



GARDEN PLOT FAQs

The FAQ is created to assist park district gardeners in creating and maintaining a clean, healthy, and beautiful community garden

I'm not a garden plot gardener. May I pick/collect produce or seeds during the growing season or after the garden plots close for the season?

- No, during the growing season only garden plot gardeners, who have rented and paid for a plot, may pick/collect their own produce and seeds. Violators will be penalized.

How much does it cost to rent a garden plot?

- Currently, each 15' X 15' garden plot costs \$20.
- In addition, a fee of \$20 deposit will be charged at the time of registration. This deposit will be refunded after the plots close for the season if all rules are followed, if the water key is returned on time, and if the plot is properly cleared by the clearing deadline.
- Garden plot fees may change from year to year.

If I change my mind, can I get a refund for my garden plot?

- The gardening season is May 1 thru October 31 each year. No refunds for garden plots will be issued on or after May 1.

How many garden plots are available?

- 12 plots, 15 feet X 15 feet each plot
- Additional plots will be added based on demand each year.
- No new garden plots will be created or added after May 1 of each growing season.

When can I register for a garden plot?

- In its first year, LOPD Gardens will open registration in mid-April.
- In subsequent years, Priority Registration, which is for the previous year's gardeners, in good standing, begins in late February. Priority Gardeners registration date will be listed in the park district's Winter/Spring program brochure.
- Open Registration for all Lansing residents begins in mid-March.
 - See the our Winter/Spring program brochure for the registration dates.

What if I miss Priority Registration?

- If you miss Priority Registration you will wait until Open Registration begins in March to rent a plot. We do not "hold" plots for Priority Registration gardeners.

Where do I register and pay for a garden plot?

- At Lan-Oak Park District, 2550 178th Street, Lansing, Illinois 60438.

Can I register online?

- Currently, we only offer in-person registration.

Can I register for two plots?

- Yes, but no more than two plots per person.
- There is no guarantee that two plots next to each other will be provided.

Do you offer a senior discount?

- Yes, for ages 62 & up a \$5 discount from the stated rental fee will apply.

Are there any forms I need to sign?

- Yes, two forms are required. A Registration/Waiver form and a Garden Plot Agreement form

Can I register my spouse, partner, mother, father, or child?

- If they live in the same household, yes. Only one email address will be assigned to the plot and that address will receive all notices.
- Senior discount will only apply to seniors that register in person with an ID proving age.

Is there a place where all the garden plot rules are listed?

- Yes, within the LOPD Gardens Agreement which will be provided at the time of registration and on our website at lanoakparkdistrict.org.

How long is the gardening season?

- The season depends on when the garden plots can open in the spring. The opening date typically occurs in mid-April, but soil and weather conditions dictate when the park district can prepare the plots for the season.
- The planting season starts on May 1 (dependent upon weather and soil conditions)
- The closing day is October 31.

When can I garden?

- Except for dates when the garden plots are closed or have limited access, you may garden in your plot, seven days a week, between sunrise and dusk.

How do I find out when the garden plots are open for the season?

- All updated information regarding the garden plots will be communicated through email message to plot holders and on the park district website and Facebook.

How do I know which plot is mine?

- Each plot is identified by a wooden stake in the corner of the plot. These stakes have the plot number/letter on them. A flag is placed at the corner of each plot.

How do I water my garden plot?

- Water is available onsite. A key will be issued to each plot holder that will allow access to the water source. Hoses and automated sprinklers are not allowed. Water must be transported to the garden plot in another way.

How long do I have to plant my plot?

- All plots must be planted by June 15. Garden coordinators may reassign unplanted plots, without refund, after June 15.

Can I drive up to my garden plot?

- No. Parking is available at the LOPD Gardens location. No driving on or parking on the grass or the pathway is allowed.

Are the plots tilled?

- The park district will till the plots prior to the season opening. Rototillers operated by non-park district staff are not allowed on park district property.

Does the Park District add any amendments to the soil?

- No, but gardeners who rent a plot may use grass clippings brought from home.

Will gardening tools be provided?

- Plot holders must use their own gardening tools. None will be provided.

Can I use a weed whacker to keep the weeds down?

- Yes, you may use a weed whacker.
- Use of the equipment cannot disrupt neighboring garden plots and must be used in a safe manner.

May I place items in the aisles?

- Nothing should be placed in the three-foot aisles. Plantings that have grown past plot boundaries and into the aisles are unacceptable.

What if I go on vacation or out of town?

- You are required to keep your garden plot weeded even if you are out of town. Please plan for a family member or friend to weed and water for you.

What happens if my garden plot is weedy?

- Gardeners are expected to weed their garden regularly and keep it neat. Neglected gardens may be removed without refund.

Can I use plastic sheeting in my plot to limit the weeds?

- No, only fabric landscaping material is allowed in your plot. Biodegradable types of fabric landscaping are preferred. Any fabric left at the end of the season must be removed.

Can I use herbicides, fungicides, and pesticides in my plot to keep the weeds and pests under control?

- You may use organic products ONLY in the regular plots. Because the plots are in a public park, toxic chemicals are not allowed.

Where should I put the weed and other organic waste from my plot?

- Yard waste containers will be available throughout the plots. These containers are for onsite generated items only.

What do I do if someone steals my produce?

- The Lan-Oak Park District is not responsible for loss or theft or damage of personal property or the garden plots.

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