

Plot #: _____

Size: _____

Price: _____

Town of Normal Organic Community Gardens - 2021

The Town of Normal has (2) community garden sites available for **organic** gardening. The community gardens are located at **Ironwood Park, 1900 N. Linden** and at **One Normal Plaza (Community Activity Center), 1110 Douglas**. The garden plots are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Plots are limited to one per family.

Each organic community garden site has plots available in a variety of sizes: 10' x 10', 10' x 20' and 20' x 20'. The plots are not measured out to the exact size and may vary slightly from plot to plot. Each garden has water on site and nearby parking. The Town will prepare all plots prior to the start of the gardening season and participants may begin gardening in their assigned plots on **April 10**. Garden participants are responsible for any additional soil preparations. **All soil amendments and plant applications must meet organic standards. Synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides are strictly prohibited. Synthetic "mulching" materials such as rubber pellets are strictly prohibited.** All plots must be cleared out by November 1, including all fencing, cages and other gardening items.

Rules and Regulations

1. The area shall be used only as a personal garden in compliance with all the rules and regulations established by the Town of Normal. Rules may be subject to change from time to time.
2. The Community Garden participants shall maintain the property in a clean and neat manner, keeping their own plots as weed free as possible. Participants will not cause damage or waste in the area and will not do or bring into the area anything that in any way is in violation of the law, ordinances, rules, regulations, or use of the area in any way that will cause damage or disturb others.
3. All garden plots must meet organic standards. **The use of chemical pesticides (including fungicides, herbicides/weed killers, or insecticides) is prohibited.** Only natural organic practices and organic fertilizers may be used.
4. Participants will keep all personal belongings (i.e. hoses, trellises, tools) on their plots. Materials outside the plots impede mowing and may be removed and discarded by Town staff.
5. Participants are responsible for providing watering attachments and hoses. Participants must turn off water spigots when done using them. The distance to each plot from the water source could require a longer hose. The Town does provide one hose length. Watering can be accomplished with hand-held hoses or with buckets. NO sprinklers or automatic watering devices will be allowed.
6. Participants may begin to set up and maintain their garden on or around **April 10**. All participants will be notified in the event of poor weather delaying the opening of the gardens and shall be given a revised date to begin gardening.
7. At the end of the gardening season, all plots must be free of dead plants, produce remains and all structures and items such as fencing and cages. This must be completed by **November 1**.
8. **Participants must maintain their plots as weed free as possible. Weeding is probably the most demanding task of gardening and every season this is the number one complaint from participants. If a garden plot has excessive weeds and/or is unkept in any other manner, the participant will be issued a warning notice by Town of Normal staff. The plot will be mowed or cleared by Town staff if the issue is not addressed in a timely manner by the participant. The plot will then be taken back by the Town and offered to another participant.**
9. **Participants are required to maintain their plots for the entire season (April 10 – November 1) regardless of when they start and finish gardening. Thus, if a participant is finished gardening by mid-September, they must continue to maintain the plot until November 1. Or in the alternative, if a participant does not plan to start gardening until mid- or late May, the plot must still be maintained prior to the start of gardening.**
10. Participants shall have the right of ingress to and from their garden plot. Pathways must be kept clean and weed-free at and around each plot.

11. Illegal or poisonous plants will not be allowed in the Community Garden.
12. No unleashed pets shall be allowed in the Community Garden.
13. All vehicles will park in the designated parking areas. Vehicles are NOT permitted on the grass.
14. The use of tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars, pipes and chewing tobacco is prohibited in the garden area due to the potential spread of the mosaic virus disease common to tobacco.
15. Participants agree to hold harmless the Town of Normal for any and all liability which may be attributed to the participant, or an authorized third party, as a result of renting a garden plot.
16. If the participant causes any damage or waste to the area, or any part of the license, or rules and regulations are broken, the Town of Normal may terminate the license, re-enter and re-possess the plot. If this happens the participant in violation may enter and harvest any crops they have planted within 5 days after receiving the notice of termination.
17. The Town of Normal will not be held responsible for any damage done to participant's plot and/or crops due to natural causes, vandalism, and crop stealing.
18. The Town will not refund any garden rental fees. All sales are final.

Questions?

For questions pertaining to the community garden program (rules, regulations, etc.), please contact Gene Kotlinski, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation at 454-9724 or at gkotlinski@normal.org.

For technical questions about gardening, please contact the Master Gardeners (University of Illinois Extension Service) at 309-663-8306 or at mclean_mg@extension.uiuc.edu or visit their website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lmw/mcleanmg/> for more information. The website also includes an informative blog.