



The 2017 Bismarck Community Garden season is near and registration is now open.

Our primary garden sites and available plots will be the same as last year at Hannifin Street (Municipal Ballpark) and Tatley Park on Airport Road. The Hannifin St gardens will continue the organic garden site as well the plots for the Hunger Garden Partnership. We have also added 40 additional plots at the Hannifin Street Garden. For 2017, Gisi Park Garden will have 36 plots. Gisi Park is located at 2457 East Calgary Ave. Calgary Ave can be found north of E Century Ave on Nebraska St.

We have completed the updated lease and operating agreement as well the time schedule for the upcoming season with the Park District. This lease continues to be beneficial to the Community Gardens by providing stability in oversight of the gardens for the Park district, gardeners and consistent site operations. The agreement also clarifies responsibilities of each party and expectations of management. These expectations include the formal registration requirements, standard set of gardening rules and obligations. This provides consistency between gardens and clarity of gardening considerations and obligations when gardening on Park District property.

Our new site and garden signs will be installed this spring to include new information and map panels. All three sites will have new signs. This project was made possible with a matching grant from the Park District with your plot rents to improve existing sites and expand gardening opportunities.

We will continue to develop our communication methods between garden coordination and gardeners. We have in place a dedicated e-mail address to reach the garden coordinator at bismarckgardens@gmail.com. We will continue to ask gardeners to provide their e-mail address as part of the communication effort to provide gardening information, registration announcements and seasonal updates. No emails will be sold or given out to the general public.

For future we are working with the Park District to develop up to 100 plots north of Horizon Middle School on Medora Ave. It is anticipated that they will be ready for the 2018 season. We also continue to explore development of a web site in order to bring a greater awareness of Bismarck Community Gardens, to provide gardening resources and information for better gardening.

For now our web site source of information is on the Bismarck Park District site at bisparcs.org/facilities/communitygardensandorchards.

In closing you will also note that we have developed a logo as our identity for Community Gardening in Bismarck. Thanks to the help of Wendy and Rena at Bismarck Parks for development of both the logo and web information to assist you in your gardening efforts.

So it is "Gardening time" **Bismarck Community Gardens. A place to gather and grow**

E mail: bismarckgardens@gmail.com

Bismarck Community Gardens - PO Box 3116 – Bismarck, ND. – 58502-3116

To register in 2017, you are receiving a copy of the Bismarck **Community Gardens Rules and Obligations** and a **2017 Garden Plot Registration Form**.

To assist you with registration and the season, our schedule is as follows:

- *All 2017 Gardens registration “renewals” and change requests of 2016 gardeners are due in and postmarked by April 15.
- *New 2017 Garden plot registration will open for assignment as received beginning on April 16th.
- *Spring tilling of gardens by the Park District will be completed by May 12th
- *Garden plots will be marked by May 22nd.
- *Garden will open and be ready for planting May 25th.
- *Planting deadline to avoid being considered an abandoned plot is June 10th.
- *October 9th -Garden Season closes and **all** clean-up of plots are completed by gardeners.
- * Week of October 10th, Park District completes fall tilling.

The 2017 Fees are set as:

- * All 10’ x 10’ plots at Hannifin, Tatley and Gisi Park \$15.00 per plot with a maximum of 2 plots per person. Two members of the same family may rent up to 4 single plots.
- * 20’ x 20’ plots at Tatley Park only..... \$45.00 per plot with a Maximum of 1 plot per person.

To register:

- ***Complete the enclosed 2017 registration form, sign and return with payment by cash or check to:**

**Bismarck Community Gardens
PO Box 3116
Bismarck, ND. 58502-3116**

- *Gardeners will be notified by mail with final registration and plot(s) within 10 working days of receipt.

Thank you for your participation in community gardening. If you have any questions or are in need of additional information, please contact me by email at bismarckgardens@gmail.com.

“It’s Gardening Time”,

Steven Neu
Bismarck Community Gardens Coordinator