Evanston Community Garden Lottery Process

In-person Lottery

Saturday, March 6, 2027, 2:00 pm

Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd., Multi-Purpose Room

Registration for the lottery will end at 5:00 pm Monday, March 1st, 2027

The Lottery will work as follows:

1. Turn in your Community Garden Registration Form in person or online with proof of Evanston residency (60201, 60202) by valid Driver's License or State ID by the **March 1st, 2027** deadline at the Ecology Center.

2. Upon our receipt of your Registration Form and proof of residency, you will be entered into the lottery registration system and contacted by Ecology Center staff or Community Garden Coordinator with registration confirmation.

3. Available garden plots will be sent out to those registered for the garden lottery starting **March 3rd, 2027** by location, size and details (for example: Twiggs, half plot, full sun).

4. The lottery will be spun on **Wednesday, March 3rd**. You will be notified if your attendance is necessary based on the amount of people in the lottery and the number of available plots. Those individuals will be contacted directly by the Community Garden Coordinator. If you are not contacted by the Community Garden Coordinator please do not plan on attending the in-person lottery. The top lottery candidates will be contacted by the end of the business day **Wednesday, March 3rd.**

5. **On Saturday, March 6th at 1:30 pm** chosen candidates will check in at the Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd., Evanston, IL. Garden site maps will be marked with the available plots.

6. When it is your turn, you will select your garden plot. **PLEASE BE ON TIME: If you are not present when your number is called, you will forfeit your turn until ALL lottery participants' numbers are called that day.**

7. At 2 pm, garden plot selection will begin in lottery number order until all available garden plots are assigned. Plots will be crossed off the map as selected.

8. Once you have selected your garden plot, you will receive the Community Garden Contract to read and sign.

9. Proceed to the payment desk to pay for your selected plot. If you do not pay for your plot immediately after selection, the plot will go back to the lottery pool that afternoon (exact cash, check or credit card).

Frequently Asked Questions:

- If I cannot attend the lottery, can I send a proxy to select my garden plot?
  - Yes, but you will need to inform Laura Nusekabel, Community Garden Coordinator, by e-mail (Lnusekabel@cityofevanston.org) by **Friday, March 5th, 2027.**
  - The proxy needs to have a copy of this correspondence.
  - When your name is called, your proxy will make your garden plot selection.
  - Payment is due immediately after selection by exact cash, check or credit card.

- Why is the lottery spun prior to the plot selection date?
  - The number of interested residents has increased over the years and tends to be larger than the available plots. In the interest of time we've decided to have only the selected lottery numbers attend the in-person lottery.

- What if I submit my Community Garden Registration Form late or miss the lottery?
  - If your registration to enter the lottery is received after **5:00 pm Monday, March 1st**, it will be too late to enter your name for the 2027 garden season.
  - If you are not present when your number is called, you will forfeit your turn until ALL lottery participants' numbers are called that day.

- How much does a garden plot cost?

Rates	Resident
Half Plot (all sites)	$51.00
Raised Bed (Twiggs)	$46.00
Raised Bed (James Park)	$32.00

Half Plot – Approximately 200 sq. feet
Raised Bed (Twiggs) – Approximately 4' x 19'
Raised Bed (James Park) – Approximately 4' x 8'

- How many garden plots can I have through the lottery system?
  - One garden plot per Evanston household address.

- How will I know which garden plots are available for the 2027 garden season?
  - Available garden plots will be sent out to those registered for the lottery on **March 5th, 2027** by location, size and details (for example: Twiggs, half plot, full sun).

- How many garden plots are available for the 2027 garden season?
  - Returning gardeners have first priority to renew their garden contract.
  - Availability is dependent on the number of non-renewed garden plots.

- How long does the Garden Plot Assignment take the day of the Lottery?
  - Depending on the number of available plots, it usually takes about 60 to 90 minutes.