



January 13, 2023

2022 Garden Plot Renters,

This Bloomington Community Gardens Return Renter Packet contains the *Bloomington Community Gardens Rental Agreement* and the *2023 Return Renter Community Garden Plot Application*. If you are interested in renting a garden plot in 2023 please review both of these documents. **This year, rentals can be processed online beginning at 9:00 a.m., January 18, 2023.** If you would like to use a paper application, email your completed application (page 4), including signature and payment (**\$44.00** per plot for Bloomington residents, **\$56.00** per plot for non-residents), to Parks and Recreation at parksrec@bloomingtonmn.gov (subject: garden plots). You may also bring your completed application and registration fee into the Parks and Recreation office from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applications can also be mailed with payment to the address at the bottom of this page, labeled "attention gardens."

Online rentals are instantaneous. Paper applications will be processed as soon as possible after receipt. As a return renter **you will have priority to rent your 2022 plot if your application is received by 4:30 p.m. on February 10, 2023.** Online rentals may be done up to 11:59 p.m. February 10. All return renters will initially be returned into their 2022 plots. **If you hope to change plots or sites you must indicate your change preference on your return renter application or while processing your online rental. Renters requesting a change should submit their application as soon as possible and changes will be reviewed in the order they are received.**

Beginning February 10, applications will be reviewed from return renters who indicated on their application that they would like to move to a different plot or different site. Changes will be processed as availability permits. Transfers will be processed in the order received for all online and paper rentals received by 4:30 p.m. February 10, 2023. Requests for additional plots must be made on a new application (or online rental) when the rental process opens to new renters on March 6, 2023.

Receipts will be emailed immediately after the online or in office rental is processed. Permits (decals/stickers) will not be mailed until one to two weeks prior to the opening of the garden season. The permits must be in place on your plot marking sign prior to working in your plot.

If you miss the February 10 return renter priority deadline you must wait to apply as a new renter (online beginning the morning of March 6, 2023 or by submitting a paper application as soon as they become available that same day).

In 2023 the Bloomington Community Garden season will be April 21 – October 22, weather dependent! Remember there is June 1st deadline to have your garden planted!

Sincerely,

Mark Morrison
952-563-8693
mmorrison@bloomingtonmn.gov



BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY GARDENS RENTAL AGREEMENT

THE CITY AGREES TO:

1. Till the garden plots prior to season opening.
2. Stake out each plot and identify all plots by number.
3. Make water accessible to gardeners. (Note: hoses are not available and may not be used.)
4. Mow grass around plots and water source.
5. Refund rental fee (less a \$10 administrative fee) if requested in writing on or before April 15, 2023.

I, THE COMMUNITY GARDENER, AGREE TO:

1. Supply my own seeds, organic fertilizer, water containers and tools for proper preparation and cultivation of crops.
2. Plant my garden no later than June 1, 2023.
3. Be a good gardening neighbor:
 - Limit activity by me and my family or guests to my personal plot(s) only.
 - Park only in approved parking areas (at the Smith Garden site parking is not allowed on the west side of Park Avenue).
 - Harvest produce from my garden plot only.
 - Help keep the area clean; properly use waste, recycling and compost bins provided on site.
 - Ensure that access to water spigots is available to all and will not impede access to them.
4. Keep garden pests (weeds, insects and diseases) under control. Weeds are considered to be out of control if they are taller than 6 inches, flowering or going to seed.
5. Use only 100% organic fertilizers to amend the soils of your plot. Commercial chemical pesticides and fertilizers not certified organic for gardening may not be used; this includes insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. Some organic materials to use might include pheromone traps, horticulture oils, insecticidal soaps and hot pepper sprays. Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, straw and hay are encouraged. Newspaper may be used as mulch but must be removed from plots at the end of the season. **Use of commercial chemical pesticides and fertilizers not certified organic for gardening is grounds for immediate forfeiture of your plot, no refund will be given.** (The City does not guarantee the fertility of the soil or that soil is chemical free from previous users, nor does it recommend amending the soil at the end of the season as gardeners may not be assigned the same plot in future years.)
6. Keep my fence, plants and produce within the boundaries of my rented plots (10'x15' ground level or 4'x15' raised bed plot). I understand that should my fence, plants or produce extend beyond my designated plot boundaries they may be removed, mowed over or plowed up. (Fencing placed within plots but that leans out beyond plot boundaries is not allowed.)
7. Remove all manmade materials (including weed blocking material) but leave all plant materials in my plot no later than October 22, 2023. **All manmade materials must be removed from the site, they cannot be left on City property.** If *any* weed blocking materials (plastic, fabric, newspaper, etc.) or other manmade materials remain in my plot after October 22 I, the gardener, may be required to pay a penalty of up to \$50.00 and/or be prohibited from renting a garden plot with the City of Bloomington in the future.

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The community gardener shall keep his/her garden plot(s) cultivated and shall abide by the following restrictions:

- a. No structure, other than protective fencing, shall be built on the premises. Individual gardens may be fenced with chicken wire no more than 6 feet in height to protect crops from animals. Only brown, green, gray or black fencing may be used. No portion of fencing may extend outside of the 10'x15' plot boundaries (these boundaries will be designated by plot markers and wooden stakes. These markers and stakes should remain in place throughout the gardening season.
- b. Garden tools may not be left unattended
- c. No tall growing trees shall be planted..
- d. No temporary fixtures, portable equipment, or materials shall be placed on the premises which may tend to create a nuisance.
- e. No automobiles, trucks or trailers shall be parked on the premises, except in the designated parking lot or on the street.
- f. No use of the premises shall be made which tends to induce third persons to drive or trespass upon land adjacent to garden plots, or which give rise to bona fide objections to such use from residents in the area.

Failure to abide by the terms of this agreement may result in revocation of plot rental and/or be prohibited from renting a garden plot with the City in the future.

The community gardener agrees to assume all liability and to indemnify and compensate the City and/or Xcel Energy and/or Bloomington Covenant Church for any injury or damage to persons or property including Xcel Energy or Bloomington Covenant Church property or employees occasioned by or arising in connection with the use of the premises by the community gardener. The community gardener further agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, Xcel Energy and Bloomington Covenant Church against all actions, claims, damages or demands which may be brought or made either against the City, Xcel Energy or Bloomington Covenant Church in the premises by reason of anything done by the community gardener, in the exercise or purported exercise of the rights and privileges herein granted.

In case of termination of the lease agreement between the City of Bloomington and Xcel Energy or Bloomington Covenant Church, the City shall immediately notify gardeners of the termination and any displaced renters would have first rights to available plots at the other sites. The community gardener shall have 15 days to clean up his/her garden plot.

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, BLOOMINGTON COVENANT CHURCH AND XCEL ENERGY ASSUME NO LIABILITY FOR ACCIDENTS OR INJURY TO PARTICIPANTS OR OTHERS EITHER ON OR ADJACENT TO THE GARDEN AREA. NEITHER DOES THE CITY, BLOOMINGTON COVENANT CHURCH OR XCEL ENERGY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTS OF VANDALISM OR LOSS OF CROPS DUE TO THEFT.

I agree to abide by these conditions set forth for the Community Gardener.

Applicant's signature on the Garden Plot Application acknowledges receipt and agreement to abide by the conditions contained within this Community Gardens Rental Agreement.



For office use only:

Date received _____
Res / Non - res _____
Plot # (s) assigned _____

BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY GARDENS
2023 Plot Application for Return Renters

Applicant Information: Last year I rented ____ (# of) plots at [] Smith [] Harrison [] Brookside
Last Name* _____ First Name* _____
Street Address* _____ Apt# _____ City* _____ Zip* _____
Primary phone number* _____ Alternate phone number _____
Home/cell/work (circle one) Home/cell/work (circle one)
Email address _____
Not required but supplying e-mail information will provide you with important updates - i.e. information on rental information for 2023
[] Yes [] No I allow Park & Rec to share my e-mail address with other community gardeners.

Plot Preference:
If you are a returning renter, you only have priority for the same plot(s)/site you gardened in 2022. No guarantee is made regarding availability to transfer. Only 3 plots total per household may be rented at this time.
[] I request my 2022 plot(s) - No further plot information needed in this section, go to signature line.
[] I request a change in garden plot(s) for 2023. (2022 plots will be assigned initially. Transfers will be processed based on availability, beginning February 10, 2023)
- I would like to garden at: [] Brookside [] Harrison [] Smith (circle one - or rank "1st," "2nd," "3rd")
- I would like ____ plots (total number of plots). Only the same number of plots or fewer than your 2021 rental may be applied for at this time with a limit of 3 total plots per household.
- When processing my change request, please keep in mind that I prefer plots (list preference in plot location such as closest to my 2022 plot(s), plot(s) in the east/west/center row, plot(s) closest to a water source, all plot(s) adjoining, a raised bed*, etc.)

- If availability prevents me from changing garden plots I would like to:
[] remain at my 2022 site [] cancel my 2023 rental knowing a \$10 cancellation fee per plot applies
* Raised bed requires additional qualification paperwork. Please contact Parks & Recreation.

I have read and agree to abide by the Community Gardens Rental Agreement

Applicant Signature*

Date (valid on or before Feb 10, 2023)

Payment: Enclose \$44.00 per plot for Bloomington residents, \$56.00 per plot for non-residents
[] Check (to City of Bloomington) [] Cash [] Credit Card (VISA, MC, Discover, American Express)
Name on credit card _____ Amount to be charged _____
Signature _____ Expiration Date: _____
Credit card number _____ CSV code: _____

* required information