

History Center of Olmsted County – COMMUNITY GARDENS

2023 INFORMATION AND RULES

The History Center Community Garden is open for the public for an annual fee between May 9 to October 15, 2022 (dates flex with weather). We will endeavor to lengthen this season as conditions permit.

Gardeners without prior year's reservation can sign up any time after January 1st.

- Standard 14' x 20' plot: Cost = \$100 (\$75 for History Center members) ●
- Raised bed plots, 4' x 20': If available, the cost for the season is \$75 (\$50 for History Center members).
 - If no raised beds are available, you can sign up for a standard plot and put your name on a waiting list for a raised bed. We hope to build more raised beds each year if there is a demand for them.
- Note: \$10 of each rental will be earmarked to fund garden maintenance.

Some advantages of the History Center Community Garden:

- A fence surrounds the garden area to keep out deer
- Water is available on site with hoses
- We have a shed for shared tools
- Intangibles such as gatherings, garden lectures, and access to Master Gardeners!

To rent a plot, please contact the Olmsted History Center at 507-282-9447 and ask for Darla.

Raised Beds:

- Each year we will consider building additional 4' x 20' beds.
- These have many advantages, including:
 - Very productive per SF of space
 - Less weeding and more control over soil quality
 - Can begin and end the season on your own time frame because they are self-maintained.
- Individuals interested in having a raised bed will be asked to donate the cost of materials for their bed and assist with the labor to build and fill them. ● The cost estimate for a bed will be in the \$300 range. If you donate to build a raised bed, you are first in line each year to continue renting the same bed. After the first year there will still be an ongoing plot rental fee.

We are also seeking volunteers for a gardening committee. Please email one of the organizers if interested. We would love to have you join us!

Curt Shellum at curtshellum@gmail.com

Mark Williams at mdwill47@gmail.com

Jean Williams at majjic4@charter.net also can call Jean at 507-261-1642

GENERAL RULES

History Center responsibilities

- **Tilling:** The ground will be plowed/tilled at the beginning and end of the season for the non-raised bed areas. A shared tiller will be in the shed as well.
- **Water:** Water is provided via a hydrant on the east side with hoses in the shed that can be shared. Please make sure to turn off the water as you leave.
- **Deer prevention:** The area is fenced for deer and will keep them out as long as the doors are closed. Please look for open doors and close them as you leave.
- **Compost:** A compost area is available on the East side for general biomass but it is not organized for compost as of yet. Please do not bring in compost from any site where there might be jumping worms (includes city compost).
- **Shed:** A shed is available for tools and hoses.
- **Mowing:** The grass around the plots will be mowed.

Gardener responsibilities

- **Keep it in Check:** Plant only what you feel you can manage. All large plants are removed at the end of each season (except perennials in raised beds) so no trees/shrubs. Avoid planting invasive species (e.g. mint) that may take over your neighbor's garden. If a garden appears to be untended, we may reach out to contact the owner. We hope not to have to till under a poorly managed or abandoned garden.
- **Help with garden upkeep:** Please consider donating at least 4 hours each season to join fellow gardeners in garden upkeep tasks. The garden manager will periodically put out a request for volunteers. It can be fun to work together and get to know one another!
- **Stay Inside the Lines:** Encroaching on your neighbor's space isn't very neighborly. If you are planting tall or trellised plants, keep in mind where the shade will be and avoid shading a neighbor's area. Contact the History Center before building anything tall, and no permanent structures can be built.
- **Keep It Neat:** Keep your plot weeded and tidy. If there are community tools, hoses, etc., for you to use; treat them with care and respect. You are encouraged to use straw or mulch to reduce the need for weeding. Avoid standing water to reduce mosquitoes (no tires as temporary structures). All are expected to clean out their garden area in the fall by October 15th. **If you plant corn/sunflowers or anything with large woody stems, please plan to take away and dispose of the biomass at the end of the season yourself.** We just don't have the resources to clean that up.
- **Watch the Kids:** Children are welcome to help their families but keep a close eye on little ones and don't let them trample on neighboring plots (or take any of

the bounty!) No pets are allowed in the garden area. Please keep them on a leash if outside the garden.

- **Avoid Chemicals:** No fertilizers, insecticides or herbicides will be used that will in any way detrimentally affect adjacent gardens or grass areas.
- **Golden Rule:** Treat others as you would like to be treated. Please resolve differences in a neighborly way.
- **History Center specific rules** - Tobacco products are not allowed on the grounds of the History Center.