

ICG Rules and Guidelines

Indiana Community Garden Policies and Guidelines, 2025 Season

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Garden rules are an excellent way to ensure everyone understands how the garden will operate and what is expected of each gardener. Below are the garden policies and guidelines for gardeners who have individual plots at the Indiana Community Garden (ICG):

1. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot — including watering, weeding, harvesting, and any other garden-related tasks. Gardeners agree to not leave their plot unused for more than two weeks without making arrangements for its care.
2. Each gardener must complete a Release of Claims form before any work in the garden can begin.
3. Gardeners can use tools and other supplies in ICG's tool shed. Please clean any tools you use, following instructions in the toolshed. All tools and supplies should be returned to their designated spot.
4. Water is available through the rain barrel collection systems and water pump. Various soil amendments (such as mulch and compost) will be available near the compost bins.
5. Garden plots should be cared for **at least once a week**. It is the gardener's responsibility to notify ICG if he or she is not able to care for their plot. If any plot remains unattended for more than three weeks, that plot is subject to reassignment.
6. Gardeners agree to keep their plot free of excessive weeds, diseased plants, insect-infested plants, and over-ripe vegetables. Diseased and infected plants, as well as seedy or invasive weeds and trash, must be removed from the garden and disposed of properly. (Bags are available in the tool shed.) Please put all other spent plant materials in the designated compost bins.
7. Commercial chemical pesticides not certified for organic gardening are prohibited; this includes insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. Some organic materials you might use are horticultural oils, insecticidal soaps, and hot pepper spray. Check with the ICG Committee if you have questions.
8. Each gardener will only be allocated one plot, which will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Gardeners in good standing who maintained their plot the previous year will have first priority, and will keep their current plot unless specifically requesting a relocation.
9. Since ICG depends on volunteers for its success, gardeners are expected to volunteer some of their time during the season to help support the community aspect of the garden. All gardeners are invited to attend ICG's monthly garden meetings and garden events.
10. A plot fee of \$30 is due in full at the time of plot registration for the season. This fee may be waived under special circumstances.
11. At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of plant material and preferably all added structures, and mulching or planting cover crops. Those renewing

their plot for the next season may over-winter perennial crops and some annual winter hardy crops, but these should be maintained.

12. Gardeners may add decorations/support stakes/netting or needed materials on their own plot, but fully understand that these are subject to the discretion of the landowners, The Mack Park Foundation, and become the sole responsibility of the gardener.

13. ICG works to increase access to fresh food and avoid garden waste by sharing produce from community plots with others, including harvesting fresh produce twice a month for a food pantry. Gardeners agree to support this effort by keeping produce from their plot harvested, and letting ICG know when they have excess produce so volunteers can harvest it for the food pantry.

14. All Gardeners must follow the rules of Mack Park.

15. The ICG Committee is responsible for ensuring that ICG's Garden Policies and Guidelines are followed. The committee is made up of a group of community members volunteering in the Spring of each year. Contact ICG if you have questions, need help, or have concerns about anything at ICG.

16. Gardeners are encouraged to share their community gardening experience with friends and family.