots will begin on April 15. This is for residents and non-residents.

5) All plants and structures must be removed by **December 1st**. Your plot will be checked the following week and deposits refunded. In order to receive your deposit refund, the plot must be left as a square of flat dirt. All organic plant material and structures must be removed. If there are any items left in the plot, they will be considered abandoned and discarded and you will forfeit your deposit.

*The Park District staff will let you know when the gardens are ready for you. The Park District does not rent out tillers or till the plots for you. If you would like to till your plot, there are businesses that will rent a tiller for a day. (ex. Home Depot)*

**Water Sources**

*Century Park Indianwood Garden and Boat Docks Garden* both have ground water source. To use, pull up on the spigot to open water source and use hose as needed. When you are finished, please wrap up hose at source and turn off spigot. Turning off the spigot is very important.

*Hartmann Park Garden* uses a large water tank that is filled regularly. Please be mindful of the amount of water you are using and try to avoid waste. **(SITE UNAVAILABLE IN 2024).**

**Garden Structures**

You are allowed to have internal structures in your garden plot such as trellis and cages.

* Structures cannot exceed 36in in height.
* Structures must be at least 12in inside the border of your plot.
* You should be able to access any part of your structure without the need to step into your neighbor’s plot.
* Structures must be removable and need to be taken out by the date listed for deposit refund check.

**Fencing**

No perimeter fencing is allowed. As an alternative, “no dig edging” is permitted. See the link below for an example:

<https://superarbor.io/products/301459392-vigoro-60-ft-no-dig-landscape-edging-kit?currency=USD&variant=46920209301819&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=Google%20Shopping&stkn=681ace8a6972&srsltid=AfmBOoq1kC-6x71O8vHUQPon_W8DJyvjsw3uKAHf9XtEfdKv58wV8WLsva0>

**Personal items left within the garden**

* Any personal items brought in while working in your garden must be taken with you or left within your plot when you leave.
* Items should not be left along fences or in walkways.
* The Parks team must be able to access full width of walkways and trim the fence line without needing to move personal property.
* If Parks team needs to move personal items to properly maintain the gardens, the items will be removed.
* Planting is approved only in rented plots.

**Herbicide and Pesticide**

The use of chemical herbicide and pesticide sprays is prohibited. This is due to the risk of spreading to neighboring plots. Find organic remedies for pest in your garden. Sources can be found below. Ask your neighbors what they use to treat pests. There are many alternatives out there that are not harmful to us and the environment.

<https://platthillnursery.com/dealing-with-common-garden-pests-in-chicago-illinois/>

<https://www.gardenary.com/blog/organic-ways-to-treat-pests-in-a-vegetable-garden>

Garden renters that are found in violation of any of these rules will be made aware and given their first warning. If they continue to break rules after a first warning is given, they will forfeit their plot and be ineligible to enter the lottery in the future.

Please remember that you are sharing these gardens with many other residents. Please show them and our staff respect by following these rules.

Thank you.