

WELCOME TO THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE'S COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM

The Gainesville Community Garden Program I administered by the Recreation and Parks Department and is open to any resident of the City of Gainesville. The City provides basics such as the garden site, water, initial tillage, and fencing materials if needed. Each participating gardener agrees to abide by established procedures as set forth below (see Community Garden Rules, pages 7 & 8).

To protect public health, animals, and the environment, all gardens will adhere to basic organic gardening methods (no dangerous pesticides, herbicides, or synthetic fertilizers). More detailed information on organic gardening may be obtained from the Alachua County Cooperative Extension Service, 280 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL, and from the Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc., (FOG) P.O. Box 12311, Gainesville, FL 32604, 352-377-6345. Fax 352-377-8363.

If you would be interested in beginning a new Community Garden or joining an existing one, please call the City of Gainesville's Parks Division at 334-2171.

BACKGROUND

A Community Garden is a neighborhood green space set aside for local residents to grow their own fresh vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers.

Since the beginning of agriculture thousands of years ago, families and communities all over the world have relied on small gardens close to their homes and villages to provide fresh food. Today, although refrigeration has made it possible to store and transport large quantities of produce, in many countries small family and neighborhood gardens continue to provide a major portion of the fresh fruits and vegetables that people eat..

According to the American Community Gardens Association, community garden programs in the United States have proliferated over the past twenty-five years: from fewer than 20 such programs in the early 1970's there are now more than 550!

A number of important benefits account for this astounding increase in popularity. Among these are:

- *fresh, wholesome and nutritious food at low cost to neighborhood residents;*
- *neighborhood beautification and environmental enhancement;*
- *healthful outdoor recreation;*
- *educational opportunities relating to gardening and the environment; and*
- *building and strengthening communities through positive social interaction and shared activities.*

Community gardening revitalizes neighborhoods, promotes social and economic self-empowerment, and can serve as the basis for new local entrepreneurship or “micro-enterprises”. Community gardening also widely recognized for its significant therapeutic value in the rehabilitation of individuals suffering from a variety of conditions including physical, mental, and psychological illnesses or disabilities as well as substance abuse problems. Perhaps most important in today’s increasingly hurried and urbanized environment, community gardens are places where people can share their love of nature and help care for a small part of “mother earth”.

COMMUNITY GARDENS PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the Gainesville Community Gardens Program is to assist neighborhoods and community organizations in the creation, operation, and maintenance of community gardens, to:

- *Improve public nutrition and the neighborhood environment;*
- *Increase opportunities for healthful outdoor recreation, practical education, and positive social interaction; and*
 - *Build community self-reliance and sustainability*

**CITY OF GAINESVILLE
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT APPLICATION**

For New Participants: Gardener cooperation is very important to the success of the City of Gainesville's Community Gardens Program. As a gardener, you must be physically capable of working your plot or know someone who will work it with you. It is also important that each gardener follow all the rules and regulations regarding garden plots. Each new member will be required to attend an orientation meeting and sign a liability waiver.

This application is valid from October 1, ____ through September 30, _____. If a plot is not available, your application will be placed on a waiting list. All plots are assigned on a first come, first serve basis. Waiting list applicants will be notified in the event a plot becomes available.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION
(Please Print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, CONTACT:

NAME _____ PHONE _____

GARDEN SITE _____ PLOT ALLOCATION # _____

SITE COORDINATOR _____

To be completed by site coordinator.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

I agree to hold harmless the City of Gainesville, its agents, officers, and employees from suits, actions, damages, liability and expense in conjunction with the loss of life, bodily or personal injury or property damage arising from or occasioned by any act of negligence or intentional wrongdoing on the part of Applicant/Participant. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted as a waiver of the City's sovereign immunity as granted under Section 768.28, Florida Statutes.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT _____ DATE _____

**FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE LOCATION OF THE CITY'S COMMUNITY GARDENS, PLEASE
CALL THE CITY'S PARKS DIVISION AT 352-334-2171.**

INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS FORM IS SUBJECT TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA PUBLIC RECORDS LAW (CH. 119.07, FLA. STAT.). UNDER THIS LAW, THE CITY IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO AND COPIES OF NON-EXEMPT PUBLIC RECORD UPON PROPER REQUEST FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

THIS FORM DOCUMENT NO. P98-0068 IS A LEGAL INSTRUMENT APPROVED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY. ANY DEVIATIONS FROM ITS USE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY.

CITY OF GAINESVILLE'S COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM

The Community Garden Program is a working partnership between neighborhood gardens and the City of Gainesville. Each Community Garden must have a site coordinator and two assistants before formal application can be made. Once that has been established then the process of signing individuals to garden plots begins. The following provides the guidelines for both the coordinators and the gardeners.

THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE WILL:

- *Provide the available City owned property, if applicable.*
- *Provide the appropriate review and notify all property owners within 400 feet of the proposed garden for neighborhood input and approval.*
- *Provide initial tilling of the site.*
- *Provide water and one spigot for every four garden plots.*
- *Provide fencing materials if requested. Materials will consist of metal or recycled plastic posts and pressure treated pickets. Pressure treated pickets must not come in contact with the ground.*
- *Provide five compost bins to each garden site if requested.*
- *Periodically evaluate each garden site to determine if it is fulfilling the criteria established and to assist in addressing any problems or needs that may have arisen including the construction of additional facilities.*

SITE COORDINATOR WILL:

- *Complete the Community Garden Lease Agreement form and coordinate the completion of each Garden Plot Application. All completed forms must be submitted to the City of Gainesville's Parks Division.*
- *Act a liaison with the City of Gainesville's Recreation and Parks Department's Parks Division.*
- *Develop and submit the site plan and plot layouts (in conjunction with other core gardeners) for approval by the City.*
- *Settle any disputes among gardeners when and if necessary. The Site Coordinator can consult with the Alachua County Extension Service or the Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc. (FOG) to resolve garden problems.*
- *Assign all plots on a first come, first serve basis. In addition, specify how individual garden plots are separated and identified as well as determining the size of plots.*
- *Insure that all gardeners assigned plots fill out and sign garden rules and indemnification agreements.*
- *Keep and maintain all records relating to the garden.*
- *Insure general oversight, including a well kept site with proper maintenance.*

- *Organize work parties*
- *Insure that no fixed permanent seating or tables is installed on garden site.*

GARDENERS WILL:

- *Complete the Community Garden Plot Application Form and submit to the Garden Site Coordinator.*
- *Attend one garden orientation once assigned a plot.*
- *To begin work on plots within 10 days after garden has been tilled, if applicable.*
- *Not use any synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides or insecticides.*
- *Agree to install fencing supplied by the City of Gainesville in a manner required by the City, if requested.*
- *Not work on gardens only between dawn and dusk.*
- *Not use mechanized equipment no earlier then 9:00 AM.*
- *Keep gardens free from weeds, rotten produce, and plant debris.*
- *Dispose of stakes, plastics, and any garbage in a timely manner.*
- *Maintain the shared paths adjacent to their garden plot, without digging into the main paths and keep pathways free of toxic materials and rocks.*
- *Closely supervise children.*
- *Use headphones when listening to radios or other portable sound equipment.*
- *Not grow any illegal crops.*
- *Not damage or harvest from another garden plot.*
- *Not profit by selling produce unless proceeds are to benefit the garden as a whole. The selling of produce at the garden site is strictly prohibited.*
- *Not bring any tires to the garden site.*
- *Not bring any pets to the garden.*
- *Not smoke or use tobacco products on site.*
- *Not bring or consume any alcoholic beverages on the garden site.*