

Welcome to the LaSalle Community Garden

We are excited to have you here at our community garden! Together we will be growing food, flowers and herbs in the company of friends and neighbors. Community gardening has the potential to offer a range of benefits to individuals, families, communities and the environment. Benefits such as reconnecting with nature, physical exercise, mental health, nutrition, knowledge and making new friends.

A successful and vibrant community garden relies on the dedication of each and every gardener to fulfill two main responsibilities:

1. maintain his or her own plot and
2. contribute to the upkeep and management of the entire garden.

There are many jobs that need to be done in order to help the garden run smoothly. If everyone pitches in according to their ability, then the garden will prosper and grow.

Successful Community Gardening

The following tips are intended to help ensure your success at the garden, minimize theft and vandalism, and keep you safe while gardening.

Plan to visit your garden once or twice a week during the growing season.

Make a schedule with yourself or other gardeners. Write it in your calendar. Post a colorful reminder on the fridge. Because your garden is not located outside your front or back door, it's sometimes easy to forget that there is weeding, watering, staking or harvesting to do.

Attend scheduled meetings and workdays. This will help you meet other gardeners and become part of your gardening community. You'll also learn about the various jobs and projects that need to be done to keep your garden in shape.

Make friends with other gardeners. Experienced gardeners are an invaluable resource at your garden. Pick their brains for gardening tips. Visit their plots to see how they stake their tomatoes or trellis their beans.

Volunteer for a garden job or committee. Community gardens don't manage themselves. They require a fair amount of work. By pitching in on a certain job or project, you'll be supporting the garden as a whole and ensuring that the work is spread among many people.

Consider growing unpopular, unusual, or hard-to-harvest varieties. People generally go for easy to things like tomatoes, peppers and corn.

Grow more than you need.

Educate yourself. Check out books from the library. Attend classes. Become a Master Gardener (<http://mg.missouri.edu>). There's always something to learn about gardening. The more you learn, the more success you'll have.

Harvest produce on a regular basis. Some people use the excuse that "a lot of food is going to waste" to justify taking food from a garden without permission. During harvest season, let garden leaders know if you plan to be out of town for more than a few days. Gardeners can harvest for you and donate the food to a local pantry.

Report theft, vandalism and unusual activities to garden leaders.

The more people who are looking out for the garden and talking about what's going on, the more success you'll have at being safe and curbing unwanted activities.