



Vernon Hills Park District Community Garden



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is a community garden?

A. A community garden is a parcel of land, subdivided into smaller plots that are open to local residents who wish to grow their own fruits and vegetables. Residents pay an annual rental fee, purchase their own seeds and plants, and do their own planting, weeding, watering and harvesting.

Q. Why have community gardens become so popular?

A. Economics, health and the incomparable taste of fresh vegetables are the main reasons. As economic times get tough, people get creative about stretching their family food budget, and as they become increasingly aware of the benefits of eating fresh fruits and veggies for health and well-being, they become more motivated to try growing their own. With a small start-up budget and a little sweat equity, you can reap a pretty good reward. Plus, community gardening is a great way to meet people, relief stress and enjoy the outdoors with family.

Q. Where is the Vernon Hills Park District community garden located?

A. The community garden is located in Century Park, north of the boat dock shelter on Lakeview Parkway. The address of the park is 1001 Lakeview Parkway in Vernon Hills. The garden is located just north of the parking lot in the open area east of Big Bear Lake.

Q. How much does it cost to reserve a plot?

A. The annual fee is \$35 to reserve a 15' x 15' plot. Fee is due at the time of registration.

Q. I am not a resident of Vernon Hills. Can I still rent a garden plot?

A. Our reservation system will be open to residents-only from March 1 to March 31. Beginning April 1, non-residents can reserve any remaining garden plots.

Q. When can I start planting my garden?

A. The Park District will till the garden in early May, and planting will be able to begin by mid-May. Renters will be notified when the garden will be available to begin planting. All plants must be removed by October 23. Any material remaining will be discarded after this date. Please remove all stakes, poles, and other items.

Q. Will there be water available at the community garden?

A. The Park District will supply two tanks of water that can be used to water your plants. There will not be any watering containers available, so you will need to bring your own.

Q. Can I use any herbicides or pesticides in my garden plot?

A. No. The use of chemical additives in your garden plot is prohibited. You can use mulch or grass clippings to minimize the growth of weeds. Weeds should be manually removed and placed in the compost area located near the garden.

Q. Can I install a fence around my garden plot?

A. No. The Park District will install fencing around the perimeter of the garden. The use of any kind of fencing is prohibited and will be removed from the garden.

Q. What are the most popular vegetables to grow?

A. In late May or early June, warm season crops (tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash and beans) can be planted and will begin yielding fresh, edible produce in six to 10 weeks, depending on the variety. Cooler-weather vegetables, which can be planted in late summer and enjoyed in the fall, include leaf lettuce, spinach, broccoli and peas. When purchasing plants or seeds, check with your local nursery or garden shop to help decide which variety of vegetable meets your needs.

Q. What are the steps in reserving a VHPD community garden plot?

A. Download the garden plot application packet at www.vhparkdistrict.org. You can drop off the completed application along with payment to the Sullivan Community Center (635 Aspen Dr.). If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Marty Walsh at (847) 996-6935 or martyw@vhparkdistrict.org.