

Rocky River Parks and Recreation Foundation

Rocky River Community Garden

The Garden is Coming!

Join your neighbors and local businesses in this exciting new venture! This project brings together groups of all ages, from toddlers to Seniors. New to Gardening? Ohio State Extension Master Gardeners will be available to help you get growing! A portion of the Garden's produce will benefit the Rocky River Assistance Program.

The Rocky River Community Garden needs your help to make this a reality for Spring 2010.

Get involved with a donation of "seed money", used garden implements, or your time. Reserve your plot for a fun season of gardening !

For Information

Contact Mary Kay Wysong

440-590-2195



January, 2010

Dear Friends and Community Members,

It is with great enthusiasm that I forward this letter of support to you for the establishment of the Rocky River Community Garden (RRCG). Community gardening has become of great interest to residents for many reasons including the environment and the economy. Community gardening, whether it be vegetable, fruit, herb or ornamental, improves many people's quality of life by stimulating social interaction, thus enhancing community development; beautifying neighborhoods; producing nutritious food and reducing food budgets; encouraging self-reliance; and creating significant opportunities for education and leadership. The Rocky River Community Garden will also provide planting, cultivating and harvesting opportunities for those who are visually (sensory gardens) and physically (trough-style raised beds) challenged. In addition, the garden's abundance may provide much needed fresh produce for our local assistance program food bank.

A garden tended by a community's residents brings out the best in that community, becoming a source of physical activity, recreation, and civic pride for all who participate. Community gardens foster relationships among residents, which in turn improves neighborhoods. At the same time we are protecting and enhancing open, green spaces.

In addition to the leadership of the RRCGC, we have been working closely with the Ohio State University Extension office, local businesses, like Home Depot and community organizations to make this important and exciting project a reality. The Community Garden will provide opportunities for many civic organizations, church groups, and youth-serving organizations – such as scouts and PTA groups. It is our hope that the garden will serve as a model for intergenerational programming and also provide a thriving setting for a Master Gardener Mentoring program.

Rocky River is fortunate in that we have a wonderful piece of land that was used for many years as a garden, vineyard and fruit tree grove. Historically, Rocky River is known for being the home of several greenhouses and vibrant truck farming businesses. This Community Garden will celebrate and bring significance to that important history.

Thank you for your consideration of this exciting community project as well as all of your philanthropic efforts. All that you do strengthens, builds and sustains our community.

Kindest regards,

Pamela E. Bobst
Mayor

March 8, 2010

Dear Rocky River Neighbor:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Rocky River Community Garden Committee, (RRCGC). With just over two acres, the Rocky River Community Garden is directly north of the Senior Center, at 1985 Wagar Road. This project is an exciting new venture, which brings together various groups in our city, from young families with toddlers, all the way to senior citizens. This spring, gardeners will have the opportunity to grow vegetables, fruits, flowers, and herbs on plots, which they can lease for \$25. Here is how you can become involved in this "growing" venture. As you know, with any new community project "seed money" is vital to its beginning, as well as for its growth and maintenance. In getting the community garden underway for this spring, construction of a fence around the garden is our largest expenditure and our top priority. We are asking you to become involved by selecting one of the following gift- giving categories:

_____ Less than \$100

_____ \$250-\$500

_____ \$100-\$250

_____ other than the above

Checks (of your tax deductible contribution), are payable to Rocky River Parks and Rec. Foundation, with RRCG in the memo space, and can be mailed to our Treasurer, Steve Kunath, at 19550 Arglye Oval, Rocky River, OH 44116.

For donations of \$100 or more, there will be signage with your name displayed at the Rocky River Community Garden.

Thank you so much for your help in getting the Rocky River Community Garden "in the ground"! We are excited to bring this to fruition, and look forward to hearing from you. If you have questions, please call Mary Kay Wysong, President of the RRCGC, at 440-590-2195.

Visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rocky-River-Community-Garden/277926350909?created>

Sincerely,

Mary Kay Wysong