



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
Parks and Recreation

## Community Gardener 101

Listed below are basic gardener responsibilities\*, helpful hints, and gardener etiquette to enhance your experience as a community gardener. Following these practices keeps the community gardens looking good and functioning well.

\* *The agreement you sign when you rent your plot details the complete terms of the agreement between the Community Gardening Program (CGP) and you, the gardener. Please be aware that you are responsible for adhering to all the agreement guidelines. The complete agreement can be found by visiting [www.bloomington.in.gov/community-gardening](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/community-gardening).*

- **Please read the *Garden News* (e-newsletter).** It contains crucial seasonal information for gardeners and will improve your community gardening experience. This newsletter is generally sent out the first week of each month, and more often if necessary. If you are not receiving garden news in your email, check your spam folder or contact CGP staff.
- **Close the gates upon entering and exiting - every time.** The fence only keeps critters out if the gates are closed. We do our best to keep the fences secure, but we cannot guarantee that critters won't find their way in. Please notify us if you see animal entry areas or wildlife nesting sites.
- **Respect your plot boundaries.** Place your plants, seeds, and hardscaping so that when plants are full-sized they remain within the boundaries of your plot. Prune any plants that exceed your plot's boundaries.
- **Be a good neighbor.** Don't place tall plantings where they will shade neighboring plots.
- **Keep your plot and surrounding paths weeded.** All the time, all season long. Wood chips are provided (in the parking area) for the paths only - do not place them in your plot.
- **Please respond to emails from garden staff** in a timely manner.
- **Dispose of your plant waste (weeds and other plant material) in the designated compost bins or remove it from the site.** Do not throw plant matter in the pathways or grass.
- **Remove all trash from the gardens** every time you visit the garden.
- **Be kind, rewind the hose neatly when you are done with it.** Hose hangers are provided at hose spigots. Please be sure not to drag the hose through another plot or leave it in a tangle.
- **Going on vacation?** Find a garden sitter; you are still responsible for your plot even when you're away.
- **Keep your pets at home.** Pets are prohibited from entering the garden.
- **Children must be supervised at all times.**
- **Do not harvest items from someone else's plot without permission,** even if you think the plot is neglected or abandoned.
- **The CGP depends on volunteers.** If you are interested in volunteering, there are many ways to help. Contact the CGP staff for details.
- **Communal tools are available for gardener use.** Check the schedule posted on the gate or shed.
- **Classes and events** are scheduled for your enjoyment. Let us know if there's something you'd like to learn about or experience in the gardens.
- **Gardening advice is available from CGP staff.** Just ask! It is our goal to promote your best success as a gardener. Get in touch with us here:

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