

~ Building Community
Growing Vegetables ~

St. Cloud Area Community Garden Directory

SPRING 2012

~ Welcome ~

Welcome to the St. Cloud Area Community Garden Directory. We are happy to share community gardening information with the residents of the St. Cloud Area. We believe that communities grow stronger when members have a common goal, especially one of growing food! Working together in a garden encourages social networking, access to healthy food, and sharing of gardening experiences.

The intention of the directory is to connect community gardens and gardeners. We collect information from each gardens to create public awareness of the gardens, promote local healthy food options, and network resources. Our goal is to promote local food accessibility in the St. Cloud Area.

The larger idea behind this project is addressing the issue of lacking knowledge of local food production options. Our personal goals is that the directory is utilized by St. Cloud Area organizations to promote positive local social change, influence the management of local environment, support economic growth via local food production, and educate the public about healthy eating choices.



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~ All Community Gardens Belongs Here ~

Goals & Description of Garden:

Participate, know of, or thinking of starting a community garden? You information belongs in here. Contact either Chad or Karen via the email listed at the end page of this directory. We will get in touch with you about adding another community garden to the St. Cloud Area Community Garden Directory.

Thank you for being part of our community!

Location & Website:

Coming to a community area near you

Contact Info:

Really important people
Happy to help grow our community

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

Community Gardening

Number of Plots:

Community Wide

Year Founded

2012

Number of participants:

Your community members

Definitions for Gardeners:

Annual: A plant that normally lives 1 year or is used for just 1 year

Bolting (running to seed): Flowering prematurely, usually due to unsuitable climatic conditions at certain stages of growth. Spinach, lettuce, celery, broccoli, and endive are plants that are prone to bolting.

Cold Frame: A frame with clear top used to acclimatize plants to cold

Companion Plant: A plant making a showy, contrasting display or providing pollination or which enhances the growth of the plant next to

Compost: A soil made by piling organic material and letting it rot can either be standardized with specific content such as John Innes compost or unspecific

Community Garden: A community garden can be any parcel of land gardened by a group of people. Community gardens give people the ability to grow their own food and contribute to the preservation & beautification of open spaces

Cool-season Crop: A crop that grows best during the cool temperatures of spring and fall.

Crop Rotation: Growing crops of a specific family in different areas of the garden each year to avoid soil-borne diseases and nutrient depletion.

CSA: Community Supported Agriculture programs enable community members to partner with a farm to “buy shares” of farm produce over a growing year. In a CSA program, the members receive a share of the farm’s produce weekly.

Direct Seeding: Planting seeds directly in a garden space

Dwarf: A genetically smaller plant - often 1/4 or less normal size

Food Security: Food security exists “when all people have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life” (according to the World Health Organization). Increasing local food production and consumption increases food security.

Germination: Development of seeds into young plants

Ground Cover: A spreading short plant used to cover soil

Hardening: Preparing a vulnerable plant for normal outdoor conditions

Harvesting: Removal of a desirable plant part - fruit or seed or stem

Heirloom plants: Cultivars of flowers, fruits, and vegetables that are open-pollinated, in use prior to 1945, and preserved by farmers and gardeners.

Individual Plot: Clearly divided garden inside a larger garden area

Mulch: A thin organic or manmade material covering the soil around plants to conserve moisture and suppress weeds

Ornamental: Showy or visually pleasing plants

Perennial: A plant which lives or can be displayed for 2 or more years

Raised Bed: Planting in a bed elevated above ground level. It is often used where drainage is poor.

Selection: Process of picking plants which meet your purpose and removing others

Shared Plot: Collectively managed garden spot

Soil: A natural substrate for plant roots - has minerals and organic matter

Sustainable: Sustainable farming methods are self-defined and may indicate such farm practices as the avoidance of synthetic fertilizers or pesticides and utilizing humane livestock practices.

Transplantation: Process of moving a plant from one soil mass to another

Warm-season Crops: Crops that are harmed by frost and do not grow well until average daily temperatures are in the 70s.

~ Joining a Community Garden ~

Want to join a community garden? Well you are in luck. Inside this directory you will find locations of community gardens and below you will find a general guide on how to participate in or join a community garden.

⇒ What you do need?

- * Willingness to work together
- * Willingness to get your hands dirty
- * Willingness to learn new things
- * Willingness to make new friends
- * Willingness to eat fresh and healthy food

⇒ What you don't need?

- * You don't need prior gardening knowledge
- * You don't need your own garden
- * You don't need to bring any tools
- * You don't need to own any land
- * You don't need to know what you are doing

- 1) Locate a community garden near you and visit
- 2) Introduce yourself to any gardener or ask how you can help
- 3) If no one is there walk around the garden and explore
- 4) Look for a sign at the garden, some have contact information
- 5) You can visit the garden website or email the contact person

~ Starting a Community Garden ~

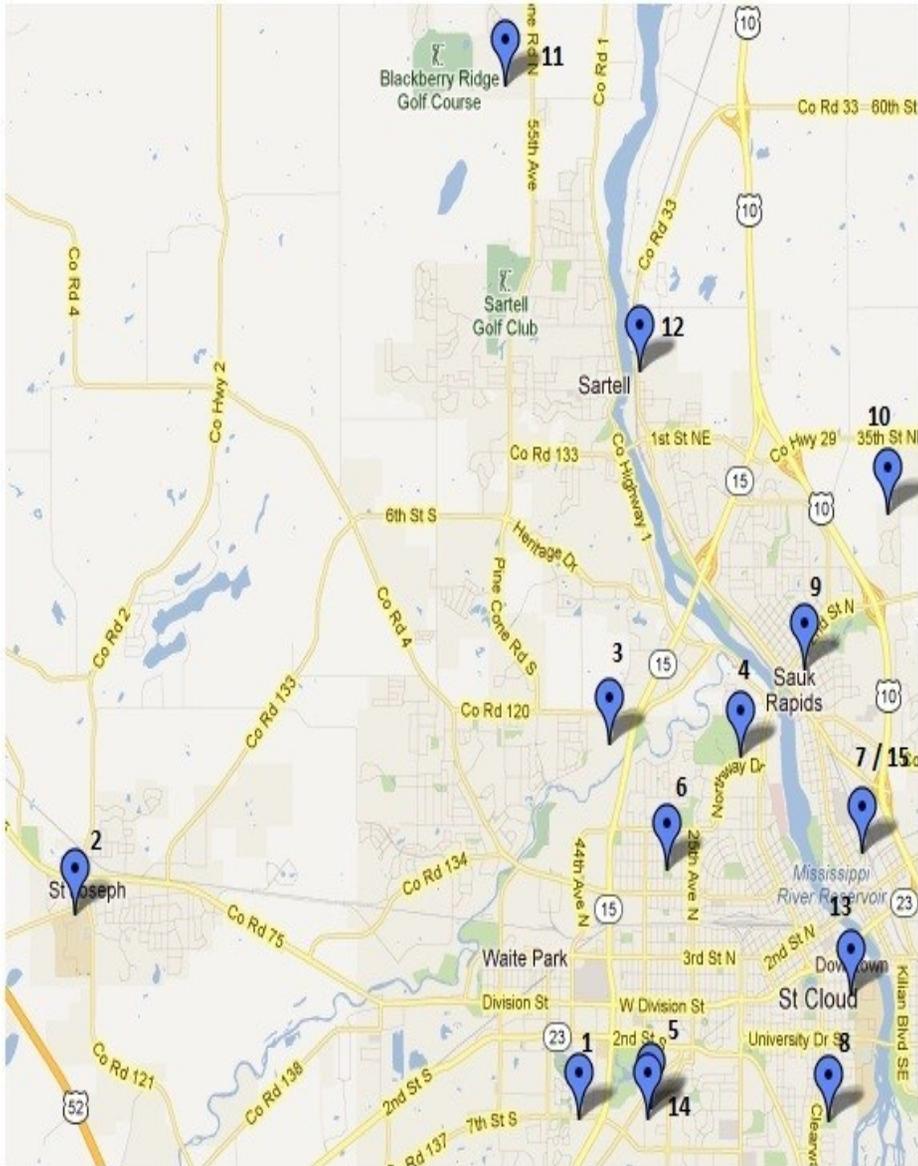
Ever want to start your own garden? Here are the basic steps to help you get going on one. Need more info? No worries, we are here to help you network with local resources to make your garden happen.

- (1) Choose a location; make sure you consider sunlight, pollutants, wind, water source, and prior history of the space
- (2) Consider the accessibility and visibility. Awareness of your garden is key and close proximity to gardeners and resources
- (3) Consider the soil: test it for depth, its content, and ph level. But remember it is amendable!
- (4) Layout and size: Map it out, plan for production, how much time you can spend in the garden, and consider future expansion.
- (5) Garden beds versus Raised beds and what sizes to use.
- (6) Long term maintenance: Crop rotation, soil health, and nutritious food are key goals.
- (7) Asking WHY you are establishing a garden:
Education, Community Building, Market Stands, Retail Distribution, CSA, Winter Production, Composting, or Seed Saving are all great reasons to move forward.

These simple steps from “The Basics: Establishing your Garden and Business Plan” by Sophie Patterson; SISA conference coordinator.

Email basementchad@gmail.com for further information, questions, or connections to local resources.

~ Map of Community Gardens ~



~ Garden Key ~

- 1) Bethlehem Lutheran Community Garden
- 2) Common Ground Garden
- 3) James H. Kelly, MD Community Garden
- 4) Liberty Garden, Whitney Senior Center
- 5) Maine Prairie Garden
- 6) Pantown Park Community Garden
- 7) Raymond Park Community Garden
- 8) Schmidt Park Community Garden
- 9) Russell Arms Apartment Garden Club
- 10) Sacred Heart Church Garden
- 11) Sartell North Ridge Community Garden
- 12) Sartell East Ridge Community Garden
- 13) St. Cloud State University Community Garden
- 14) Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Community Garden
- 15) East Side Boys and Girls Club Garden

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC)

Community Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

Our goal is to make this a self-directed mission, with BLC providing the space and water. We hope to increase participation and expand as the community becomes more aware of sustainable food options. At this point we are trying to encourage participation and involvement.

Location & Website (N/A):

4310 County Road 137 St. Cloud, MN 56301

Contact Info:

Carrie Krick 320-202-0449

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

The garden consists of nine individual 10' x 20', plots and shared rhubarb and strawberry plots.

Year Founded:

2009

Number of participants:

Five core group members and the nine plot renters. This is the first year with all Individual plots.

Participation requirements:

Participants are asked to maintain their plot and surrounding areas.

Size of draw for participants:

Approx. 4 mile radius

Chemicals or Fertilizers allowed:

We request the use of only organic methods for pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

Cost to participate:

We charge \$15 per plot which covers the tilling, weed disposal, and compost.

Typical crops:

Strawberries, rhubarb and a variety of herbs are communal while individual plots are planted by their gardeners.

Who plans the garden?

The garden space is planned by a core group representing the outreach ministry, church members, as well as participating gardeners.

The preschool students start pumpkins and sunflowers as part of their curriculum and are transplanted into the garden.

The 5th and 6th grade students help with prepping the garden space in the Spring and Fall.

Harvesting & Surpluses:

Each gardener is free to do as they choose with their harvest. We ask that the surplus is donated to the Food Shelf.

Amenities:

Tool shed and twice weekly watering.



Children's Home Environmental Center Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

In April of 2009 Central MN Sustainability Project (CMSP) founder Rick Miller and John Krueger, then Children's Home Director, talked about the possibilities for land use at the CHEC. The garden is a result of those talks and is part of a continuing discussion between the St. Cloud Children's Home and CMSP. Current goals of the garden are:

1. CMSP market production
2. Community building through culture diversity
3. Strengthening families

Future goals are:

1. Produce chemical free food for volunteer gardeners
2. Education – CMSP Women and Children's Organization
3. CMSP Market Production

Location & Website:

Rural Cold Spring 56320

www.sustainmn.org

Contact Info:

Rick Miller springleafarm1@yahoo.com 320-492-9415

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

Shared community space and no plots.

Year Founded:

2009

Number of participants:

15 - remaining steady

Participation requirements:

Participants work on average 2 times weekly.

Size of draw for participants:

Approx. 25 mile radius

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

None; There are numerous highly qualified "chemical free" gardeners

Cost to participate:

N/A

Typical crops:

Crop varieties are chosen for marketability and to satisfy volunteer desire. Crops are strategically planted to reduce risk of disease.

Who plans the garden?

The CMSP (see website) board plans use of the space as permitted by St. Cloud Children's Home.

Harvesting & Surpluses:

Volunteers take what they need for personal use. The balance is sold at market. Excess is donated to the community.

Structures or fencing:

N/A

Amenities:

N/A



Common Ground Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

Common Ground Garden started in 1993 when S. Phyllis Plantenberg called together a small group to discuss establishing a community supported, sustainable garden. A core committee drafted a mission statement and proposed a set of objectives. The Benedictine Sisters provided about a third of an acre and a shed for tools.

The project intended to help people learn about sustainable gardening in our bioregion, promote the use of healthy locally grown foods, contribute to the local economy, and promote community spirit among people. These are still our intentions and goals today.

Mission statement: Common Ground Garden will create community around the production of high quality, chemical free fruits and vegetables in as sustainable a manner as possible. Within this work, Common Ground Garden will work to inspire and educate the community in the value of locally and sustainably produced food.

Common Ground Garden's values are inspired by the values of the Benedictine community, particularly including environmental stewardship, spiritual connections through our relationships with others, and the sustainability of these values through our work.

Location & Website:

104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374

Borders the College of St. Benedict/Sisters of St. Benedict campus
www.sbm.osb.org/ministries/common_ground_garden/

Contact Info:

Kate Ritger, Production Manager
commonground@csbsju.edu
262-339-7737

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

There are a few individual plots to community members who seek space, namely residents of the neighboring Catholic Charities apartments, but the garden is structured as one unit.

Number of Plots:

Plots as requested; one large garden space

Year Founded:

1993

Number of participants:

Roughly 70 members participate in our CSA, hundreds of people connected via Farmer's Market, Minnesota St. Market, St. Joe Food Shelf, St. Cloud Food Pantry, volunteers, and friends of the garden.

Participation requirements:

Subscribers pick up produce on Thursday evenings from mid-June through mid-October.

Size of draw for participants:

Approx. 20 mile radius

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

None

Cost to participate:

Money comes to the garden via CSA subscriptions, sales at the Farmer's Market and Minnesota Street Market, and donations. Others support the garden by volunteering work or other talents to the garden.

Typical crops:

A wide variety of vegetables and fruits are planted in the garden, from lettuce mixes and spring radishes to winter squash, root vegetables and herbs.

Who plans the garden?

The Production Manager and Garden Director plan the garden on a need to deliver throughout an 18 week distribution season.

Harvesting & Surpluses:

Produce is distributed to CSA members on Thursdays, sold at the Farmer's Market and Minnesota Street Market on Fridays, and extended to the Sisters of St. Benedict, volunteers, and patrons of the two area food shelves and anyone else we know needs or seeks food.

Structures or fencing:

Tool shed and water

Amenities:

Community members and friends are invited to monthly garden events (educational and social) and are welcome at any time to visit the garden.

Eastside Boys & Girls Club Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

The Garden was initially started as a component of the Education Program at the Eastside Boys & Girls Club in 2004 by Sarah Klinnert. Members would get to see the process; seedling to plant, measure growth, experiment and learn about ecosystems.

Every year the garden was expanded until 2008, the last year at the Wilson Ave location. The Garden project continued with a small garden the first year we were at our new location in Raymond Park. The next year we received a grant from Benton County and constructed all raised beds, bought equipment, green houses and seeds. Last year we got the opportunity to be a part of the Raymond Park Community Garden with the City of St. Cloud.

A main component for the Gardens is sharing the passion of teaching lessons about growing plants and food with our youth, especially their connection to the earth and their relationship to healthy food. Each year we take on new adventures in growing programming with the children of the Boys and Girls Club.

Our current goals are to plant a garden that produces healthy, organic food to be distributed to our families. Each year we try to plant items that are unique, rare or kid sized. The future goals of the garden are for us to set a goal of pounds of food to produce/donate to local charity and to have more involvement in the Gardens with parents and the community.

Location & Website:

320 Raymond Avenue NE, St. Cloud, Saint Cloud, Minnesota
On the West end of the Eastside Building

www.bgcmmn.org (more information about Boys and Girls Club)

Contact Info:

Katie Ruprecht
kruprecht@bgcmmn.org
320-257-5405

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

We have one shared garden for the entire unit with a greenhouse, toolshed, rain gardens, and raised beds

Number of Plots:

One garden space and plots in the Raymond Park Community Garden

Year Founded:

2004

Number of participants:

We have about 40-50 kids participate in everything from planting seeds, pulling weeds, and harvesting

Participation requirements:

The kids work in the gardens daily as part of the programming provided by the Boys and Girls Club

Size of draw for participants:

Approx. 5 mile radius

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

None used so far

Cost to participate:

The garden is free to all members and their families; however we do require a \$10 annual membership fee for the Boys & Girls Club.

Typical crops:

We plant many varieties of vegetables and herbs. We just started a strawberry patch and are beginning to plant perennial gardens.

Who plans the garden?

The garden coordinator mainly decides what is planted, focusing on plants that are unique, brightly colored or “kid sized” varieties and have high yields.

Harvesting & Surpluses:

If children help with the process of raising the vegetables, they get first pick of what they would like to take home. We also use some of the produce in our meal program. The food is also distributed to families and used in our Summer Food program.

Amenities:

In 2011 we had a master gardener volunteer help us with our program. He helped with planting, cultivation, and harvesting. He also brought animals from his hobby farm each week. This was a valuable experience for our members.

James H. Kelly, MD Community Garden

CentraCare Plaza in North St. Cloud

Goals & Description of Garden:

The garden construction was funded by CentraCare Foundation. It was a collaborative effort through leadership from CentraCare Healthcare Systems and Central Minnesota Sustainability Project. Purpose was to provide diversity in land use and community building within CentraCare and the greater community. The current and future goals for the garden are listed below and participants are encouraged and participate through idea exchanges, garden tours, and garden community annual picnic.

1. Encourage - healthy food, healthy lifestyles
2. Community building through culture diversity
3. Improve institutional food culture
4. Goals are fluid when beneficial

Future:

1. Produce chemical free food to integrate into CentraCare Plaza systems
2. Education - both CentraCare Gardeners and greater community
3. Possible weekly market to CentraCare employees

Location & Website:

CentraCare Plaza Campus (across surgery center on south end of campus)
1900 CentraCare Circle St. Cloud, MN 56303
www.centracare.com & www.sustainmn.org

Contact Info:

Rick Miller springlefarm1@yahoo.com 320-492-9415

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

48 individual plots with 7 plots jointly held by the St. Cloud Area Somali Women's Association (SASWA)

Number of Plots:

48 total plots

Year Founded:

N/A

Number of participants:

60 - remaining steady

Participation requirements:

Participants work on average 3 times weekly and 48 individual plots allocated on a first come first serve basis the first year. Prior year tenant has priority in following years.

Size of draw for participants:

Approx. 8 mile radius

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

None; There are numerous highly qualified "chemical free" gardens

Cost to participate:

There is a \$25 plot fee payable to Central Minnesota Sustainability Project (CMSP). About half of the plots are provided for free by CMSP to low income households.

Typical crops:

A vast variety of vegetables and herbs are planted.

Who plans the garden?

The 48 individual renters

Harvesting & Surpluses:

N/A

Structures or fencing:

N/A

Amenities:

N/A



Liberty Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

The gardens were started in 1980, with the idea that senior citizens would have a place to enjoy the outdoors with an activity that would give them a chance to socialize while also getting exercise and forming friendships. The indirect results were that the gardeners were bettering their health, both mentally and physically.

Our goal is to provide Senior citizens with the common ground to be active, exercise, develop friendships when sharing gardening advice, produce, just enjoying the beauty of the gardens as they grow. It is a joy to be out there everyone is so helpful and looking into the future we want to enrich the soil through composting.

Location & Website:

Whitney Senior Center (near the woodshop)
1527 Northway Drive
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Contact Info:

Barbara Hall
Volunteer coordinator
320-255-7245
barbara.hall@ci.stcloud.us

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

There are only individual plots in the garden 10' x 20' long

Number of Plots:

49 total; one is handi-capped accessible

Year Founded:

1980

Number of participants:

49 participants with very low turnover and there is a waiting list to fill up any open garden plot. Sign up at the front desk at the Whitney Center to get on the list.

Participation requirements:

Participants are asked to abide by the rules to keep their plot up or they lose their plot the following year with no exceptions. If due to illness or travel they are unable to work their garden we have a garden committee and they can get in touch with them to find someone to help out if they cannot.

Size of draw for participants:

People from St. Cloud have preference but we also have participants from Waite Park and Sauk Rapids.

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

No

Cost to participate:

Cost is \$17 for residence and \$20 for non-residence.

Typical crops:

That is up to the gardener and we do discourage planting potatoes because of the potato bugs, also if they plant corn it needs to be in the center of their garden as not to shade their fellow gardeners plot.

Who plans the garden?

We provide tilling in the spring and the fall and provide water and tools; we have a compost area. We have a meeting every spring before we open and another at the close of the gardens to discuss problems and solutions. No master gardeners help in the vegetable gardens, but they do give us vegetable seeds to share with our gardeners at the beginning of each season.

Harvesting & Surpluses:

Each gardener keeps their production and many of the gardeners bring their surplus into the Whitney Center to share with everyone in the coffee corner.

Structures or fencing:

N/A

Amenities:

N/A



Maine Prairie Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

The garden was started in 2011 by the Central Minnesota Sustainability Project (CMSP) in cooperation with the City of St. Cloud and the St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The garden aims to provide residents of the surrounding neighborhood and the greater community access to land and healthy, sustainably grown food. The garden also serves to bring together diverse populations in a positive, common experience.

Location & Website:

The garden is located in Diocese Park on Maine Prairie Rd.
3150 Maine Prairie Road, St. Cloud, MN 56301
www.sustainmn.org

Contact Info:

Rick Walter: rwalter@cloudnet.com, 320-200-8233
Rose Fandel: 320-279-3231

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

A mix of individual plots and communal garden spaces

Number of Plots:

60 individual plots

Year Founded:

2011

Number of participants:

More than 100 gardeners and volunteers

Participation requirements:

A willingness to work with a diverse population of gardeners

Size of draw for participants:

Greater St. Cloud

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

No chemical fertilizers allowed

Cost to participate:

\$15 plot fee payable to Central Minnesota Sustainability Project (CMSP)

Scholarships available for low income gardeners and volunteers

Typical crops:

A wide variety of vegetables and herbs are planted
Annual and perennial flowers

Who plans the garden?

CMSP, in partnership with garden participants and the St. Cloud Parks Department

Harvesting & Surpluses:

Individual plots are harvested by individual tenants

Produce grown on communal space is shared with volunteers and low income community members

Structures or fencing:

N/A

Amenities:

Access to water for garden and a children's playground



Pantown Park Community Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

The St. Cloud Park and Rec board goal is to locate community gardens in City parks to build community connections in St Cloud neighborhoods while providing space for community members to utilize to grow food. There is high importance placed on building connections to the City's youth and young people. The Park's board reserves the right to dedicate 10% of plots at each site to youth groups or youth education for free and provide a place to introduce them to gardening.

The vision of the gardens are to connect local residents and immigrants through gardening and promote educating the youth of the city about where their food comes from. This will be done by connecting diverse groups together in a sharing community by "growing neighborhoods by growing vegetables."

Location & Website:

2915 9th St N Saint Cloud, Minnesota 56303
(park only) www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/Park/Website/support/pantown.htm

Contact Info:

Bruce Mohs
brucemohs@aol.com
320-251-1218

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

Individual plots approx. 10' x 30' staked out in shared area

Number of Plots:

20 for 2012

Year Founded:

2011

Number of participants:

Plots are assigned via lottery drawings with a wait list. If no need of lottery, previous gardeners keep same plot as last year

Participation requirements:

Participants are expected to follow the group community plan set up by the garden and work with garden coordinator Bruce Mohs with any questions or concerns. Participants come almost daily to tend their plots

Size of draw for participants:

St. Cloud city area with the goal of providing more garden spaces in other parks to meet the needs of each St. Cloud neighborhood.

Chemicals or Fertilizers allowed:

No use of chemicals allowed; Organic gardening only

Cost to participate:

There is a \$25 charge per plot payable to city of St. Cloud collected by Bruce that includes tilling, laying out of space, and water usage.

Typical crops:

Individuals plant to their tastes but the plots are primarily intended for growing vegetables.

Who plans the garden?

The plots are tilled, laid out, and managed by city of St. Cloud via Bruce Mohs. Bruce manages the manifest of whose plot is whose and checks up almost daily on the gardens. Individual plots are planned and planted by the participants.

Harvesting & Surplus:

Participants keep the food they grow but are encouraged to share or donate to a community organization's food shelf. Leftover food can be given to Bruce who donates it to community food pantries or needy families. The goal is to set up a share system so extra food can go to families' in need.

Structures or fencing:

Gardens are fenced it with a locked gate that participants are given access to at the beginning of the year. There are water barrels, underground spigots, or supplied water from the city. There is also a shed that faces inward towards the garden for storage.

Note:

All authority of the St. Cloud Park Community Gardens is held by the Park and Rec administration with Bruce Mohs as their community garden liaison and coordinator.

Raymond Park Community Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

The St. Cloud Park and Rec board goal is to locate community gardens in City parks to build community connections in St Cloud neighborhoods while providing space for community members to utilize to grow food. There is high importance placed on building connections to the City's youth and young people. The Park's board reserves the right to dedicate 10% of plots at each site to youth groups or youth education for free and provide a place to introduce them to gardening.

The vision of the gardens are to connect local residents and immigrants through gardening and promote educating the youth of the city about where their food comes from. This will be done by connecting diverse groups together in a sharing community by "growing neighborhoods by growing vegetables."

Location & Website:

320 Raymond Ave NE Saint Cloud, Minnesota 56301
(park only) www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/Park/Website/support/raymond.htm

Contact Info:

Bruce Mohs
brucemohs@aol.com
320-251-1218

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

Individual plots approx. 15' x 16' staked out in shared area

Number of Plots:

14 for 2012

Year Founded:

2011

Number of participants:

Plots are assigned via lottery drawings with a wait list. If no need of lottery, previous gardeners keep same plot as last year.

Participation requirements:

Participants are expected to follow the group community plan set up by the garden and work with garden coordinator Bruce Mohs with any questions or concerns. Participants come almost daily to tend their plots

Size of draw for participants:

St. Cloud city area with the goal of providing more garden spaces in other parks to meet the needs of each St. Cloud neighborhood.

Chemicals or Fertilizers allowed:

No use of chemicals allowed; Organic gardening only

Cost to participate:

There is a \$25 charge per plot payable to city of St. Cloud collected by Bruce that includes tilling, laying out of space, and water usage.

Typical crops:

Individuals plant to their tastes but the plots are primarily intended for growing vegetables.

Who plans the garden?

The plots are tilled, laid out, and managed by city of St. Cloud via Bruce Mohs. Bruce manages the manifest of whose plot is whose and checks up almost daily on the gardens. Individual plots are planned and planted by the participants.

Harvesting & Surplus:

Participants keep the food they grow but are encouraged to share or donate to a community organization's food shelf. Leftover food can be given to Bruce who donates it to community food pantries or needy families. The goal is to set up a share system so extra food can go to families' in need.

Structures or fencing:

Gardens are fenced it with a locked gate that participants are given access to at the beginning of the year. There are water barrels, underground spigots, or supplied water from the city. There is also a shed that faces inward towards the garden for storage.

Note:

All authority of the St. Cloud Park Community Gardens is held by the Park and Rec administration with Bruce Mohs as their community garden liaison and coordinator.

Schmidt Park Community Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

The St. Cloud Park and Rec board goal is to locate community gardens in City parks to build community connections in St Cloud neighborhoods while providing space for community members to utilize to grow food. There is high importance placed on building connections to the City's youth and young people. The Park's board reserves the right to dedicate 10% of plots at each site to youth groups or youth education for free and provide a place to introduce them to gardening.

The vision of the gardens are to connect local residents and immigrants through gardening and promote educating the youth of the city about where their food comes from. This will be done by connecting diverse groups together in a sharing community by "growing neighborhoods by growing vegetables."

Location & Website:

751 18th St S Saint Cloud, Minnesota 56301
(park only ref) www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/Park/Website/support/schmidt.htm

Contact Info:

Bruce Mohs
brucemohs@aol.com
320-251-1218

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

Individual plots approx. 10' x 28' staked out in shared area

Number of Plots:

16 for 2012

Year Founded:

2008

Number of participants:

10 – 14 participants yearly with some having two plots. Plots are assigned via lottery drawings with a wait list. If no need of lottery, previous gardeners keep same plot as last year.

Participation requirements:

Participants are expected to follow the group community plan set up by the garden and work with garden coordinator Bruce Mohs with any questions or concerns. Participants come almost daily to tend their plots.

Size of draw for participants:

St. Cloud city area with the goal of providing more garden spaces in other parks to meet the needs of each St. Cloud neighborhood.

Chemicals or Fertilizers allowed:

No use of chemicals allowed; Organic gardening only

Cost to participate:

There is a \$25 charge per plot payable to city of St. Cloud collected by Bruce that includes tilling, laying out of space, and water usage.

Typical crops:

Individuals plant to their tastes but the plots are primarily intended for growing vegetables.

Who plans the garden?

The plots are tilled, laid out, and managed by city of St. Cloud via Bruce Mohs. Bruce manages the manifest of whose plot is whose and checks up almost daily on the gardens. Individual plots are planned and planted by the participants.

Harvesting & Surplus:

Participants keep the food they grow but are encouraged to share or donate to a community organization's food shelf. Leftover food can be given to Bruce who donates it to community food pantries or needy families. The goal is to set up a share system so extra food can go to families' in need.

Structures or fencing:

Gardens are fenced it with a locked gate that participants are given access to at the beginning of the year. There are water barrels, underground spigots, or supplied water from the city. There is also a shed that faces inward towards the garden for storage.

Note:

All authority of the St. Cloud Park Community Gardens is held by the Park and Rec administration with Bruce Mohs as their community garden liaison and coordinator.

Russell Arms Apartment Garden Club

Goals & Description of Garden:

The garden was created with the help of a grant from Benton County Human Services in 2010. With this money we created a space to garden, purchased a tiller to work up the soil, put in place fences and a tool shed, and purchased tools for the gardeners. It was always the intention of Russell Arms management to have a space for residents to garden in and through the grant this was made possible.

The residents are either elderly or disabled and live at Russell Arms through Section 8 housing guidelines. The garden is an instrument to promote healthy living styles and being active outside. The residents really enjoy their garden plot. It gives them an opportunity to be outside, work with other residents, builds confidence, and they reap beautiful produce in return. Some of the tenants also plant flowers out there.

The short term goals is to continue the garden, continue meeting with gardeners in the spring, summer, and fall to gauge needs and take care of garden issues and increase the community feeling the garden club brings and connect that to other on-site clubs for resident interactions. The long term goals are to add perennial plots such as rhubarb and berries as a community shared space.

Location & Website:

315 Division Street Sauk Rapids MN 56379

~ garden is located behind Russell Arms Apartments

Contact Info:

Jane Hedglin, property site manager

320-230-2187

Rant@brutgerequities.com

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

Individual plots for each gardener.

Number of Plots:

Started with ten plots in 2010 and now have over twenty plots. Plot sizes change to accommodate growth but the garden has been increased in size each year.

Year Founded:

2010

Number of participants:

It has increased each year and now there over twenty people gardening in the plots

Participation requirements:

Each plot holder signs an agreement that details how to manage their garden. In general, keep space free of weeds, collect harvest, conserve water, keep plants from growing into other spaces, and help maintain overall garden appearance.

Size of draw for participants:

All the participants live in the Russell Arms apartment complex. This is a requirement to have a plot but friends, relatives, and volunteers are welcome to help with the plots.

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

None

Cost to participate:

They do not turn away interested gardeners and adapts its space to accommodate all those wanting to garden. There is no cost to have a plot; gardeners need to follow the agreement. Gardner's do pay for their own seeds and plants for their gardens.

Typical crops:

Each gardener decides which crops to grow and how to plant their space.

Who plans the garden?

Each gardener plans and plants each plot. The overall garden is managed by Russell Arms and they till and stake out the garden each spring. They update the fencing and provide hoses for water and a garden shed with tools to use.

Harvesting & Surpluses:

Each gardener takes their produce but extra produce can be shared with other residents if placed in the Community Room. The residents have month pot lucks and share their produce in meals.

Structures or fencing:

Fenced in and water provided for the plots

Sacred Heart Church Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

The purpose of the garden is three fold:

- 1) To foster involvement with adults and youth on a common project.
- 2) As a fund raiser for the youth by selling the pumpkins.
- 3) The root crops are sold at our parish bazaar at the end of August.

Our plan is to keep gardening as long as there are volunteers. We work at getting more youth involved in the garden. We feel that the art and knowledge of growing your own food is not being passed on to our youth as it was years ago.

Our long term goals is to continue on the garden, which started four years ago as a Catholic United Financial “Sharing Hands Project” and to provide a space and experience for youth to get involved and learn about gardening. We also wish to have younger families of our parish get involved planting and tending the garden.

Location & Website:

2875 10th Ave NE Sauk Rapids.

~ South of the church parking lot:

Contact Info:

Delroy Rothstein

deldonroth@jetup.net

320-393-4313

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

It is one large plot for use by the Church

Number of Plots:

One

Year Founded:

2008

Number of participants:

Steady at 15 - 20

Participation requirements:

All work is done voluntarily. Participation varies, from help once a year and to coming once a week.

Size of draw for participants:

Approx. 5 – 6 miles

Chemicals or Fertilizers allowed:

None used

Cost to participate:

No costs to participate. The Sacred Heart council of Catholic United Financial pays for the startup costs each spring.

Typical crops:

We plant mostly root crops and pumpkins

Who plans the garden?

Delroy Rothstein has planned it each year

Harvesting & Surpluses:

The pumpkins are grown as a fund raiser project for the Church’s youth and the rest of the produce are sold at the parish bazaar in August. The Poor Clare’s Monastery also receives some of the harvest.

Structures or fencing:

NA

Amenities:

NA



Sartell North Ridge Community Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

Sartell residents expressed interest in wanting to garden to Dennis Molitor and Kaye Wenker for several years. In the fall of 2009, Dennis and Kaye worked with City Staff to see if it could happen. They received some grants and were up in the spring of 2010 and in 2011 the community garden doubled in size with another 48 plots.

Our goal is to provide growing space for individuals and families that don't have access to land of their own. Our hope is that families enjoy their experience and work with their children to teach them about where our food comes from. We also hope to take more extra produce to the community food shelves. Our goals are quite simple but each gardener may certainly have their own personal goals.

Our future goals are to continue to provide garden space for Sartell residents at a low cost and to donate extra produce to area food shelves.

Location & Website (N/A):

27th St. N @ Sartell's North Water Treatment Plant by Oak Ridge Elementary 56377

Contact Info:

Kaye Wenker – kwenker@charter.net

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

Individual Plots

Number of Plots:

Expanded from (48) to (96) 20' x 20' plots for 2011

Year Founded:

2010

Number of participants:

Plots have filled up each year; 48 in 2010 and 96 in 2011

Participation requirements:

After they first plant, the gardeners will come every day or every other day to water the seeds. As the season continues, gardeners come 2 to 3 times a week.

Size of draw for participants:

Sartell residents have priority and fill all spots but there are requests from Rice, Sauk Rapids, St Cloud, and St Joe

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

Small amount of organic fertilizer applied to the garden before they till in the spring. We use compost as our fertilizer.

Cost to participate:

The City provides the land, water, a shed and in-kind support from the Public Works Department as needed. The irrigation system that was installed collects rain water from the roof of the Water Treatment Plant for watering.

Dennis Molitor and Kaye Wenker volunteer their labor and have received grants and donations to assist with fencing, landscaping and the irrigation system. The City also received a SHIP (Stearns County Health Initiative Program) grant for the 2011 expansion for fencing, landscaping and planning expenses.

There is a charge to have a plot- \$20 annually and \$30 annually for a perennial plot. The fees collected go back into sustaining the community garden. Kaye Wenker collects the fees and reserves the plots

Typical garden and planning:

Each plot is planned by the gardener who rents it and plants typical vegetables of their own choosing.

Who plans the garden area?

The city of Sartell with the help of volunteers, does the staking and drawing of plots in the spring for the annual gardens and the people with perennial gardens keep their same spot each year.

Harvesting & Surpluses:

Each gardener harvest as needed and collects their produce.

Sartell East Ridge Community Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

Sartell residents expressed interest in wanting to garden to Dennis Molitor and Kaye Wenker for several years. In the fall of 2009, Dennis and Kaye worked with City Staff to see if it could happen. In 2011, we added a new garden on the East side of Sartell for the residents living there. It is not restricted as to who can join this one but it is closer for some.

Our goal is to provide growing space for individuals and families that don't have access to land of their own. Our hope is that families enjoy their experience and work with their children to teach them about where our food comes from. We also hope to take more extra produce to the community food shelves. Our goals are quite simple but each gardener may certainly have their own personal goals.

Our future goals are to continue to provide garden space for Sartell residents at a low cost and to donate extra produce to area food shelves.

Location & Website (N/A):

Benton Drive and 9th St. NE at Sartell's East Water Treatment Plant property 56377

Contact Info:

Kaye Wenker – kwenker@charter.net

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

Individual Plots

Number of Plots:

(10) 20' x 20' plots for 2011

Year Founded:

2011

Number of participants:

10 (1 for each plot)

Participation requirements:

After they first plant, the gardeners will come every day or every other day to water the seeds. As the season continues, gardeners come 2 to 3 times a week.

Size of draw for participants:

Sartell residents have priority and fill all spots but there are requests from Rice, Sauk Rapids, St Cloud, and St Joe.

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

Small amount of organic fertilizer applied to the garden before they till in the spring. We use compost as our fertilizer.

Cost to participate:

The City provides the land, water and in-kind support from the Public Works Department as needed. Dennis Molitor and Kaye Wenker volunteer their labor. The City received a grant from Benton County to purchase fencing for the community garden.

There is a charge to have a plot- \$20 annually and \$30 annually for a perennial plot. The fees collected go back into sustaining the community garden. Kaye Wenker collects the fees and reserves the plots

Typical garden and planning:

Each plot is planned by the gardener who rents it and plants typical vegetables of their own choosing.

Who plans the garden area?

The city of Sartell (Dennis Molitor, volunteer and Kaye Wenker, City Landscaper) does the staking and drawing of plots in the spring for the annual gardens and the people with perennial gardens keep their same spot each year.

Harvesting & Surpluses:

Each gardener harvest as needed and collects their produce.



St. Cloud State University Community Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

The idea of the community garden is an outgrowth of Tracy Ore's "Politics of Food" course, and her research on sustainable agriculture and community organizing. SCSU has set aside land next to the Women's Center and has dedicated some funds to cover the costs of tools and other start-up needs.

Although the garden is connected to the SCSU, the vision is to use the garden to foster and build bridges between the university and larger community and to create a space where people can participate in planting, growing, and harvesting our own food. A few specific goals: Create connection between people and the land; Community building; Share food and ideas; and to provide access to land.

These goals are able to change as the garden grows, but they have served the garden thus far with no intended change at this point. We have designs/plans/hopes for expanding the garden's rain water irrigation system, setting permanent pathways, and obtaining even more space to become a larger garden and have a "work space" or building associated with our activities. We also have the ongoing expectations of expanding participation and network of garden friends.

Location & Website:

500 block of 5th Avenue South, Saint Cloud, Minnesota 56301
www.stcloudstate.edu/communitygarden

Contact Info:

Dr. Tracy Ore
teore@stcloudstate.edu
320-492-6724

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

Shared gardening space that is collectively planned, planted, tended and harvested.

Number of Plots:

2 gardens, expanded for 2011

Year Founded:

2005

Number of participants:

Steady increases since inception, 70 participants 2010, 170+ on mail list

Participation requirements:

Participants are asked to work, on average, one hour a week but are welcome at the garden as often as they can make it. We have weekly work nights and bi-weekly cookouts. We do have the expectation that participants communicate how they have contributed to other gardeners either one-on-one or in our "Garden Log".

Size of draw for participants:

Approx. 20 mile radius

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

We use only organic methods for pesticides and fertilizers.

Cost to participate.:

We do not require money or a minimum attendance. We receive \$500.00 from St. Cloud State University each year as well as access to water. The remaining expenses for the garden are covered through fundraising efforts and individual donations.

Typical crops:

We plant a variety of vegetables, flowers, herbs and fruit. We use organic and heirloom varieties whenever possible

Who plans the garden?

Gardeners who attend planning meetings, potlucks, planting days or group work nights participate in deciding how to use the space. We also work with people who do not regularly garden, but contribute expertise in specific areas.

Harvesting & Surpluses:

We use an "honor system" (those who put in work are welcome to take from the garden) to determine who shares in the harvest. The harvest is first shared with gardeners, then distributed to friends of the garden and/or donated to a community organization's food shelf.

Structures or fencing:

Because there are not fences, or organized participation monitoring, animal and people neighbors are able to access produce. We weigh their contributions philosophically.

Amenities:

We hold meetings/potlucks outside of the planting season.

St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Community Garden

Goals & Description of Garden:

The garden started in 2009 as project of SCUUF Social Justice Committee to promote sustainability and ethical eating, community building, education. The goals are: Promote sustainability and ethical eating, build community, provide education, serve community (including Catholic Charities Food Shelf, to which excess produce is donated) and were set by SCUUF Social Justice Committee in 2008.

We have not met all current goals, especially with respect to building community and education. Future plans include outdoor cookouts/potluck picnics, educational programming on organic gardening and composting, and increasing diversity of participants.

Location & Website:

Backyard of SCUUF at 3226 Maine Prairie Rd St Cloud MN 56301
<http://www.uufstcloud.org/>

Contact Info:

Judy Foster (320-240-6362 or jfoster58@charter.net)
Bruce Rowen (320-253-2552 or the_Rowens@charter.net)
Anne Desmond (320-236-2305 or ard@lakedalelink.net)
Jo Weis (320-743-2134 or djweis@weistrees.com)

Garden Vitals

Structure of Garden:

Twelve 8X8 individual plots, one 20X30 common garden

Year Founded:

2009

Number of participants:

2009: 16; 2010: 16; 2011: 20

Participation requirements:

No charge to common gardeners, but they are expected to participate in weekly work sessions. Attendance at work sessions for Common Garden is recorded in Garden Log on site.

Size of draw for participants:

Approx. 20 mile radius

Chemicals of Fertilizers allowed:

No use of chemicals allowed

Cost to participate:

Individual gardeners pay \$10 to defray cost of water.

Typical crops:

Past years: squash, cucumbers, peas, beans, onions, carrots, lettuce, radishes, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, brussel sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, spinach, potatoes beet.

Who plans the garden?

Individuals decide what to plant in their plots; common garden participants meet and develop a list. Master gardeners are members of SCUUF and available for consultation.

Harvesting & Surpluses:

We use an "honor system" (those who put in work are welcome to take from the garden) to determine who shares in the harvest. The harvest is first shared with gardeners, then distributed to friends of the garden and/or donated to a community organization's food shelf.

Structures or fencing:

Picnic Table, storage shed, water barrels, and tools

Amenities:

We hold meetings/potlucks during the season and have rhubarb, parsley, and raspberries bushes by our garden.



The St. Cloud Area Community Garden was created, designed, and edited by Chad Kunkel and Karen Stay, Spring of 2011 and updated Spring 2012.

Not in the directory? Want your own copy?

Please contact us with these inquires or any other questions:

Chad Kunkel ~ basementchad@gmail.com

Karen Stay ~ stka0306@stcloudstate.edu

Google Map: email us for a link



Thank you to all that have shared the creating the directory, your help and assistance is greatly appreciated and admired.

Resources for printing and sources of encouragement to continue work on the Directory were gladly accepted from the directors of the St. Cloud Community Garden Network.

You can find the Network online at:

stcloudcommunitygardensnetwork.wordpress.com

St. Cloud Area



Community Garden
Directory