

**DES PLAINES PARK DISTRICT**  
**ORGANIC GARDEN PLOT REGULATIONS – 2020**

**All Park District and City of Des Plaines laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, including those herein, must be obeyed at all times.**

**Location &**

**Boundaries:** All **organic** garden plots are situated on Commonwealth Edison property on Westgate Road and just north of Terrace School. Garden plots are approximately 20x20 feet. Do not allow plants to grow beyond plot boundaries. Do not block paths with any plants or materials, from underfoot to overhead, which might impede travel in any way. **Plot markers must be kept in at all times.**

**Season:** The official gardening season will run from **May 4, 2020 – October 4, 2020**. These dates may vary in years with unusually mild or extreme weather circumstances.

**End-of-Season**

**Clean-up:** The official gardening season ends **October 4, 2020**. Dead plants, produce, remains and debris must be removed. Stakes, tomato cages, trellises, fencing, wires, strings, plastic containers etc. **must** be removed from the ground. The gardens will be rough plowed from **October 5-9, 2020**. **Garden rental privileges may be revoked if the garden plot is not cleared.**

**Timely**

**Harvest:** Crops must be harvested as they mature. For example, do not leave tomatoes to rot on the ground. Rodents are attracted to produce. If rodent infestation increases, the Park District will need to contract with an exterminator. This would increase future garden plot fees. Eliminate conditions favorable to rodents and mosquitoes by making sure faucets are turned off completely, watering cans are empty and **compostable kitchen scraps (no meat or dairy) are buried at least a foot deep.** Rats need water, food and shelter to survive; therefore, only rodent-resistant compost enclosures will be permitted.

**Appearance:**

The garden must be kept clean and reasonably free from weeds and other unsightly debris. Each gardener is responsible not only for maintaining the appearance of her/his plot but also for keeping the paths on all sides of their plot well groomed and free of weeds (growing or pulled), stakes, or other materials that obstruct passage. Weeds taller than 12 inches in plots will be in violation. When pulling weeds, shake off all soil, so as not to lose the topsoil of your garden. Storage on paths is not permitted.

**Lack of**

**Activity:** Plots not showing reasonable gardening activity by June 15th as judged by the monitoring teams, with exceptions for unusual weather delays, shall be subject to re-assignment. No refund if there is inactivity of garden plot. Renters who are unable to maintain plots should release the plot, in writing, to the Park District for the remainder of the growing season. Should the above not occur, all abandoned plots will be placed on the list for re-assignment without reimbursement. Evidence of a consistent lack of response to notifications of violations will result in loss of plot without reimbursement.

**Animals:** Animals (except seeing-eye dogs and service dogs) are prohibited in garden plot areas. All animals (including seeing-eye dogs and service dogs) in the public area are required by law to be leashed and cleaned up after.

**Trash:** Place garden refuse in trash cans or bagged beside trash cans. A compost area (designated by snow fence) is available for organic waste from your plots.

**Water:** **The Park District will fill the Water Tanks 3 days a week, typically Monday, Wednesday and Friday (weather permitting). If the tanks run out before the next fill date, renters will be responsible for providing their own water.** Please do not store water in containers on your plots so that other plot renters have water available to them.

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**Banned  
Items & Activities:**

- **The use of chemical pesticides (including fungicides, herbicides-weed killers, or insecticides) is prohibited. Only natural organic practices and organic fertilizers may be used in accordance with USDA guidelines.**
- **Produce grown in these garden plots is NOT to be used for any commercial/retail purposes.**
- The use of tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars, pipes and chewing tobacco is prohibited in the garden area. The mosaic virus disease common to tobacco can infect tomatoes, peppers and eggplants and can spread to plants in neighboring gardens.
- Illegal drug-producing plants are prohibited. The offending gardener is subject to prosecution under the law, and their plot will be re-assigned without reimbursement.
- Gardeners may not plant or maintain trees either in plots or on paths.
- The use of carpeting, press board, pressure-treated wood or other similar harmful materials on path or plots is prohibited; these materials provide cover for rodents and present a hazard to other gardeners navigating the paths. Carpeting, press board and pressure-treated wood contain hazardous chemicals that leach into the soil as they deteriorate.
- Avoid leaving personal property in the garden. Tools, roto-tillers, etc. pose a safety hazard and invite theft.
- The presence/use of bird feeders and bird baths is prohibited.
- The use of metal cans (such as beer or soda cans) strung on wires in or around the garden is prohibited.
- The use of mulch or any soil additives is prohibited.

**Trellises &  
Fencing:**

Trellises and fencing should be constructed of light-weight, non-permanent materials. Any fencing built shall be a foot or more inside the boundary of the plot on all sides. Substantial structures are prohibited.

**Liability:**

Gardeners agree to hold harmless the Des Plaines Park District and Commonwealth Edison Co. for and all liability which may be attributed to the gardener, or an authorized third party, as a result of renting a garden plot.

**Waiting list  
Procedure:**

**All persons desiring to obtain a garden plot, after all plots are filled, will go onto a wait list by date of request. In order to be placed on the list you must contact the Park District or complete and return a registration form. Plots will be filled on a first-come first basis. Current gardeners are not eligible for the waiting list.**

**Fees:**

Each 20' x 20' plot rents for \$50.00 to Park District residents; \$60.00 to Non-residents.  
Seniors (60 years or older) can receive a 50 % discount

*These fees help defray a small portion of the Commonwealth Edison lease, water and plot preparation costs.*

**Disclaimer:**

**ComEd MUST have complete access to the garden plot area, if necessary. A full refund of your rental fee will be issued if their access affects the loss of any planting.**

**By signing this agreement, I understand and agree to the rules and regulations as listed in this document and confirm that I am the responsible party for all activity in my assigned Garden Plot (s).**

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Garden Plot #(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_