

# Mar-Duke Farm Garden Plots

## 2024 Agreement & Code of Conduct



1. I will comply with all federal, state and local laws, and all Park District and Village ordinances.
2. I will have my garden plot planted by June 1 or forfeit the plot.
3. I am the gardener that will use the plot. I understand I may not transfer or sublet my plot. Payment, planting, maintenance, cleanup and other duties at the plot are my responsibility.
4. I understand all plots are rented in their existing condition.
5. I understand Mar-Duke Farm is a public park and the public cannot be banned from this area.
6. I understand garden plots are temporary fixtures. The Park District reserves the right to relocate, add or remove plots as needs change.
7. I understand the Park District assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to personal property. The Park District is not responsible for replacement or reimbursement for any lost seeds, plants, produce, tools or any other item that you bring to the garden plot due to theft, vandalism, weather or any other reason.
8. I understand if I observe illegal activity, such as theft, alcohol use or vandalism I should contact the Downers Grove Police Department.
9. I understand the food I grow on my garden plot is for personal consumption and not for commercial purposes.
10. I will wear proper attire at all times, including a shirt and shoes.
11. I will keep my car on the road, parked properly according to posted signage. I will not park or drive in the plots, grass or any other area except the road.
12. I will remove all debris, plant supports, trellises, etc. prior to October 31 or pay a \$150 fine for clean-up.
13. I will not expand my plot beyond its boundaries into the paths or other plots.
14. I will not plant perennials, trees or shrubs.
15. I understand that personal property, including tools and clothing, should not be left at the Farm for safety and aesthetic reasons, and the Park District is not responsible for theft of personal items.
16. I will keep my plot free of weeds, rotting produce, trash and other debris. Should my garden become unkempt, I will be notified by the Downers Grove Park District and given 7 days to weed and clean my plot. If I do not maintain my plot within the 7-day grace period, I understand it will be forfeited and no refund will be issued.
17. I understand that weeds must be removed in a timely manner to prevent unsightliness and the propagation of weed seeds into neighboring plots.
18. I will keep my plot, paths and surroundings clean and neat. I will put compost, recyclables and trash in designated areas. I will practice good safety habits for myself and fellow gardeners by keeping paths clear of tools and debris.
19. I will not bring household trash or landscape waste and leave it at the Farm. It is illegal to dump on public property.
20. I agree to remove excess lumber, fencing, plant supports, bags and other materials not being used and store them elsewhere for safety and aesthetic reasons.
21. Materials and supplies may not be stored at Mar-Duke Farm or adjacent properties.
22. I understand I may use trellis structures and plant supports as long as they do not present a safety hazard or shade another gardener's plot.
23. When planting near the boundaries of my plot, I will leave adequate space for growth so mature plants do not grow into the pathway or neighboring plots. Plants that protrude beyond the plant boundaries into the pathways or other plots will be trimmed by the Park District.

24. I will be respectful and keep tall crops and structures from shading my neighbor's plots.
25. I agree to carry water from water hydrants to my plot in my own containers, and understand that hoses are not allowed.
26. I understand that standing water presents a health hazard as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. I will empty all water containers and store upside down when not in use.
27. I will consider employing the use of mulch to conserve water and prevent unwanted weeds from growing.
28. I understand that water is a precious and limited natural resource and I will practice good water conservation methods and follow Village water restrictions.
29. I will report all hydrant leaks to the Park District.
30. In the spirit of community and cooperation, I will treat the garden, other gardeners, neighbors and visitors with respect and consideration. Violation of this rule will result in expulsion from the garden.
31. I will not enter other gardener's plots, and I will not remove plants, vegetables, tools, or any other item that does not belong to me.
32. I will not move soil, dig channels, create berms or otherwise change the landscape beyond the boundaries of my plot. I will not make any permanent changes to the garden.
33. I will not damage or destroy any property at Mar-Duke Farm.
34. I understand that if my gardening practices negatively affect a fellow gardener, I may be requested to alter the practices by the Park District.
35. I understand that the Park District reserves the right to remove objectionable items from garden plots.
36. I will wear headphones if I wish to listen to music.
37. I will not use profane or abusive language, physically harass or discriminate against others.
38. I will communicate respectfully with neighboring gardeners to work out issues with borders, weeds and other concerns.
39. I will fully supervise my children and prevent them from wandering into other gardener's plots.

## **REFUND POLICY**

- Plots returned before or on May 8 will receive a refund less a \$5 service fee
- Plots returned on or after May 9 through May 31 will receive a refund less a \$5 service charge and a \$5 Late Cancellation fee
- No refunds for Plots returned or forfeited on or after June 1.