



2017 Welcome Packet

The Strongsville Community Garden is a collaborative effort between the City and the Southwest General Medical Center. It gives residents the opportunity to grow fresh, **organic** produce for their families while connecting with members of the community.

The Strongsville Community Garden is located at 18181 Pearl Road (Southwest Medical Center).

This packet contains important information about how our garden operates and who to contact with questions. It also contains information about how you can contribute to the success of the garden.

The garden contains 64 8' x 4' plots. The cost is \$25 per plot for Strongsville residents. A portion of the plots are reserved for employees of Southwest General Health Center.

One plot per family, please. Each gardener is asked to plant a row for the Strongsville Food Bank.

Registration

Registration forms can be found on the City of Strongsville website under ***Keeping Strongsville Green***. Fill out the form and drop it off at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center front desk with a check made payable to the ***City of Strongsville***. You may also register online, but there is a \$3 fee to do so. There are a limited number of plots available. Once they are all reserved, your contact information can be placed on a waiting list.

Welcome Meeting

Gardeners will be required to attend a brief welcome meeting at the recreation center. Date to be determined.

Successful Community Gardens rely on the dedication and combined effort of each gardener to maintain their plot and contribute to the upkeep and management of the garden as a whole. There are many jobs that need to be done in order to help the garden run smoothly, such as weeding, mulching paths,

maintaining tools and equipment, planning events and weighing and delivering fresh produce to the food bank. So PLEASE volunteer!!!

Each gardener will receive one (1) key to the garden (if you lose the key, there is a \$10 replacement fee). Please keep this safe!

Maintenance

This is an organic garden. The use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is prohibited. Each gardener is responsible for planting their own seeds and plants. We request that NO CORN or anything that will shade the adjoining gardens be planted in the garden. Please plan on tending your garden at least two days a week during growing season.

Garden monitors will check the garden plots to make sure they are being used and maintained in accordance with the garden and medical center's rules. If your garden plot requires attention (overgrown / weeds) a garden marker will be placed in your garden. You will have one week to address.

If you are going on vacation, please let the Garden Coordinator know the dates that you will be away so that your garden can be tended.

A water tank will be on site so you can water your garden. Water cans and a limited number of tools will be available on the site. We encourage each gardener to bring your own tools.

Safety First

Please find attached the Garden Rules and Regulations, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact the garden coordinator.

Take time to get to know your "neighbors". Not only can you help each other out, they may have some gardening tips!

We recommend that you bring your cell phone to the garden. That way if a problem arises, you can contact us.

When leaving the garden, please make sure the water is turned off and the gate is locked.

Garden Coordinator: Jennifer Milbrandt 440-580-3124 (Jennifer.milbrandt@Strongsville.org)

Strongsville Community Garden Rules and Regulations

This Community Garden is open to Strongsville residents. We are all responsible to observe the rules and to do our part in maintaining the garden to the best of our abilities. We should be able to take pride in the overall appearance of the entire garden.

1. Hours must be observed for the safety and protection of all. The garden will be open during daylight hours.

Please check the bulletin board for announcements.

2. An adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

3. Pets are not allowed at any time in the garden.

4. It is mandated that NOTHING be planted or placed in such a way as to shade or encroach on another gardener's plot. Further, each gardener must allow 24 inches for a clear path between adjoining plots.

5. Each gardener is responsible to provide their own seeds and plant material.

6. Vegetation growing and impeding or shading other plots ARE NOT TO BE GROWN and must be maintained.

7. Tools in the shed are for Community Garden use only. Gardeners are encouraged to bring their own tools. The City of Strongsville is not responsible for tools or personal property left unattended on the premises. Borrowed garden tools must be returned to the shed in a clean and useable condition and ready for the next gardener's use.

8. Anyone unable to work his/her garden for the period of two (2) weeks must notify the Garden Coordinator. Any abandoned, or seemingly abandoned, garden will be resolved at the sole discretion of the Garden Coordinator.

9. Fruits and vegetables in any abandoned or seemingly abandoned garden, which appears to be ready to pick, may be harvested at the discretion of the Garden Coordinator and donated.

10. No gardener or guests are permitted to trespass into the garden of another gardener.

11. Unauthorized removal of garden assets and/or produce is prohibited.

12. The Garden Coordinator will resolve any disputes.

13. No gardener can assign the use of his or her plot(s) to anyone (other than a co-Gardener). No one can be involved with a garden plot unless they have made proper application.

13. In keeping with the intention and meaning of a COMMUNITY GARDEN, and in an effort to defray costs and maximize available grants, each gardener is expected to donate a minimum of five volunteer hours toward the operation, maintenance, and promotion of the garden, and to support fundraising efforts that benefit the garden. Such tasks could include preparation for spring opening of the garden, fall closing of the garden or help with the daily maintenance needed.

*** We require each gardener to Plant a Row for Charity and donate the produce, which is distributed back into our community.

14. Breaking of the rules, regardless of the offense, will result in: 1st offense, verbal warning; 2nd offense, written warning; and 3rd offense, forfeiture of plot without refund.

15. ASSIGNMENT OF PLOTS

Plots are assigned by the City of Strongsville.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

16. Herbicides and insecticides are strictly prohibited, unless it is organic. Preen and similar products are not allowed. Questions of use should be directed to the Garden Coordinator. In the off season, any and all requests for soil enhancements must be made in writing and must be approved in writing by the Garden Coordinator.

17. Please, no excess watering. Gardener must be present while watering their garden.

18. Garden paths must be kept free and clear of all obstacles (i.e. tools, wagons, wheelbarrows, etc.).

19. Gardeners are encouraged to compost within their plot or use the garden compost bins or to bag and remove organic waste on their own. It is the responsibility of the Gardener to bag and remove all trash. Weeds are not allowed in the garden compost bins. Gardeners should place weeds/grass into the labeled trash bins.

20. Each gardener is responsible for proper maintenance of his or her garden and adjacent walk area. Weed control is necessary in consideration of other garden plots for the duration of the season and the following season.

21. End of season: If using weed blocking material, it is the responsibility of the gardener to remove all of it before leaving for the year. No vegetation or support posts/cages are to be left in the plot unless it is a winter crop (garlic, carrots, cover crop, etc.). No straw is to be left in a bale; it must be used or removed. At the conclusion of the season, all gardeners must be "cleared" by the Garden Coordinator that the plot is in the same condition as it was at the beginning of the season.

22. Parking is limited to the parking lot – PLEASE NO PARKING IN THE PHYSICAL THERAPY AREAS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address problems to the Garden Coordinator.
- Notify of vacation or illness.
- Please plant a row to donate to the hungry of Strongsville.
- Report any vandalism or other serious non-garden problems to the Strongsville Police.
- NO SMOKING IS ALLOWED IN THE GARDEN

NOTE: Failure to comply with any of the above Rules and Regulations may result in the gardener forfeiting his or her garden plot and being excluded from the garden program in the future. No refunds will be issued to gardeners