



Its Garden Time !

Bismarck Community Gardens 2016

Spring is here and we are ready to kick off the 2016 gardening season and the opening of registration.

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. Hannifin will also continue the organic garden site. 2016 will add a new 25 plot garden with water access, provided by the Park District in north east Bismarck at Gisi Park. Gisi Park is located at 2457 East Calgary Ave just north of Edgewood Vista on Colorado Lane.

There are also several updates to share with you as we begin our gardening season. They are:

-A formal lease and operating agreement has been developed with the Park District to provide stability for Bismarck Community Gardens and garden site operations. The agreement also clarifies responsibilities of each party, gardeners and expectations of management. You will also notice some new items at the gardens provided by the Park District.

- Bismarck Community Gardens received a \$2,200.00 Spring Matching Grant from the Park District to update our signs, add information panels and add new signs at Tatley and Gisi Park garden sites. Community Garden matches the grant with your plot rents to improve existing sites and expand gardening opportunities.

- Oversight of the Community Gardens has transitioned from Kent Morrow to Steve Neu. Steve will oversee the garden program and operations, and be the point of contact. Please thank Kent for his dedication and time spent on developing the Community Gardens since its beginning in 2007. Kent will continue to garden and volunteer at the gardens.

-A standard set of gardening rules and obligations for Bismarck Community Gardeners has been developed to provide consistency between gardens and clarity of gardening considerations and obligations when gardening and to the Park District.

- Developing communication methods between garden coordinator and gardeners to include a dedicated e-mail address to reach the garden coordinator at bismarckgardens@gmail.com. Gardeners are also being asked to provide their e-mail address as part of the communication effort. NO emails will be sold or given out to the public or other gardeners.

We are also in the beginning stages of developing a web site and an identity to bring a greater awareness of Bismarck Community Gardens. The web site is also being developed to create an information network and provide links to gardening resources to assist you in your gardening efforts, and register for your garden plot on line in the future.

Along with the information listed below you are receiving a copy of the newly established **Bismarck Community Gardens Rules and Obligations** and a **2016 Garden Plot Registration Form**.

To assist all gardeners with the season, our schedule is as follows:

- *All 2016 Garden registration “renewals” and change requests of 2015 gardeners are due April 18th.
- *Garden plot registration will open to the general public on April 19th.
- *Spring tilling of gardens by the Park District will be completed by May 13th
- *Garden plots will be marked by May 25th.
- *Garden will open and be ready for planting May 26th.
- *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.

The 2016 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 2016 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 7 working days of receipt.

Thank you for your participation in community gardening. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact me by email at bismarckgardens@gmail.com or by phone at 319-3157.

It’s Gardening Time,

Steven Neu
Bismarck Community Gardens Coordinator