

## The Community Gardens at Prairie Green: Community Gardening in Geneva

The Geneva Park District, the City of Geneva and the Kane County Forest Preserve District are partners in this exciting project to provide gardeners with the opportunity to participate in community gardening. The Geneva Park District will oversee the seasonal operation of the garden. All comments and concerns should be directed to the Geneva Park District at 630-232-4542.

The following rules and regulations ensure that all participating gardeners have the opportunity for a positive gardening experience, that garden plot sites are an asset to the community and that all plots are used in a productive manner. Therefore, gardeners agree to follow the rules and regulations of the Garden Plot Program.

### Plot Information & Identification

The plots are located on the west side of Geneva at Peck and Bricher Roads and are 20 ft. by 30 ft. The garden plots will be open from dawn to dusk. The program will run from the third week of April through October 31. Plots will be staked and ready for planting at the earliest possible date with consideration to weather and soil conditions.

Garden plots are identified with a numbered wooden stake placed at the corner of each plot. Please do not remove numbered stakes.

### Agreement & Fees

***\$45 residents/ \$60 non-residents***

To be eligible for a garden plot the signed agreements is required by March 1. Due to demand of plots, a random lottery will be held on March 15. Residents of the Geneva Park District will be given priority. A second random lottery will be held on March 16 for non-residents if any plots are still available. Gardeners are limited to one plot. All Gardeners will be contacted with plot assignments immediately after lottery. All fees will be required by March 23

### Guidelines

Gardeners should maintain each plot to its boundaries. It is suggested that you mark the boundary with string. This makes

the boundaries visible to the mower. The Park District will maintain areas surrounding the garden sites.

Remove weeds promptly and harvest produce in a timely manner. Keep all plants within your plot boundaries. A rule violation may be given if a plot is excessively weedy, filled with debris or overripe produce. A phone call will be issued for excessively weedy and abandoned plots. Gardeners will have one week to address the issue. If the issue is not addressed, the Park District has the right to mow the entire plot.

If the Park District has to take over your plot due to lack of maintenance, you will not receive priority registration for the following year. You will not receive a refund on your plot. These measures are taken in hopes that this will help with plot abandonment and maintenance.

Place all trash and garden waste in the bins provided. Dumpsters are for garden plot waste only. **DO NOT** dump plants or trash anywhere outside of your plot.

### Planting and Cleanup Duties

Clean up and plant your plot by the following deadlines. Your plot must be clean and fully prepared for planting by June 15. Any plot

failing to meet these deadlines will be considered abandoned and no refund will be provided. If your plot is not fully planted by June 27, the unplanted portion may be used by the Geneva Park District. Remove all plants and temporary structures by October 31. The Geneva Park District will till the soil once a year in the fall.

### Watering Reminders

Please note that hoses are not allowed. You must transport your water using other methods. ***No exceptions allowed!***

### Organic Section

Plots 53-70 have been designated organic. The use of pesticides, fungicides and herbicides are not permitted. A second random lottery will be held to assign organic plots. The same registration dates apply.

### Parking

Only vehicles displaying the proper parking pass will be allowed in the Community Garden parking area. Passes are issued upon registration. The pass must be placed on the dashboard. Vehicles are allowed on the garden plot roadways to drop off materials and supplies for no longer than 15 minutes. Persons without a vehicle on site must have their User Permit/Vehicle Pass in their possession while on site. ***Violators will be ticketed for trespassing.***

## Conduct

Act in a manner considerate of the rights, needs and safety of other gardeners and the community at large and with courtesy toward others.

Actively garden, maintain and use your entire plot for the entire season. Food grown in rental plots is for personnel consumption. Food may not be grown for commercial purposes.

Do not enter other plots except with permission.

Pets are not allowed at the garden plots at any time.

No motorized vehicles are allowed in the garden area.

Gardeners must NOT infringe on any other plots and must NOT allow pesticides, chemical drift, water or any other material to

infringe on another gardener's plot.

If there is an occurrence of vandalism, theft or damage at a plot site, the gardener should obtain as much information as possible and contact the Park District at 630-232-4542.

## Tips for Good Gardening

While the Park District tills the soil at the end of each season, gardeners may need to till again just prior to planting.

Mulching is a necessary part of your garden because it provides protective covering for the soil. Mulching also controls weeds, saves moisture, and prevents the soil temperature from rising too high. Non-biodegradable mulch such as stone, carpet, or artificial turf is not permitted.

Arrange crops properly. For example, early maturing crops, such as lettuce and radishes, can be planted between slower growing crops, such as tomatoes, peppers and corn.

Keep in mind that taller plants tend to shade smaller plants, so be sure to put the tall plants to one side of the garden.

Vine plants should be planted away from the garden plot aisles for better protection. Otherwise, they risk damage by mowers.

Please visit [www.genevaparks.org/community-garden](http://www.genevaparks.org/community-garden) for complete rules and more information about gardening.

## Food Donations

If you have extra produce please consider donating it. Collection bins will be placed in common areas near the parking lot. The produce will be donated to the Northern Illinois Food Pantry.

**The Geneva Park District** will not be responsible for theft, damage, vandalism or any other acts of destruction, loss or irresponsibility. The Geneva Park District reserves the right to remove any objectionable items.



**Geneva**  
PARK DISTRICT