

Community Garden Guidelines and Agreement

Definitions

- *Unkempt*: This can be, but is not limited to, weeds taking over my plot or pathways, debris not removed from my plot, rotting produce, etc.
- *Weeds*: This is defined as anything that is not purposely planted by a gardener and that is not a vegetable, fruit, flower or decorative plant. Examples of weeds are any type of grass (not purpose planted), dandelions, plantain, crabgrass, thistle, water grass, etc.
- *Organic*: Materials derived from a 100 percent all-natural source. Does not contain synthetic chemicals. (Resources: Iowa State University horticulture hotline, 515-294-3108 or www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews)

Individual Plot Care

- I will have weeded and tended to pathways by May 1st, 2011.
- I will have my plot(s) planted by May 20, 2011.
- I will have a mulched (newspaper and wood chips) one foot pathway around the outside perimeter of the plot
- I am responsible for my plot, unless it is reassigned.
- I understand that after receiving a notice I have one week to tidy my plot or it will be reassigned.
- I will notify the Coordinators if I am unable to harvest or care for my plot.
- I understand this is an organic garden.
- I will not use chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, or fungicides in my plot(s).
- I will conserve water and reduce weeds by mulching with leaves, grass clippings, straw or hay.
- I will not obstruct walkways with fencing, vining crops, or an unreeled hose.
- I will not shade neighboring plots.
- I will harvest my plot and only my plot unless asked by another gardener for help.
- I will keep trash and litter picked up in my plot and adjacent areas.
- I will not take garden materials (compost, manure, and woodchips) home for my personal use or use in excess.
- I will not use tools that are clearly marked with a name without getting the consent of that gardener.
- I will place all dead plant debris into the compost bins.
- I will help keep the garden site looking respectable.
- I will not reposition or move numbered stakes in plot(s).
- I will have my plot prepared for winter one week after the first hard frost.

Garden and Common Area Care

- Tools: I will return community wheelbarrows and tools to the proper area and turn them upside down to prevent water from pooling. Any tools that I do not wish to be used by the community need to be marked with my name and kept in my plot. The city is not responsible for any lost or missing tools.
- I agree to volunteer time for general maintenance and/or community work days to keep the garden site looking good. **2011 work days for your assigned garden will be sent to you by staff.**

Community Principles

- Pets must be kept on a leash and should be kept out of the garden area. (City Ordinance)
- Children are welcome. They should be supervised and should stay on pathways.
- Treat other gardeners and the Coordinators with respect. Use appropriate language.
- Help discourage vandalism and promote a sense of community by speaking to anyone you encounter in the garden area.
- Please notify the Coordinators if there are problems with vandalism or inappropriate behavior, you are unable to tend your plot, or you have questions or concerns.

General Items

- If I am away for an extended period of time, I will make arrangements with someone to care for my plot.
- I will notify the Coordinator immediately if I wish to withdraw from the garden. If I withdraw and wish to reinstate, I will not get the same plot. I will be placed on a waiting list and be assigned a plot on a first come/first served basis.
- I will use all garden materials (compost, manure and woodchips) in a manner that is not excessive. This is to make sure that all gardeners have fair access to the materials.
- Individual fencing is allowed.
- There is a one plot limit for first time plot caretakers and a two plot limit per household.
- Multiple plots are required to maintain pathways between adjoining plots.
- Approx. size of plots: 10' x 15'
- Individual gardeners are responsible for tilling their plot(s).
- Plots are non-transferable.

Community Garden Locations:

Franklin Field - 55th & Franklin, just west of the Franklin Avenue Library

Woodlawn Community Garden - 3126 Twana Drive

Downtown Community Garden – SE6th and Scott

Ashfield Community Garden – 1850 Hubbell Avenue

Please keep this page for your reference for expectations of gardeners.

For questions contact:

Candy Drost

cldrost@dmgov.org

515/208-0220

Please return this page.

Community Garden Agreement and Gardener Information

What abilities do you feel you could contribute to the garden?
(i.e Woodworking, Master Gardener, Experience in Organics, Writing, Photos, etc)

If interested in volunteering, please circle which one(s):

Community bulletin board Plot checker Work day coordinator

Social events: seed swap, gardening classes, other _____

Compost/woodchip piles

Veteran Gardener contact (we'll pair you with a new gardener to help them with their questions)

Multi-plot users: Are you willing to give up a plot so a new gardener can join? Which one?

Requesting a plot in one of the following community gardens:

Franklin Downtown Woodlawn Ashfield

By signing the attached agreement, I will hold harmless the City of Des Moines for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or any of my guests.

I hereby state that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions while being a plot holder at a city community garden.

Name : _____

Signature : _____

Date : _____

Address : _____

Zip : _____

Phone: _____ Email : _____

Contracts due by February 15th of each year.

Return this page to:
Des Moines Park and Recreation Department
600 East Court, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50309