



Five Rivers MetroParks - Community Gardens

Possum Creek MetroPark, 4790 Frytown Road
Dayton, Ohio 45417, (937) 275-7275 (PARK)

2024 Community Gardens Information

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 20' X 20' plot boundaries as marked by Five Rivers MetroParks.

Organic gardening is required in the 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. For more information about OMRI, please visit www.omri.org

Fees:

- Gardeners are responsible for the Seasonal rental of \$20.00 per plot. Plot size at Possum Creek is 20' X 20'.
- Fee may be paid using cash, personal check payable to **Five Rivers MetroParks** or credit card. Registration for new gardeners begins on-line or in person on Monday, April 15th. Possum Creek in-person sign-up hours are Tuesdays 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and other days by appointment with Laurie Kemp (937-274-3125).
- Fees total amount must be received for registration to be complete.

Gardening Dates & Hours:

- May 4 – November 1: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily

Vehicle Access:

- Vehicles must stay on paved areas. Please make sure to unload or load and then move vehicle to a designated parking area.
- Please do not drive or park on the grass.
- 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.
- In case of extended absence or illness, ask another gardener, family member, or friend to care for your plot.
- For any garden plot that is not worked/planted by Monday, May 27, 2024, your plot may be rented to someone else and you will not be eligible for a refund.
- **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. Please call the Community Gardening program at (937) 276-7053 for assistance in identifying organic alternatives for your pest and soil fertility challenges.
- Please contact Laurie Kemp at Possum Creek MetroPark (937-274-3125) on all situations concerning your plot.

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, 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 1' tall).**
- Synthetic chemical herbicides and tarpaper are prohibited.
- Landscape Fabric is not permitted.
- 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. Barriers must look presentable and not pose as an eyesore.

Pest and Disease Control:

- Synthetic chemical pesticides are prohibited. Please call the Community Gardening program at (937) 276-7053 for assistance in identifying organic alternatives.

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.
- 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.**
- **Resources are free for gardeners to use when available. Woodchips are only provided if we generate them in house.**
- **Soil, water and any other resources provided are not to be removed from the premises.**

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 in walkways HAVE damaged MetroParks equipment.**
- **Water must be securely turned off after every use. Hoses must be returned to inside their respective plot.**

Soil Prep

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

Trash

- All trash/garden waste 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 the area designated as “Garden Waste”. Please do not put weeds, rocks, or 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 marker will be placed in 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.
- Plots will be monitored throughout the gardening season to ensure guidelines and rules are being followed

Questions

Please contact Laurie Kemp at Possum Creek MetroPark – (937) 274-3125 or lkemp@metroparks.org.