

# Village of Pinckney Community Garden

## *Program Improvements and Educational Use Concepts*

### **Overview**

The Village of Pinckney Community Garden provides residents with a shared space to grow food, connect with neighbors, and contribute to a vibrant community space. The following updates are intended to improve clarity, accessibility, and administrative efficiency while maintaining the existing rules and expectations of the garden.

These improvements focus on simplifying registration, improving communication with gardeners, and creating a more consistent seasonal process while preserving the current structure of the Community Garden.

### **Registration Process**

#### *Current*

- Registration handled primarily through paper applications submitted to Village Hall
- Limited options for how residents may register
- Plot assignments confirmed after paperwork is processed

#### *Updated*

- Registration is now completed through an online Community Garden registration form
- The form is available through the Village website and community announcements
- Residents may request a preferred plot as part of registration
- Garden plots are assigned on a first come, first served basis based on the date and time a completed registration and payment are received
- While the Village will make every effort to accommodate plot requests, plot preferences cannot be guaranteed
- Plot assignments will be confirmed by the Village after registration is reviewed and payment is received
- Once registration is submitted, gardeners will receive follow up communication confirming plot assignment and providing payment instructions if needed
- Residents may request a phone call to discuss plot selection

### **Seasonal Fee Structure**

- \$20 seasonal garden plot rental
- \$10 refundable cleanup deposit
- \$30 total seasonal fee

The refundable cleanup deposit will be returned at the end of the season once the plot has been properly cleaned and maintained according to Community Garden expectations.

## **Communication With Gardeners**

- Garden expectations communicated clearly during registration
- Optional start of season orientation offered
- Written guidance available for gardeners unable to attend orientation

## **In Season Expectations**

- Maintain and regularly tend the assigned plot
- Control weeds within the plot area
- Respect neighboring plots and shared spaces
- Keep surrounding pathways and garden areas tidy

## **End of Season Close Out**

- A single end of season cleanup checklist will be provided
- One clearly communicated close out deadline will be established
- Cleanup deposits will be returned once checklist requirements are met

## **Educational Garden Beds**

In addition to individual garden plots, the Community Garden will include designated educational beds intended to support community learning and shared gardening knowledge.

Individuals or groups interested in utilizing an educational bed must contact the Community Garden Coordinator directly to request a discussion and meeting regarding potential use.

## **Educational Use Concepts**

### ***Kitchen Herb Basics***

- Identifying common kitchen herbs
- Understanding basic culinary uses
- Learning appropriate harvesting and plant care practices
- Examples may include basil, parsley, chives, oregano, and mint

### ***Tea Garden Basics***

- Plant identification
- Understanding basic drying and steeping processes
- General safety awareness
- Examples may include mint, lemon balm, chamomile, and lavender
- No preparation, consumption, or distribution required

### ***Immunity Support Plant Bed***

- Learning how plants have historically been grown for household purposes

- Understanding seasonal growing cycles
- Encouraging interest in gardening for general wellness
- Examples may include garlic, echinacea, calendula, and thyme

## **Important Clarifications**

- Educational concepts are informational only
- No formal programming is proposed at this time
- No medical claims, advice, or treatment will be provided
- Participation would remain optional and limited in scope
- All activities will comply with existing Community Garden rules and Village policies

## **Contact**

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