



HISTORY CENTER OF OL MSTED COUNTY

History Center of Olmsted County – COMMUNITY GARDEN

2024 INFORMATION AND RULES

The History Center Community Garden is open for the public for an annual fee between May 9 to October 15, 2024 (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.

Volunteer Work Hours: All gardeners are asked to consider volunteering for a job in the general upkeep of the Community Garden. The expectation is approximately 4 hours over the course of the season. The garden manager will send a job list and you can sign up for a task that works for you. The jobs will include:

1. Garden opening tasks (work as group with the garden manager)
2. Taking a turn at mowing the garden paths
3. Taking a turn at tending the strawberry patch
4. Compost bins related tasks
5. General maintenance workday (group)
6. Participate in our produce donation drop offs
7. End of season garden closeout (group)
8. Serve on the Garden Committee (help advise and discuss Community Garden direction)

If you have physical limitations, you would not be expected to participate, but perhaps you would want to be on the Garden Committee.

If you have any questions, please email one of the organizers if interested:

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 tilled at the beginning and end of the season. A shared walk behind tiller will be in the shed as well.
- **Water:** Water is provided via a hydrant with hose bibs in the garden area. Please make sure to turn off the water as you leave.
- **Compost:** A compost area is available on the East side for compostable biomass.
- **Shed:** A shed is available for shared tools and equipment. You can also store personal garden tools during the season.

Gardener responsibilities

- **Help with garden upkeep:** Please consider donating at least 4 hours each season to join fellow gardeners in garden upkeep tasks.
- **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. Check with the garden manager if you are uncertain. No permanent structures can be built.
- **Keep It Neat:** Keep your plot weeded and tidy. Plant only what you feel you can manage. Avoid planting invasive species (e.g. mint) that may take over your neighbor's garden. If your garden appears to be untended, we may reach out with a friendly reminder. **An untended plot may result in loss of future garden privileges.** 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.
- **Garden season closeout:** All are expected to clean out their garden area in the fall by October 15th (or later if an alternate date is announced). 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!)
- **Pets:** No pets are allowed in the garden area. Please keep them on a leash outside of the fenced in community garden.
- **Avoid Chemicals:** No insecticides or herbicides will be used that will 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.

