

March 1, 2023

Hello 2023 Gardeners!

Along with this letter, the Bloomington Community Gardens Application Packet contains the *Bloomington Community Gardens Rental Agreement* and a *2023 Plot Application*. Please review both the rental agreement and application. If you are interested in renting a garden plot at **Smith Community Garden** (on the east side of Park Ave. S. between 82nd and 83rd Streets), **Harrison Community Garden** (1701 W 100th Street) or **Brookside Community Garden** (west of Xerxes, just north of 102nd Street), we strongly suggest that you consider processing your rental [online](#).

If you do not choose to use the online system, completed applications (page 4 of this packet) may be scanned and submitted by email and it will be processed within 2 business days. If you choose to mail your rental application, please return your completed application, including signature and payment, to Parks and Recreation (attention: garden plots) at the address shown on the bottom of the page. You may also bring your completed application and payment to the Parks and Recreation desk anytime between the hours of 9 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Please check the community garden page of Bloomington's website (BLM.MN/gardens) prior to submitting your application. We will update the web page as soon as possible as garden sites fill. If the site you desire is full and you wish to be added to the waitlist, email parksrec@bloomingtonmn.gov using the **subject: "Garden Waitlist"** with your choice of site and best phone number to reach you. If you are using a paper application, please indicate that you want to be added to the waiting list in the appropriate spot on the application form. If the full site is the only site you are interested in you may submit an application without payment. If you have a second garden site choice with an open plot please indicate your first and second site preference and that you would accept the second choice but would like to be on a waitlist for your first choice. We will assign you a plot in your second choice garden and contact you should a plot open up at your waitlisted site.

Receipts will be emailed out immediately after processing. **Permits (decals/stickers) will not be mailed until 7-10 days prior to the gardens opening.** The Bloomington Community Garden season for this year will be **April 21 – October 22, 2023**, weather dependent! June 1st is the deadline for garden plots to be planted. If you are unable to plant your garden by this date, please contact me or your plot may be tilled and/or rented to another gardener.

Thank you for your interest in Bloomington Parks and Recreation. If you have any questions regarding our Community Gardens, please feel free to contact Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

Sincerely,

Mark Morrison
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 10' x15' 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 to a distance of no more than 6 inches from plot borders.
5. Refund rental fee (less a \$10 administrative fee) if requested in writing on or before **April 14, 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 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 greater than 6 inches in height, flowering or going to seed.**
5. Use only 100% organic fertilizers to amend the soils of my plot. Commercial chemical pesticides and fertilizers not certified organic for gardening are not to 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. 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 all weed blocking materials) 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* of my weed blocking materials (plastic, fabric, newspaper, etc.) or other manmade materials remain in my plot or at the garden site after this date 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 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 thereon and any tall plants should be planted in an area where they will not shade neighboring plots.
- 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 _____
Time received _____
Plot # (s) assigned _____

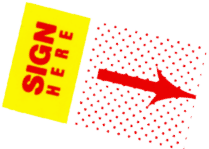
2023 BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT APPLICATION

Applicant Information:

Last Name* _____ First Name* _____
Street Address* _____ Apt# _____ City* _____ Zip Code* _____
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. delay of spring tilling due to weather
 Yes No I allow Park & Rec to share my e-mail address with other community gardeners.

Plot Preference:

- I would like _____ plots (total number of plots) - limit of 3 per household*
- I **site** would like to garden at (rank 1st, 2nd, 3rd)*:
_____ Brookside Community Garden (west of Xerxes, just north of 102nd Street)
_____ Harrison Community Garden (1701 W 100th Street)
_____ Smith Community Garden (east of Park Ave S between 82nd and 83rd Streets)
- When processing my request, please keep in mind that I prefer (please rank preference)
_____ plot(s) closest to the water source _____ plot(s) in the east/west/center row (circle one)
_____ all of my plot(s) be adjoining _____ a plot at the end of the row
_____ a raised bed (At Harrison Community Garden - For use by those with limited mobility. Additional paperwork required)
_____ other (please explain) _____
- If my **site** preference(s) is unavailable:
_____ Allow me to rent at another site and add me to the waiting list at my preferred site(s). I understand that an opening is not guaranteed and that I will be responsible for cancellation fees should I change my mind about the plots that are rented to me at this time.
_____ Add me to the waiting list for my desired garden site(s). Do not assign me a plot other than those indicated above. I understand that an opening at my desired site is not guaranteed.



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

Applicant Signature*

Date*

Payment: Enclose **\$44.00** per plot (Bloomington residents) **\$56.00** per plot (non-resident)

- My household has been approved for 2023 fee assistance (staff will verify when processing application)
 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