



Five Rivers MetroParks - Community Gardens

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Avenue,
Dayton, Ohio 45414, (937) 277-6667

Community Garden Rules

Plot Number(s):

**Please read the following information carefully and keep this sheet for future reference.
We want your gardening experience with us to be a pleasant and productive one!
Please call the office with any questions or concerns.**

Gardeners who sign the agreement to rent plots commit to be stewards of the land and use responsible practices in their growing activities.

All gardening activities must be contained within the plot boundaries as marked by Five Rivers MetroParks.

*****PLEASE CHECK THE KIOSK BULLETIN BOARD FOR CHANGING DATES AND UPDATES*****

Organic gardening is required in the designated Seasonal and all Year-Round plots. No synthetic chemicals including herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers are allowed unless they are listed on the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) product list (see details in agreement).

For more information about OMRI, please visit www.omri.org

Fees:

- Return Gardeners fees are due **March 19, 2021**. Fees total amount must be received for registration to be complete.
- Gardeners are responsible for the Seasonal rental of \$20.00 per plot and Year-Round rental of \$40.00 per plot each year.
- **There are four (4) different options to register this year:**
 - Online registration is now available at <http://metroparks.org/returngardener> and accepts credit card payment.
 - Registration by mail with check made payable to *Five Rivers MetroParks*:
Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark
Attn: Jennifer Hinkle
1301 Siebenthaler Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45414
 - Wegerzyn Center is still closed due to COVID. If you choose not to do online registration or mail, please drop-off into the black mailbox next to the Wegerzyn Center front doors. Check is preferred and will accept cash if necessary.
 - Registration can be done by phone: 937-277-6667. If we are unavailable, please leave a voicemail and you will be contacted as soon as possible.

Rules of Operation:

Hours:

- Access to the Seasonal and Year-Round plots is granted to registered plot holders during Five Rivers MetroParks (FRMP) normal hours of operation.
- April 1 - October 31: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily
- November 1 - March 31: 8 am - 8 pm daily
- Closed Christmas and New Year's Day

Access:

- **Vehicles must stay on the paved road and only park in gravel garden parking lots. (See attached map.)** Please make sure to unload or load then move vehicle back to the designated parking areas. Please do not block the recreational trail or the areas around the gardens!
- Each year, identification tags will be issued for each vehicle you will be driving into the community gardens and must be visible. Names and license plate numbers must be listed on your registration form before ID tags are issued. There is a \$2 fee to replace lost ID tags.

Maintenance:

- Garden plots should be cared for on a regular basis to the standard set forth in this document. Gardeners of neglected plots will be contacted by telephone and given two weeks to remedy the situation. After two weeks, the plot will be eligible for reassignment and you will not be eligible for a refund. Please call the office on all situations concerning your plot.
- In case of extended absence or illness, ask another gardener, family member, or friend to care for your plot. If no one is available, contact the office: Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (937) 277-6667.
- For any garden plot that is not worked/planted by Monday, May 17, 2021, your rental will be forfeited and you will not be eligible for a refund. If you need to plant your garden past this date, please call the office.
- **For any gardener who finishes their season early, please inform the park office. This will ensure the appropriate care is given to maintain the garden plot.**
- The use of synthetic or chemical fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides are not permitted in the designated Seasonal Organic and all Year-Round Organic plots. Please call the Community Gardening program at (937) 276-7053 for assistance in identifying organic alternatives for your pest and soil fertility challenges.

Standards of Care:

Pathways:

- All gardeners are responsible for keeping pathways around each of their plots clear and weed free, even for gardeners who rent adjacent plots.
- Plants must not exceed plot boundaries. Removal of pathways is prohibited.

Structures:

- Removable structures, which further crop production, e.g., low hoops, cold frames, or trellises, may be erected on year-round plots, but no permanent footings are allowed.
- Electrified fencing is not permitted.

Weeds:

- Weeds compete with other plants in your garden and can quickly become invasive. Weeds are not permitted to go to seed. If weeds are left to go to seed, they will affect your neighbor's garden as well.
- Gardeners are responsible for keeping their weeds reasonably under control (weeds that are less than 6" tall).
- Synthetic chemical herbicides and tarpaper are prohibited in the designated Seasonal and all Year-Round Organic areas.
- Landscape Fabric is not permitted in the Seasonal Plots.
- FRMP recommends using sheet mulching in your garden to minimize weeds. Up to one-inch sheet mulching (cardboard, newspaper) is permitted. Barriers must be weighed down so they do not get blown away by the wind. Only Year-Round plots can use landscape barrier fabrics. Barriers must look presentable and not pose as an eyesore.

Pest and Disease Control:

- Synthetic chemical pesticides are prohibited in the designated Seasonal and all Year-Round Organic plots garden areas.

Harvesting:

- You may harvest only from the plots you have rented.

Permitted Plants:

- Perennials such as asparagus and non-spreading bushes may be planted in plots.
- Cold-hardy, overwintering plants, such as garlic and greens, may be planted in Year-Round plots.
- All annuals are permitted at FRMP community gardens.

Plants which are NOT permitted:

- Trees, spreading berry bushes and invasive species may not be planted in any garden plots.
- Invasive annuals, such as morning glory, or aggressive spreading perennials, including mint, bamboo, and ivy may not be planted in the garden plots.

Resources:

- **Resources provided are only for community garden plots rented.**
- **Existing soil dirt, manure, water and any other materials are not to be removed from the premises.**
- Free horse manure is available at Carriage Hill Riding Center (8111 E. Shull Rd., Huber Heights, OH 45424) to the public throughout the year. It is self-service, so please bring your own vehicle, containers and tools. Gates are open between the hours of 8:30AM and 4PM seven days a week.

Soil Prep:

- Renters are responsible for their own soil prep and bed clean-up at the beginning and end of growing seasons.

Water:

- The waterlines will be turned on after the last frost date in the spring and turned off before the first frost date in the fall.
- **Unattended sprinklers are not allowed. Sprinklers and hoses found running unattended or outside of plot areas will be confiscated. Hoses left attached HAVE damaged MetroParks equipment.**
- **Water must be securely turned off after every use.**

Trash:

- **All trash may be placed in a trash can or bagged and placed next to the trash cans. Weeds and other compostable materials should be placed in one of the four areas designated as "Garden Waste". Please do not put weeds and other compostable materials in the paths. Nothing may be placed in any adjoining natural area.**

Behavior:

- **No vehicles are permitted in areas of spigots/waterlines.**
- DOGS ARE PERMITTED ONLY IN YOUR PLOT and must be on an eight (8) foot or shorter leash.
- Should vandalism, theft, or unusual behavior occur, report it to the FRMP Rangers by calling the Montgomery County Sheriff's Dispatch at 937-225-HELP (4357) and ask them to send a MetroParks Ranger to your location for non-emergency.
- Anyone caught stealing or using alcohol or drugs in the community gardens will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law and will lose all gardening privileges.
- Life threatening emergency call 911 immediately.

VIOLATION OF COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES

In the event that a gardener is observed violating any of the community garden's rules, policies, or practices, the gardener will be issued a verbal notification (by phone or in person) by FRMP and will be provided with reasonable opportunity to cease/redress/correct the violation.

In the event that no redress/correction is made, the violation reoccurs and/or no response to the notification is received within two (2) calendar weeks of the date of the verbal notification, a final notice will be issued informing the gardener of the suspension, or total forfeiture of gardening privileges and access to the garden plot(s). Please note that, at the discretion of FRMP, a gardener's violation of any rules may result in the gardener being prohibited from future participation in a FRMP community garden.

All rules, terms, and conditions of participation with the community garden are established by FRMP. By executing this agreement, the gardener acknowledges and agrees that in the event that the gardener violates any of the rules, terms and conditions set forth herein, at the sole discretion of FRMP, the gardener's participation may be immediately suspended and may result in permanent loss of the use of the gardener's plot. There will be no refund for suspension as the registration fees are non-refundable.

What Five Rivers MetroParks Provides for the Community Gardens

Before you rent your garden plot(s) for the first time:

Plot staking and identification: The corners of your plot will be staked and a flag with the plot ID # will be placed in the center of your rented plot. In addition, plot row numbers and letters are identified with signs at the perimeter of the larger community garden area.

During the Regular Growing Season (May-October), Five Rivers MetroParks will:

- Mow grass in the walkways and common areas as needed. **FRMP is not responsible for damage to hoses or tools left in the walkways or areas outside of garden plots.**
- FRMP will maintain the unused portions of the community gardens as needed.
- Patrol by FRMP Ranger Division.
- Maintain garden access paths along the buffer strip and around all sections.
- Provide water. Water spigots are conveniently located near the garden plots.

During the Winter Season (October-April), Five Rivers MetroParks will:

- Incorporate and maintain a 'buffer strip' between the year-round and non-used sections and will be planted with a cover crop. This cover crop will stand throughout the season as a physical barrier between the seasonal gardens and year-round organic plots.

Specific details about the community gardens at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark:

- Each plot is approximately 800 square feet (20 feet x 40 feet).
- The road to the community gardens is not always maintained during the winter months.
- The garden gate will be locked at all times. DO NOT share the lock combination; it is for registered gardeners ONLY. All gardeners will be notified by phone, email or mail if these numbers need to change.
- **It is YOUR responsibility to RE-LOCK the garden gate each time you enter or leave the community garden.**
- Areas around water spigots in the Year-Round garden plots are your responsibility to maintain in a weed-free fashion. FRMP will use standard weed control methods including chemical herbicides for unmaintained spigots.
- FRMP is not responsible for: costs related to individual garden plots, theft, damage, vandalism or any other acts of destruction or loss. FRMP makes no guarantees for water, drainage, growth, or drought.
- **All trash may be placed in a trashcan or bagged and placed next to the trash cans. Weeds and other compostable materials should be placed in one of the four areas designated as "Garden Waste". Please do not put weeds and other compostable materials in the paths. Nothing may be placed in any adjoining natural area.**
- Limit of 4 plots due to increased demand. (*Existing rented plots are grandfathered.)