



## Fishers Parks & Recreation Community Gardening Program 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 contract signed when you rent your plot details the complete terms of the agreement between the Fishers Parks & Recreation Community Gardening Program (CGP) and you, the gardener. Please be aware that you are responsible for adhering to all the contractual guidelines. The complete contract can be found by visiting [www.playfishers.com/CPG](http://www.playfishers.com/CPG), or the Fishers Parks & Recreation office.*

- **Gardens open mid-April (conditions permitting).** Do not begin gardening plots before this date as preparations may not be complete prior to this date.
- The community garden is open through October 31st, seven days a week from dawn to dusk
- Each gardener is responsible for maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot.
- **Respect your plot boundaries**, marked with a stake in each corner. Place your plants, seeds, and hardscaping so that when plants are full-sized they remain within the boundaries of your plot.
- Pets are not allowed at any garden sites due to food safety concerns and as a courtesy to other gardeners.
- Children are welcome in the garden, but must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.
- **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.
- **Dispose of your plant waste (weeds and other plant material).** Do not throw plant matter in the pathways or grass.
- **Remove all trash from the gardens.**
- **Going on vacation?** Find a garden sitter; you are still responsible for your plot even when you're away.
- **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.
- At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant material and leaving the plot as they found it in the spring
- Plots must be cleared of all plant materials, decorations, cages, etc. by October 31st at the end of the regular season. You must also turn the soil and cover the plot with oats to create a cover crop.
- **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 the contact below:

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