



History Center of Olmsted County – COMMUNITY GARDEN

2026 INFORMATION AND RULES

The History Center Community Garden is open to the public for an annual fee between May 9 to October 31, 2025 (dates flex with weather). We will endeavor to lengthen this season as conditions permit. Gardeners without prior year's reservation can sign up any time after February 1st.

Some advantages of the History Center Community Garden:

- A fence surrounds the garden area to keep out deer
- Water is available on site with hoses
- A shed for storage of shared tools
- Intangibles such as gatherings, garden lectures, and access to Master Gardeners!

Rental Plots:

- Standard 14' x 20' plot: Cost = \$100 (\$75 for History Center members)
- Raised bed plots 4' x 20': Cost = \$75 (\$50 for members).
 - If no raised beds are available, you can put your name on a waiting list for a raised bed. We plan to build more each year if there is a demand for them. Individuals will be asked to donate the cost of materials for their bed and assist with the labor to fill them. You could then continue to rent the same raised bed on an annual basis.

To rent a plot, please contact the Olmsted History Center at 507-282-9447 and ask for Darla.

Volunteer Work Hours:

All gardeners are asked to consider volunteering for a job in the general upkeep of the Community Garden. The expectation is approximately 4 hours over the course of the season. The garden manager will send a job list and you can sign up for a task that works for you. The jobs will include:

1. Garden opening tasks (work as group with the garden manager)
2. Taking a turn at mowing the garden paths

3. Taking a turn at tending the strawberry patch
4. General maintenance workday (group)
5. Participate in our produce donation drop offs
6. End of season garden closeout (group)
7. Garden Helper (assist other gardeners such as watering during a vacation time)
8. Serve on the Garden Committee (help advise and discuss Community Garden direction). 1-3 meetings

If you have physical limitations, you would not be expected to participate, but perhaps you would want to be on the Garden Committee.

If you have any questions, please email one of the organizers if interested:

Curt Shellum at curtshellum@gmail.com or 507-990-1382

Mark Williams at mdwill47@gmail.com

GENERAL RULES

History Center responsibilities:

- **Tilling:** The ground will be tilled at the beginning and end of the season. A walk behind tiller is also available for use; stored in the garden shed.
- **Water:** Water is provided via a hydrant with hose bibs in the garden area. Please make sure to turn off the water as you leave.
- **Compost:** A compost area is available on the East side for compostable biomass.
- **Shed:** A shed is available for shared tools and equipment. You can also store personal garden tools during the season.

Gardener rules and responsibilities:

- **Help with garden upkeep:** Please consider donating at least 4 hours each season to join fellow gardeners in garden upkeep tasks.
- **Parking:** Garden parking is along the gravel road. Two wheels can be on the grass but please do not drive off the road onto the grass.
- **Stay Inside the Lines:** Encroaching on your neighbor's space isn't very neighborly. If you are planting tall or trellised plants, keep in mind where the shade will be and avoid shading a neighbor's area. Check with the garden manager if you are uncertain.
- **Keep It Neat:** Keep your plot weeded and tidy. Plant only what you feel you can manage. Avoid planting invasive species (e.g. mint) that may take over your neighbor's garden. If your garden appears to be untended, we may reach out with a friendly reminder. **An untended plot may result in loss of future garden privileges.** If there are community tools, hoses, etc., for you to use; treat them with care and respect. You are encouraged to use straw or

mulch to reduce the need for weeding. Avoid standing water to reduce mosquitoes.

- **Corn or Sunflowers:** If you plant corn or sunflowers you are responsible for removing them at the end of the season and hauling them away. They cannot go in the compost bin.
- **Garden season closeout:** All are expected to clean out their garden area in the fall by October 30th.
- **Watch the Kids:** Children are welcome to help their families but keep a close eye on little ones and don't let them trample on neighboring plots (or take any of the bounty!) Also, we have nine chickens that are free ranging until dusk. Kids can certainly watch the chickens but we ask that kids not chase or tease them.
- **Pets:** No pets are allowed in the garden area. Please keep them on a leash outside of the fenced in community garden.
- **Avoid Chemicals:** No insecticides or herbicides will be used that will detrimentally affect adjacent gardens or grass areas. ●
- **Golden Rule:** Treat others as you would like to be treated. Please resolve differences in a neighborly way.
- **History Center specific rules** - Tobacco products are not allowed on the grounds of the History Center.