



Geneva Park District ~ Community Gardens Frequently Asked Questions

What is a "community garden"?

A community garden is a place where residents and non-residents may rent a plot of land for a nominal fee to grow their own vegetables, flowers, and herbs.

How big are plots?

Plot size is 20ft. by 30ft.

When will the plots be open?

The garden plots will be open from dawn to dusk. The program will run from the third week in April, weather permitting through October 31. Plots will be staked and ready for planting at the earliest possible date with consideration to weather and soil.

How many plots can I get?

Gardeners are limited to one plot.

How much does it cost?

The cost of the garden plot is \$45 for residents and \$60 for non-residents. All paperwork for returning gardeners is due by December 10, 2019 to guarantee the same plot. New gardeners will be assigned plots beginning on February 3, 2020.

When and where can I sign up for a garden plot?

Community Gardens Garden Plot Agreements are available at www.genevaparks.com, at the Sunset Community Center and the Stephen D. Persinger Recreation Center. Gardening is popular, and when applicable we maintain a waitlist of potential new garden plot renters.

- a) New gardeners may enter the waitlist by completing the Community Gardens Garden Plot Agreement found online at genevaparks.org, or calling by 630-232-4542, when applicable. Turn in the completed agreement at the Sunset Community Center.
- b) Names remain on the waitlist from year to year, if no plot is offered.
- c) If the offered plot is refused, the person may re-enter at the end of the waitlist.
- d) Renters whose plots are reclaimed or not renewed may re-enter at the end of the waitlist.
- e) Returning gardeners will be offered the same plot for next year.

How will we be notified of our plot number? Registration for returning gardeners will open on December 10, 2019, to guarantee the same plot. New gardeners will be assigned plots beginning on February 3, 2020.

How does the Garden receive water?

Water taps are located throughout the property. **Hoses are not allowed.** You will need to bring your own water carrying equipment. You will need to manually carry water to your plot.

Are the gardens organic?

There are plots that have been designated organic. The use of pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides are not permitted.

What about people who have never gardened before?

The most important thing is to ask for help and suggestions from your fellow gardeners. Experienced gardeners are usually quite glad to share their knowledge and skills with gardening novices. Also, check out the public library for hundreds of books on how to garden.

How much time does it take?

Gardening is fun, but it's also hard work. You have to weed, harvest, and maintain your plot. If you are going to be out of town for an extended period, you'll have to arrange for someone to tend your plot. Gardening also demands more time at different points in the season than others. ***If you don't think you can tend to your plot twice a week, consider sharing with someone else.***

Once I have a plot, what do I have to do?

Be a good neighbor by following the rules and maintaining your plot. Enjoy the garden and the community of gardeners!

What about theft?

Gardeners may experience some theft or vandalism. Research has shown that theft diminishes with posted signs and outreach to residents explaining the Community Gardens and encouraging them to get plots.

Are the gardens tilled?

The garden will be tilled in the fall at the end of the season, as close to October 31 as possible. A tilling will be done in the spring before the gardens open the third week of April, if the weather cooperates.

How can I mark the boundaries of my garden?

Gardeners should maintain a plot to its boundaries. It is suggested that you mark the boundary with string. This makes the boundary visible to the people mowing. You may also use fencing.

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