

GARDEN GUIDELINES 2017

Garden operating hours are from 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.



Plots: Planting & Maintenance

1. Plots will be available, weather-pending, after the ground has been tilled which is usually by the first week of May. You will be notified of the access date. The growing season will continue through October 29th.
2. You will be assigned a number.
3. Plot markers with your last name or identifiers are requested.
4. Flowering plants are permitted as long as it is not an invasive species. The objective of **CGHC** is to help individuals grow food for their own consumption and self-sustainability. We also promote crops offering a supplemental income opportunity. No invasive species, such as mint and horseradish, will be allowed. See **Master Gardener Volunteer** for approval of plants if you are unsure.
5. Once the plots are available, we recommend you plant as soon as possible to prevent weed growth. We understand that some people may not want to plant until after the frost-free date around mid-May. Plots must be planted by May 28th or your plot will be reassigned. You will be notified of reassignment.
6. Individual plots must be reasonably maintained. Reasonably maintained means:
 - a. Weeds under control and plants regularly cared for, watered and harvested.
 - b. Plants do not exceed plot boundaries.

There will be many weeds in a community garden. Weeds compete with other plants in your garden and can quickly become invasive. If weeds are left to go to seed they will affect your neighbor's gardens as well. Gardeners are responsible for keeping their plot weed free from the till date to the plant date. Weedy plots are subject to warning and cancellation.

7. Abandoned or unattended plots will be reassigned. Please notify the garden coordinator or garden steward if you are: 1) no longer able to tend your plot 2) will be absent for a long time 3) or have asked a friend to tend your garden.
8. Staking and cages are permitted but will not be provided by **CGHC**. Lost or stolen personal property is not the responsibility of **CGHC** and must be cleared away at the end of the season. If you do not clean your plot at the end of the season, your opportunity to obtain a plot the following year will be denied.

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Path Maintenance

- It is each gardener's responsibility to keep paths on each side of their plot clear and weed free.

Use of Community Water

- Please conserve the use of water. Mulch with leaves, grass clippings, or straw to reduce water evaporation.
- Water in gardens will be available May 1st through October 1st.
- The hoses are laid out in a specific way to ensure all gardeners can water their plots. Please do not roll up the hoses, rearrange them or put them in the shed. If there is an issue with the hoses or leaks, contact the garden coordinator or garden stewards.
- Unattended watering is not permitted.
- Make sure all faucets are off when you leave the garden. Be sure the hoses are not in the path of the lawnmower. Check hoses for leaks.
- Please communicate with other gardeners that have arrived after you to be sure they will turn off the water and lock up the shed.

Restrooms and dumpsters

- Use of The Family Center's bathroom facilities is prohibited.
- A portable restroom with a wash station is provided. This restroom/wash station is for use by members of the gardens only. There will be a lock on the door.

Disposal of Trash

- Use of The Family Center's dumpsters is prohibited.
- No debris of any kind should be left at the site. Please take all non-organic trash/refuse with you.
- Dispose of non-seeding weeds and plant materials in the designated areas. Designated site is for garden generated organic materials only. Please do not bring household or other garbage to the garden site.

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Tools/Shed/Key

- Please take appropriate care of these tools. Notify garden steward if a tool is broken.
- Please be sure to lock the shed if you are the last one in the garden. Again, communicate with those you see there to ensure the tools are secured.
- Please do not duplicate the shed keys. If you need more than one, please let the garden coordinator know and another one will be assigned. Keys are to be turned in at the end of the season.

Parking/moving heavy equipment

- Please park only in the designated areas. Not on grass.
- If you need to move equipment to your plot and must drive on the grass, please contact the garden coordinator first to make sure this is approved. We do not want to tear up the grass or create tracks around the gardens.

Soil Amendments/Pest & Disease Control

- Information will be shared on the proper methods at the orientation meeting. It is a good practice when using any chemical product to: Read the label, do not spray in wind and be considerate of your neighbor's garden and property.

Vandalism/Theft

- Most gardens experience vandalism or theft whether by two-legged or four-legged creatures. The best action you can take is to replant immediately. If you suspect any acts of vandalism, please notify the garden steward immediately.
- Wear your lanyard or have it available when in the garden and mark your plot.
- Two trail cameras will be present and signs will be posted to deter those who think this is a "community harvesting" site.
- Avoid confrontation. Sometimes a "how is your garden doing." Type of greeting will encourage non gardeners to leave. If they do not leave, do not engage or become

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confrontational with the suspect. Head to a safe place and call 9-1-1 and the Garden Coordinator.

For more information contact:

Crime Prevention Specialist
Officer Brian White
419-424-7282
419-424-7296 fax
BWhite@FindlayOhio.com



Garden Safety

Do not garden after dark. Gardening hours are from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Other gardeners may not recognize you so please be sure to have your lanyards either around your neck or in your pocket.

The gardens are in an open and highly trafficked area so it is important to be aware of your surroundings and who is around you at all times. It is recommended that you garden with someone. If you are working alone, please carry your cell phone and inform someone you know of your location and how long you expect to be at the gardens if possible.

You may be approached by strangers with questions. Do not feel obligated to answer their questions or engage in conversation. Direct them toward contacting the United Way of Hancock County. Should you feel threatened, please exit the gardens immediately and retreat to a safe place such as your car or The Family Center if it is open. If the water has been left on or the shed is unlocked, that can be dealt with later.

Should you be harassed or threatened, remove yourself from the gardens immediately, retreat to a safe place and call 911 as well as the Garden Coordinator (Heather Heilman).

Not Allowed in the Garden

- Tires
- Pressure treated wood
- Barbed wire
- Uncovered black plastic
- Smoking and use of alcoholic beverages- *Tomatoes do not like smoke! Smoking can be done on black top or in vehicle. Please be kind to the tomatoes.*
- Amplified music (use headphones please).

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- Pets are not allowed in the garden unless it is a service animal.
- Young children should be supervised at all times and especially around garden equipment.



Volunteer Opportunities

Consider this garden an extension and a representation of you and care for it as such. Please be considerate of those around you and encourage positive interactions.

There will be ongoing needs within the garden and opportunities for volunteering. You have been asked to offer two hours over the course of this six month garden period to give back to the gardens. I will be communicating with gardeners about the current and immediate needs. Many hands make light work!

Garden Stewards

Garden stewards are volunteers and primarily handle maintenance issues. Please show them respect and appreciation for their volunteer efforts to keep the CGHC in good standing.

Master Gardener Volunteers

Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) are a great resource for community gardeners. Their knowledge and experience will be available to CGHC members. A list of MGV and their contact information will be provided to all gardeners so you can ask questions in regard to your specific crops. Information about how to become a MGV will be shared with CGHC members. Karl Farwig will be representing the MGV's this year.

OSU Extension Office

OSU extension office will be offering canning, freezing and preserving classes to CGHC members. There is a cost although scholarships are given to those who are receiving some type of assistance, such as SNAP, WIC, Disability, etc.

Dates, times and locations will be determined and communicated.

Garden coordinator

Garden coordinator, Heather Heilman, can be reached at 419-423-1432 or via email: Heather.Heilman@uw Hancock.org

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A hard copy of the guidelines will be given to you at the orientation session.



Community Gardens of Hancock County Advisory Board Members 2017:

Terry Badertscher * Karl Farwig * Tim Stumpp * Donna Walter * Jon Hoisington * Deborah Stall
* Robert Connour