



March 2024

Bismarck Community Gardeners,

Our 2024 gardening season is near, and you are receiving this registration by postal delivery or email as a **New 2024 Gardener** with the opportunity to choose your location. Please provide a 1st and 2nd choice of locations as the number of plots do vary by location and availability. New gardener registrations will be booked beginning April 8th.

Along with this letter you are receiving a copy of the Bismarck Community Gardens Rules and Obligations and a 2024 Garden Plot Registration Form to return with payment by check or cash. Sorry we do not take online or credit card payments.

Our 2024 garden sites are: **Elk Ridge Park** in NW Bismarck at 3620 Cogburn Road, **Hannifin Street (Municipal Ballpark)**, **Johnny GSI Memorial Park** on E Calgary Ave, **Horizon Park** on Medora Ave, and **Tatley Eagles Park** on Airport Road. A new feature at Tatley Park is the addition of the first **Community Share Table** located on the Airport Road parking lot of the gardens. The Share Table is the first of two at Tatley for the gardening community to share seeds, plants and their produce with fellow gardeners and the public. Please also note that the Bismarck Farwest Rotary Club has adopted the garden program and will be the managing organization for the gardens in partnership with the Bismarck Park and Recreation District.

Garden site maps can be found at: bisparks.org/parks-trails/community-gardens

Bismarck Community Gardens continues to Support Organic/Sustainable Gardening at all garden sites with the following definition:

The growing of plants with methods that can successfully sustain itself without requiring many outside resources, pesticides, or herbicides. Sustainable gardening is always organic.

A sustainable garden is grown using soil amendments such as compost or other organic matter by using plants and methods that work harmoniously together to minimize weed growth and provide a soil that is healthy enough to retain moisture and is rich in nutrients. Grass clippings, straw and fabric barriers are acceptable ground covers. Natural rather than chemical methods are used to adjust the pH, soil composition, and provide nutrients.

Additionally, Bismarck Community Gardens supports the efforts of **Hunger Free Garden** and encourages gardener participation by donating your excess produce and fruit to the local community food pantries or food programs of your choice. A listing of the Bismarck/Mandan Food pantry and hunger programs can be found at: **bisparks.org/parks-trails/community-gardens**

The schedule for the 2024 season, is as follows:

*All 2023 Garden Registration “renewals” and change requests must be postmarked by April 7th. **(Renewals will be accepted after the 7th with No guarantee of first request.)**

*New Gardener plot registration will open to the public on April 8th. Registration may be mailed in prior to April 8th. Postmarks are considered in the order of placement.

Weather Dependent our 2024 site preparation schedule will be:

*Spring tilling of gardens by the Park District will be completed on or before May 13th.

*Garden plots will be marked by May 20th.

*Garden will open and be ready for planting May 22nd.

*Planting deadline to avoid being considered an abandoned plot is June 9th.

***October 12th - Garden Season Closes** and all clean-up of plots are completed by gardeners.



The 2024 Fees have not changed and set as follows:

- * All 10' x 10' plots at Hannifin, Tatley, GISI, Elk Ridge and Horizon Park are \$15.00 per plot with a maximum of 4 plots per person or organization. Two members of the same family may rent up to 8 single plots.
- * All designated 20'x20' plots in Garden F at Tatley Park are \$60.00.

Seasonal fencing of your garden plot is allowed with mesh, rope or wire materials and posts that can be removed at the end of the season. You may put a gate in the fence for access and lock the plot if you desire. Trellises are allowed and must also be removed at the end of the season.

To register: *Complete the enclosed 2024 registration form, indicate your location, number of plots desired, sign and return with payment by cash or check to:

**Bismarck Community Gardens
PO Box 2415
Bismarck, ND. 58502**

*Gardeners will be notified by mail with final registration and plot(s) assignment within 10 working days after closing of early registration date of April 7th.

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

"It's Gardening Time"!

Steven Neu
Bismarck Community Gardens Coordinator
Bismarck Far West Rotary Club



2024 Community Gardens Rules

These rules are intended for all gardeners to enjoy the gardening opportunities we have in Bismarck and the spaces that are provided by the Bismarck Park District.

1. All gardeners are to be 18 years of age or older and must complete and sign a Community Garden Registration form, submit fees, and receive plot(s) assignment before any gardening can begin.

2. Assignment of garden plots at Hannifin St, at Tatley Eagles Park, Johnny GISI Memorial Park, Elk Ridge, and Horizon Park are awarded by registration only and with preference for 2024 plots given to 2023 gardeners first. The 2024 priority date is April 7th. General registration will open for all plots after April 7th and will be assigned on first come first serve including 2023 gardener registrations.

3. Each gardener is responsible for the planting, maintenance, fencing, upkeep of their garden plot(s), harvesting their own plot(s), plot cleanup and any other garden related maintenance. Tall crops are not to be planted where they will shade neighboring plots.

4. Gardeners agree that gardening is for personal use (**NO Commercial Gardening**) and to have plot(s) planted by June 9th, 2024, and maintain the plot FOR THE SEASON. If plot(s) are not planted by June 11th, the plot will be considered abandoned and subject to reassignment. No refunds will be made.

5. Tools are not provided by Bismarck Community Gardens. Hoses and watering faucets and some nozzles are available on site. To be assured of watering nozzles it is recommended that gardeners provide one for their use. After gardens are tilled prior to the season by the Park District, gardeners at their own expense and equipment may till their plot(s) prior to planting.

6. Children and youth under 18 are welcome to participate in gardening but must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.

7. It is recommended that dogs and other pets are not brought to the gardens. If brought to the garden keep pets leashed at all times, out of neighboring gardens, under your direct control and always clean up after them. This requirement is subject to **the Park District Ordinance**. Service animals are permitted.

8. ALL gardeners are responsible for maintaining their plots of weeds during the season and recommend that plots are cared for at least once a week. If any plot remains unattended for more than three weeks that plot will be considered abandoned and subject to tilling, mowing and or reassignment for care.

9. The application of non-natural herbicides (weed killers) of any type to garden plots is prohibited.

10. At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant materials, markers, decorations, fencing and stakes. All material remaining after the closing date of OCTOBER 13th will be discarded. The Park District will till the gardens in the fall as final cleanup ON OCTOBER 14th, 2024.

11. The Bismarck Community Gardens are managed by the Bismarck Farwest Rotary Club and is responsible for the operation of the gardens by lease with the Bismarck Park District. Neither the Bismarck Farwest Rotary, nor the Bismarck Park District is responsible for gardeners or their guest's actions or injury.



2024 New Community Gardener Registration Form

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Contact Information: Phone _____ E Mail _____

(Please print clearly)

Plot fees are \$15.00 for each 10x10 plot and \$60.00 for 20x20 plot.

My garden location request and plots for 2024 is:

- *1____, 2____, 3____, 4____ 10x10 plots at Hannifin St/Municipal Ballpark
- *1____, 2____, 3____, 4____ 10x10 plots or 1- 20x20 plot at Tatley Eagles Park
- *1____, 2____, 3____, 4____ 10x10 plots at Horizon Park
- *1____, 2____, 3____, 4____ 10x10 plots at Johnny Gisi Memorial Park
- *1____, 2____, 3____, 4____ 10x10 plots at Elk Ridge Park

**My plot fee of _____ is enclosed for (#)_____ (size)_____ plot(s).
(check, money order or cash only)**

_____ I am interested in assisting in marking gardens in 2024.

Signature required:

I have read the Bismarck Community Gardens Rules and understand my responsibilities and obligations to these guidelines, and I understand that neither the Far West Rotary Club nor owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the Bismarck Far West Rotary Club and the Bismarck Park District, owners of the land, for any liability, damage, loss, injury or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden or participation by me or any of my guests.

Signature _____ Date _____

Return Form and Registration Fee to:
Bismarck Community Gardens
Box 2415
Bismarck, ND. 58502