

2017 MetroParks Middletown Community Gardens

Gardening Welcome Packet

MetroParks Middletown Community Gardens, 800 LaFayette Ave., Middletown, OH 45044

(Next to the Robert 'Sonny' Hill Community Center)

Gardener Information

Gardener Name: _____

Gardener e-mail: _____

Gardener Address: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Cell: (____) _____ - _____

Emergency Contact Info: _____ (____) _____ - _____
Name Phone

*Please note – the garden committee has made some changes in the plot designs for 2017. We have attached a map with quadrants to assist you on deciding which plot you would like to rent.

Please indicate the letter and number of the plot(s) you desire: _____

Size	# of Plots Desired	Annual Fee	Total Fee
20' X 20' plot	_____	x \$15 =	_____
10' X 20' plot + 10' X 10' raised bed	_____	x \$15 =	_____
10' X 20' plot + 10' X 10' plot	_____	X \$15 =	_____
10' X 20' plot	_____	X \$10=	_____
		Total Cost =	_____

For Office Use Only Plot #s Assigned: _____ 20' X 20' _____ 10' X 20' + 10' X 10' Raised bed _____ 10' X 20' + 10' X 10' _____ 10' X 20'

For Office Use Only Method of payment: _____ Amount of payment: _____
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Please enclose payment with this form. **Credit card payments can be made by calling MetroParks at 513-867-5835.** Make check payable to: MetroParks of Butler County. Mail completed form and payment or credit card payment receipt to: MetroParks of Butler County, Attn: Middletown Community Gardens, 2051 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013. For more information about the Middletown Community Gardens call us at 513-867-5835 or email laskill@yourmetroparks.net

If you are a new gardener, would you like an experienced gardener to help you? Y / N

If you are an experienced gardener, would you like to help a new gardener? Y / N

Would you like to share a garden with another gardener? Y / N



CONSENT AGREEMENT

I hereby certify that I am over eighteen (18) years of age and of sound mind and body and hereby agree that I am, or my minor child is, a voluntary participant in the MetroParks of Butler County Program(s), related events and activities, or I am a volunteer for a program sponsored by Middletown Community Center and MetroParks of Butler County.

It is further agreed that I hereby release MetroParks of Butler County, its employees, public officials, volunteers, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event from any and all liability for injury, disability, or death to any person or property incident to my own involvement or participation or my child's involvement or participation in these programs.

It is further agreed that I assume all risks, both known and unknown, and assume full responsibility for my own or my child's participation. It is further agreed that I will comply with the program's stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If I observe any concerns about my own or my child's participation and/or the program itself, I will remove myself or my child from participation and notify the MetroParks of Butler County.

It is further agreed I will indemnify and hold harmless MetroParks of Butler County, its employees, public officials, volunteers, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event from any liabilities incident to my own or my child's involvement or participation in the MetroParks of Butler County program(s), related events and activities, and/or MetroParks of Butler County sponsored events. In executing this agreement, I hereby certify that I have acted voluntarily based on my own knowledge and judgment and have not been influenced by statements of representations not included in this agreement.

This Garden Agreement is subject to change. All rules, guidelines, and policies of the MetroParks of Butler County override any of the information in this Garden Agreement should it be determined that there is a conflict. I have read and understand the MetroParks Middletown Community Gardens user agreement (see pages 3-4).

Please Print Your Name Here

Gardener's Signature

Date _____

For more information about the MetroParks Middletown Community Gardens call us at 513-867-5835 or email laskill@yourmetroparks.net.

Middletown Community Gardens Garden Agreement

1. Each gardener will be allocated one or more 20'x 20' or 10' X 20' plot + raised bed, in MetroParks' Middletown Community Gardens. Available plots will be assigned in the spring.
2. The annual fee for a garden plot is currently \$15 for a 20' X 20' plot, \$15 for a 10' X 20' plot + 10' X 10' raised bed, \$15 for a 10' X 20' plot + 10' X 10' plot or \$10 for a 10' X 20' plot. Fees are payable to MetroParks of Butler County, 2051 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013 and must be paid in full at the time of registration. The plot fee is non-refundable.
3. A water source is available outside of the gardens and is provided/managed by the City of Middletown. Please use water responsibly. Hoses may be used to transport water into the garden area. They must be removed when not in use. Hoses may not be placed on other rented garden plots. Water barrels will be placed around the gardens for renters use.
4. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot during the garden season. Tilling, watering, weeding, harvesting, and any other garden related maintenance are the responsibility of the gardener. It is also the gardener's responsibility to keep the walkways surrounding their plot clear and free of trash, plant materials, and supplies.
5. The garden will be available by April 22 through the end of October. Gardeners are responsible for "putting the garden to bed" and leaving the plot as they found it. Gardeners who intend to keep their plot from year to year have the option of gardening in the off season with approval.
6. The community garden is available from dawn to dusk, daily during the garden season.
7. It is the gardener's responsibility to notify MetroParks if they are not able to care for their plot for an extended period of time. If any plot becomes unkempt through neglect, the gardener will be given notice to clean it up. If the cleanup does not occur, the plot will be subject to reassignment.
8. Gardeners must provide their own gardening tools. For safety reasons, no tools or supplies of any kind may be left unattended at the garden site. On select days and times, we will have MetroPark staff/volunteers on site with gardening tools available for use by the gardeners.
9. Children are welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.
10. All MetroParks of Butler County Rules and Regulations must be followed in the garden including no tobacco, alcohol or illicit drugs.
11. Pets are permitted in the garden only if on a leash, no longer than 6' in length and are people-friendly and other pet-friendly.
12. Gardeners may only pick their own crops, unless given permission by another gardener.
13. Do not use fertilizers, insecticides or weed repellents that will in any way affect other plots.
14. Give consideration to others by planting tall crops where they will have the least impact on neighboring gardeners.

15. Fences are discouraged, but if used must appear neat and tidy and not exceed 36" in height. No structures may obstruct vision throughout the garden. Exceptions are trellises and wire used to grow climbing plants, which may not exceed 6 feet.
16. Restricted Plants: Noxious plants, invasive plants, or other illegal plants **are not allowed**. *Nuisance plants include* Jerusalem Artichokes, Morning glories, and Bamboo. Mint can be planted in a container but not in the ground.
17. Never throw anything such as trash, weeds, plant material, spoiled fruits or vegetables in the field surrounding the garden. A compost pile and garbage cans will be maintained for such purposes.
18. MetroParks of Butler County is responsible for ensuring that the rules are followed at all times. Issues will be discussed at periodic meetings and through the season. Garden plots must at all times be maintained in a safe condition, and if any condition is deemed unsafe, Garden Committee will require the gardener to rectify the situation immediately. MetroParks of Butler County may choose to send a written notice. If gardener does not respond within ten (10) business days, then MetroParks of Butler County will assume control and maintenance of the garden plot.

Explanation of attached quadrant map for garden plots:

Plots that are 20' X 20'

A - 2
A - 3
A - 4
A - 5
A - 6
A - 7

Plots that are 10' X 20'

A - 8
D - 8

Plots that are 10' X 20' plus a 10' X 10' raised bed

A - 1
D - 1

B - 1
B - 2
B - 3
B - 6
B - 7
B - 8

Plots that are 10' X 20' plus a 10' X 10' plot

B - 4
B - 5
C - 4
C - 5

C - 1
C - 2
C - 3
C - 6
C - 7
C - 8

D - 2
D - 3
D - 4
D - 5
D - 6
D - 7

For more information about the Middletown Community Gardens call us at 513-867-5835 or email laskill@yourmetroparks.net.



FAQs About The MetroParks Middletown Community Gardens

The following are answers to some *frequently asked questions*. Other questions can be directed to the Garden Committee.

How much does it cost to garden here?

A 20' x 20' plot is \$15 per plot for the seasonal year.

A 10' X 20' + 10'x10' raised bed plot is \$15 for the seasonal year.

A 10' X 20' + 10' X 10' plot is \$15 for the seasonal year.

A 10' X 20' plot is \$10 for the seasonal year.

What kinds of tools, equipment and supplies are available at the garden? You will need to bring your own gardening equipment. On select days, MetroParks will have staff/volunteers on site with gardening tools that may be used by gardeners. These dates will be selected by May 1.

Can I hook up a hose to the water tap located on the outside of the garden? Yes, to help transport water into the garden area. However, the hose can't be placed in another renter's garden plot. Do not leave the hose attached after use. We hope to place water barrels in strategic locations throughout the gardens for ease of watering purposes.

What can I do to help the community garden grow? 1) Sign up for one of the many volunteer positions, 2) Maintain your plot, 3) Pay your yearly dues 4) Have fun 5) Tell your friends and family to join you in the gardens

Whom do I contact for gardening advice? Feel free to ask more experienced gardeners questions. Call the Butler County Master Gardener Hotline at 513-887-3722.

What can I plant in my garden plot? With the exception of the listed restricted plants and trees, it is entirely up to you. As long as you keep your plot in shape by weeding and tending to it on a regular basis, most any type of vegetable, herb, or flower should be acceptable. Please refrain from planting anything deemed as "invasive" by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/> or the United States Department of Agriculture. If you have any questions, please contact MetroParks of Butler County at 513-867-5835.

What type of fencing is allowed? If used, fencing should be kept to a minimum and must be removed by the gardener at the end of the season. Keep your gardening neighbors in mind when thinking about fencing. Please refer to item #14 & #15 in the Garden Agreement.

I'm not sure I can keep up with a full plot but I'd still like to garden. What should I do? Consider requesting a shared garden. On the Garden Request form, you can indicate that you'd like to share a plot with someone else. We will attempt to match you up with another gardener and you can work together.

2017 Best Planting Dates for Seeds

The Old Farmer's Almanac.com

Crop	Start Seeds Indoors	Moon-favorable Dates	Start Seeds in the Ground	Moon-favorable Dates
Beans			Apr 25-May 9	Apr 25
Beets			Apr 4-May 16	Apr 4- 9
Broccoli	Feb 27-Mar 14	Mar 11-14	Apr 4-11	Apr 10-11
Cabbage	Feb 27-Mar 14	Mar 11-14	Apr 18-May 2	Apr 18-25
Carrots			Mar 21-Apr 4	Mar 28-Apr 4
Cauliflower	Feb 27-Mar 14	Mar 11-14	Apr 18-May 2	Apr 18-25
Celery	Feb 27-Mar 14	Mar 11-14		
Corn			May 9-16	May 9-16
Cucumbers	Mar 28-Apr 11	Apr 10-11	May 2- 9	May 9
Lettuce	Mar 14-28	Mar 14-27	Apr 18-May 9	Apr 18-25
Melons	Mar 28-Apr 11	Apr 10-11	May 9-16	May 9-16
Onion sets			Mar 28-Apr 4	Mar 28-Apr 4
Parsnips			Apr 4-25	Apr 4- 9
Peas			Mar 14-28	Mar 14-27
Peppers	Feb 27-Mar 14	Mar 11-14		
Potato tubers			Apr 25-May 9	Apr 26-May 8
Pumpkins	Mar 28-Apr 11	Apr 10-11	May 2- 9	May 9
Radishes			Apr 18-May 2	Apr 26-May 2
Spinach			Mar 14-28	Mar 14-27
Squash, summer	Mar 28-Apr 11	Apr 10-11	May 2- 9	May 9
Squash, winter	Mar 28-Apr 11	Apr 10-11	May 2- 9	May 9
Tomatoes	Feb 27-Mar 14	Mar 11-14		