

# GARDEN GUIDELINES 2020

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



## Plots: Planting & Maintenance

1. Plots will be available, weather-pending, and coronavirus-pending after the ground has been tilled and the plots marked off. You will be notified of the access date. The growing season will continue through October 24<sup>th</sup>.
2. You will be assigned a number. Mark your plot number here \_\_\_\_\_
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 31<sup>st</sup> or your plot can be reassigned. You will be notified of reassignment.
6. Individual plots must be reasonably maintained. Plots will be monitored on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Plots owners whose plot is not reasonably maintained will receive one notification to clean up the plot. If the plot is not cleaned up within a three-days of the notification, it will be tilled under.  
  
Reasonably maintained means:
  - a. Weeds under control and plants regularly cared for, watered and harvested.
  - b. Plants do not exceed plot boundaries.
7. 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. Check hoses for leaks.
- Water in gardens will be available May through early October.
- Unattended watering is not permitted.
- Make sure the water is turned off inside the shed before you leave. If other gardeners are there, communicate with them about who will shut the water off. Be sure the hoses are not in the path of the lawnmower.

## 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.

## 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.

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## **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 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.

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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 United Way Coordinator (Heather Heilman) or the Garden Coordinator, Tim Teyner.

### 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).
- 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!



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### **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 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**

United Way coordinator, Heather Heilman, can be reached at 419-423-1432 or via email: [Heather.Heilman@uw Hancock.org](mailto:Heather.Heilman@uw Hancock.org)

### **Garden coordinator**

Garden coordinator, Tim Teyner can be reached at 419-348-2588 or via email: [Timteyner@cs.com](mailto:Timteyner@cs.com)

Community Gardens of Hancock County Advisory Board Members 2019:

Terry Badertscher \* Karl Farwig \* Tim Teyner \* Jon Hoisington