

Morrison Community Garden



Community Garden Manual 2023

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Morrison Community Garden, a project of the Morrison Community Hospital Foundation. We are excited you have chosen to participate in the 14th year of our community garden!

Community gardens are a great way to promote healthy communities through enhanced nutrition and physical activity while giving participants a chance to get to know your fellow community members.

Whether you are a master gardener or just getting your hands dirty, we are pleased to have you join us in making the Morrison Community Garden a success.



Remember this is an *organic* garden and the use of synthetic chemical pesticides or fertilizers are not permitted at the community garden site. This will help ensure the natural integrity of the soil, well water, and surrounding wildlife will be preserved.

Your main contact for the garden is Mick Welding- 815-590-6497

GENERAL INFORMATION

The garden plots are located at French Creek Park in Morrison. The park is 16 acres and also offers soccer fields, a walking path, a playground area, and picnic area.

Approximately 44 plots are available for seasonal rental by the public. Plot sizes are 10' x 20'. A season plot fee of \$25 is due at registration. Registration site locations are:

- Morrison Community Hospital

When is the growing season?

The Morrison Community Garden is open to participants starting in April to the 1st Saturday in November. Our official opening date is generally the Saturday of Mothers Day weekend. Other dates will be further discussed. A typical growing season in Illinois is from April – November, depending on the dates of the first and last frosts.



Gardeners must have their plots cleared of all plant and non-plant material. Date will be announced as the season comes to an end.

What if I have questions or concerns about the garden?

The garden will have “Garden Supervisors” to assist participants, provide them with information concerning organic gardening, attend to their needs and concerns, and keep the garden up to par by monitoring weeds and making sure guidelines are met.

The Garden Supervisors are local Master Gardeners and gardening enthusiasts and experts who generously donate their time by holding “office hours” throughout the

week at to answer questions and assist gardeners.

Compost Containers

There will be compost containers onsite for gardeners to dispose of plant and garden debris. **Please no trash or weeds.**

End of the Season Clean-up Procedures

The Morrison Community Garden season ends on the 1st Saturday in November. All gardeners must have their plots ready for plowing in the spring by the removal of specific plants and plant debris. The remaining gardening plants when plowed into the soil will be retained as a natural and organic soil builder for next year's garden.



Remember, the following plants or plant parts must be removed by the end of the clean-off of your garden plot:

- 1.) remove all tomato fruit, leaves, stems and roots as they are carriers of possible disease;
- 2.) the removal of all fruits left from plants as cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, squash to prevent seeds reproducing in next year's plots;
- 3.) removal of all corky plants as corn stalks;
- 4.) weeds and invasive ground cover weeds.

*Perennial Garden Plots- will follow the same guidelines of garden maintenance for the end of the season clean-off and are responsible to care for and maintain all weed control throughout the gardening season.

All non-plant material (fencing, wooden structures, stakes; etc.) need to be completely removed from the park by the end of the season date. Failure to do so could result in loss of garden privileges for the next season.

Animals

Please be aware that there are many animals such as rabbits, deer, raccoons and other wildlife that make French Creek Park their home. It might not be unusual to find them snacking at your plot. Fencing, companion planting, and simply planting a bit extra are helpful suggestions. The University of Illinois Extension office can guide you on other methods of deterring animals from your plot.

Many gardeners and visitors to the park bring their dogs. All dogs must be kept on a leash. Please make sure to clean up and properly dispose of any dog waste. Owners should watch their dogs to make sure they do not dig in another gardener's plot.

Vandalism and Theft

While we hope there are no incidents of vandalism and/or theft, the Morrison Community Garden is on public land and sometimes acts of vandalism and theft do happen. To help prevent this situation get to know your fellow gardeners. All gardeners should have proof of identification if asked and should know their plot number. If you think you see someone tampering with the garden or surrounding park area, get a description or

the license plate number and report the incident to the police immediately at the non-emergency number (815) 772-4044.

How many plants should you plant?

Crop	# of plants/person recommended	Average. Yield/ 1 Plant
Beans	15	.38 lbs
Beets	20	
Cabbage	4	2.7 lbs
Carrots	30	
Cucumber	4	
Eggplant	2	
Kale	3	
Lettuce	12	2.2 lbs
Melons	5	
Peas	50	.25 lbs
Pepper	5	
Potato	25	1.6 lbs
Radishes	10	
Spinach	12	
Summer Squash	2	6 lbs
Tomato	2	6 lbs
Winter Squash	2	6 lbs

- From "Plan a Great Garden," Organic Gardening, Feb. 1994

Garden Mulcher

A mulcher was purchased in 2014 to assist with the disposal of plant materials or weeds. Feel free to use the mulcher to grind up those materials. If you do not know how to operate the mulcher, please place materials in large bags or containers and place them by the storage shed.

Storage Sheds

This sheds can be used by any gardener. They contain extra gardening tools, plant cages, a wheel barrow or a variety of other items. The white shed has a list of gardeners and plots on a clipboard so you can see who is gardening next to you. The lock combination is 30-10-14. Please be sure to lock up the shed after use. We also have a red shed with a key lock. The key is on the clipboard in the white shed. Please return the key after relocking the door.

In 2017 a new roto tiller was purchased to aide in weed control. It is stored in the red shed. Feel free to carefully use it.

MORRISON COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES & CONTRACT

The following garden rules have been established to not only keep the Morrison Community Garden running smoothly and effectively, but to assist you the participant in practicing healthy and environmentally sound garden techniques. As a participant in the Morrison Community Garden, you have agreed to abide by these guidelines or are subject to relinquishing your plot.



Failure to adhere to these guidelines you will result in the following:

1. You will receive a warning letter or phone call regarding the area of concern
2. You will be given two weeks to correct the issue
3. After the two weeks have passed your plot will be revoked and you will lose your plot rental fee.



The garden should be a safe place for the community, children, and other gardeners. Do not bring anything that will compromise the safety of the garden.



Do not use non-organic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. If something is questionable, please ask.



The garden is a tobacco-free area. Please do not use tobacco products in the garden area.



If your plot becomes unkempt with weeds or trash you will be given notice to clean it up. If it is not cleaned up, you forfeit your right to the plot.



Keep plot boundaries weeded and trash-free. If you are on a pathway, you are responsible to care for ½ of the pathway between you and your neighbor. Keep plot edges and fencing free of weeds that will go to seed. Do not put rocks and sticks in the path.



Keeps vines and visitors out of neighboring plots.



Keep tall plants such as corn or sunflowers at the center of your plot so they do not shade your neighbors' plants.



Immediately remove diseased plants and dispose of them in the trash bins located in the park.

I understand that neither the Morrison Community Garden Group or the Morrison Community Hospital or the Morrison Community Hospital Foundation or the City of Morrison is responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the previously mentioned for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or any of my guests.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Address

Phone Number