ORGANIC GARDENING RULES & GUIDELINES

Upon registration for the Urbana Park District's Organic Gardens—Community Gardening at Meadowbrook Park, you agree to abide by these rules and guidelines, or you are subject to relinquish your plot and deposit. Please read the following guidelines carefully. Contact the Environmental Education Coordinator, 217-384-4062, with any questions or concerns.

1. Non-organic pesticides, herbicides and/or fertilizers are strictly prohibited. (Rotenone, although listed as an organic method, is not allowed.) If something is questionable, please ask.

2. The garden season runs from the first Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November. Gardeners must maintain weed control in their plots for the duration of the garden season.

3. Remove all weeds in a timely manner. Plots with weeds taller than 12" or weeds going to seed will receive a warning. This includes any weeds along the garden edge—see Rule #4. Unattended weeds are cause for garden forfeiture.

4. Plots are for active use by gardeners. A plot will be deemed inactive if more than three weed warnings have been issued from March-November. Following that, any subsequent weed warnings will result in an automatic eviction and forfeiture of deposit.

5. Keep your plantings within your assigned plot area, and maintain a mandatory weed-free edge around your garden. Leave a one foot pathway on the east and west borders and a six inch pathway on the north and south borders. These borders allow access to water hoses and gardens, and also clear a mowing edge for maintenance of the grass paths. Full plots w/ border will measure: 17’ x 30’ Half Plots w/ border will measure: 17’ x 15’

6. Fences must allow for the mandatory edge outside of the fence. Keep in mind, fencing is not required. All fencing materials must be hauled to and from the parking area by hand—no vehicles are allowed beyond the paved parking area.

7. Thin, plastic mesh netting will not be allowed. This light netting can blow away and poses a threat to park visitors and wildlife. If you have questions regarding your fencing, please ask.

8. Provide and store your own tools, equipment/ supplies, seeds/plants, and organic soil amendments. Wheelbarrows, hoses, and water are provided. The Urbana Park District is not responsible for loss of personal equipment/supplies, plants or produce by acts of human or acts of nature.

9. Perennial plantings are only permitted in perennial plots. If something is questionable, please ask.

10. Diseased plants should be removed from the park and disposed of in your home waste bin to prevent spreading disease to other gardens. Do not put diseased plants in the organic refuse pile or trash bins at the park.

11. Transport unwanted, disease-free plant material to the organic refuse pile. Only biodegradable materials are allowed in the organic refuse site.

12. All items grown in rented plots are for personal use only.

END OF THE SEASON CLEANUP
The following must be completed by 4:00pm on the first Sunday in November.

13. All full-plot, half-plot, and resigning perennial plot gardeners must clear their plots of all non-plant (fencing, stakes, strings, plastics, cardboard, fabric, etc.) and large plant material (corn, broccoli, sunflower stalks, weeds over 12”, etc.)

14. All non-plant items (stakes, fencing, tomato cages, etc.) must be removed from the park. In order to keep fees affordable, the Urbana Park District relies on gardeners to remove all materials brought in during the season. Do not put non-plant materials in the park waste bins.

15. Return the plot to a level state to enable fall tilling by park district equipment. Break up large soil clumps and raised beds, and fill in holes and furrows.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in the following procedures

- Gardener in violation can receive up to two warnings by phone, e-mail and/or postcard

- Gardener in violation will have one week to correct the violation

- If the issue has not been resolved by the deadline on the second warning, the garden plot, its contents, and the deposit will be forfeited to the Urbana Park District

- Plots are for active use by gardeners. A plot will be deemed inactive if more than three weed warnings have been issued from March-November. Following that, any subsequent weed warnings will result in an automatic eviction and forfeiture of deposit