

The Village of Island Lake Victory Garden

What would be the best use for the easternmost corner of Veterans Park? A victory garden, was the answer proposed in the summer of 2008. Because the park was acquired with grant money from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the first hurdle was to obtain IDNR approval of the concept and a plan. Final approval came in 2011, thanks to the persistence and cooperation of officials, staff and volunteers.



The Victory Garden opened for planting for the 2011 season. Plots were available to rent for a small fee. Gardeners had to haul in their own water and organic fertilizer. Many seasons and harvests later, the Victory Garden continues to thrive—thanks again to the persistence and cooperation of officials, staff and volunteers.

Americans first cultivated community “vacant lot gardens” during the recession of the 1890s. **In 1917, the newly formed National War Garden Commission** encouraged Americans to be “soldiers of the soil” and plant “liberty gardens” or “war gardens” to help with food production. By 1918, over 5.2 million plots were planted. Victory gardens once again gained popularity after the U.S. entered World War II. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt planted one on the White House lawn.



Community gardens continue to flourish all over the world. Fruits and vegetables are not the only things that grow in them. The gardens provide opportunities for cultivating education, communication, camaraderie and helping neighbors in need.

For more information and resources on community gardening, go to American Community Gardening Association (ACGA): <http://communitygarden.org/> and The University of Illinois Extension: <https://extension.illinois.edu/global/gardening-resources>.

2023 Village of Island Lake Victory Garden Guidelines

Guidelines are for safe and courteous use of the garden plots. Failure to adhere to guidelines will result in forfeiture of garden plot.

1. **Fees:** \$35 per plot, *due at time of reservation*. This includes water access at a spigot and organic compost available for opening day. Make checks to: Village of Island Lake.
2. **Plot Reservation**
 - March 15, 2023: Open for current Island Lake resident plot holders for a single plot. (Current gardeners will have first option to reserve their plot from the previous season.)
 - March 22, 2023: Open to all Island Lake residents for a single plot.
 - March 30, 2023: Open to Island Lake residents for a 2nd plot and non-residents for a one plot, on a first come-first served basis.
3. **Opening and Closing:** The garden plots will open the Saturday, May 6, 2023, weather permitting and will close the Saturday October 28, 2023. *Gardeners are required to attend the opening day meeting on May 6 at 9:00am.* Plots must be cleaned out on or before closing day.
4. **Work Days:** Gardeners are required to log 4 hours of work helping to keep the communal areas of the garden in order. Connie will be at the garden on Tuesdays from 4:00 – 6:00pm.
5. **Plot Care and Maintenance**
 - a) Keep plants within the borders of the plot; plants with vines are not to extend beyond 18 inches onto a pathway.
 - b) Remove weeds from your plot and the surrounding area.
 - c) Remove all dead or diseased plant material from your plot.
 - d) During harvest season, put bulk waste in yard waste bags; close the bags properly; and place them by the northeast corner of the parking lot for removal by Public Works.
 - e) Keep plot and surrounding path free of trash and litter
Failure to maintain your plot will result in forfeiture of plot.
6. **Harvesting:** Harvest only your own crops unless given permission by another gardener. The local Food Pantry at 505 W. Bonner Rd., Wauconda, will accept donations of excess produce.
7. **Discontinuation:** To discontinue Victory Garden participation, please notify the Village through the website (<http://villageofislandlake.com/contact-us/>) or call 847-526-8764.
8. **Fertilizer, Insecticides and Weed Repellants:** Fertilizer, insecticides and weed repellants should be used in a way that will not affect other plots or ground water.

9. **Watering Plots:** Gardeners will be provided a lock code to use water from the spigot. Relock the spigot after watering. *Do not over water. If you attach a hose to the spigot, do not pull it through neighboring plots and cause damage neighbors' plants.*
10. **Minor children must be supervised in the garden.**
11. **Service animals only** in the Victory Garden—no pets.
12. **Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis are prohibited** in the Victory Garden.
13. **Loss or Damage:** The Village is not responsible for theft, plant damage/ loss, or vandalism. The garden plots are located within a public park. Participants plant and maintain plots at their own risk. Gardeners are encouraged to report incidents to the Island Lake Police Department at 847-526-2100.

For information, contact us through the website here:
<http://villageofislandlake.com/contact-us/> or call 847-526-8764.

Victory Garden Registration

Please provide complete information.

Name _____ Phone/Cell _____

Street address _____ / Apt. # _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Email address _____

I have read the guidelines and agree to abide by them or relinquish my plot.

Signature _____ Date _____

For Office Use only: Plot assignment _____

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parking lot					