

# CHOCOLAY COMMUNITY GARDENERS

## WELCOME!

By renting a bed in the community garden, you have become a member of the Chocolay Community Garden (CCG). Here's a short Q & A to introduce you to your newest group of gardening friends.

- *Where is the community garden?*

Behind the church at 224 Silver Creek Road

- *Who is allowed to garden at the community garden?*

Residents of Chocolay Township and surrounding municipalities may rent garden beds (one household per bed).

- *How will the CCG be governed?*

All CCG members can help direct the future of the garden. We will have a nominated and elected board of directors who will make day-to-day decisions on behalf of the group, such as setting work days, making sure rules are followed, settling disputes, and overseeing administrative functions.

- *How is the group/garden connected to the Township?*

The CCG is a stand-alone organization that operates under the umbrella of the Township. The Township has leased the garden site from the church. The garden is open to church members but is not owned or operated by the church.

- *Who determines the rental fees and how are they used?*

Fees are determined by the CCG board and based on costs of other gardens in the area. All fees will be used for improvements and administrative costs. Fee revenue will likely be used for soil amendments, compost bins, donations to the church, and construction of a handicapped-accessible garden bed. Each year, the Board of Directors will prepare a year-end financial statement, which is available to all members.

- *In addition to paying my rental fee, do I have other responsibilities?*

Yes. CCG members must adhere to the rules and bylaws established by the CCG. Please make sure to read them! Members must attend and work at a least 2 full scheduled work days per season, plant beds by June 15, remove plants the day before the last work session of the season, and keep beds and pathways around beds weed free. If your bed is not planted by June 15th, it will be re-rented to someone on the waiting list.

- *When does this work take place? Can I just do it on my own?*

The work is completed during scheduled volunteer workdays. Please refer to the work calendar included in the membership packet.

- *What if I cannot fulfill my workdays or otherwise complete my responsibilities?*

You will not be allowed to renew your garden bed for the following year.

- *How will I know about these rules?*

Please review the CCG bylaws and rental agreement in the enclosed packet. The CCG rules have been established to avoid conflicts and provide guidelines for gardeners. The rules don't cover all situations and the Board will make adjustments when necessary.

- *May I use pesticides on my garden?*

Under no circumstances may CCG members use any chemical insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, or other such products to prevent or control infestations of bugs, fungi or weeds. If you have bug problems, talk to other gardeners; seek out advice. There are plenty of organic methods for controlling insects or other diseases.

- *So is the Chocoley Community Garden an organic garden?*

Not entirely. We do allow the use of chemical fertilizers. However, we prefer and recommend the use of organic fertilizers.

- *How often am I expected to weed?*

As often as needed to keep the weeds in your bed and path around the beds from spreading. Done cooperatively with garden bed neighbors, paths will be nicely maintained. If your plants and weeds get out of hand, expect a call from the "weed police." Not only do we want the garden to look nice, we want to prevent weeds from spreading. Failure to follow direction if called by the weed police will result in forfeiture of membership for the following year.

- *Can I change the dimension of garden bed in any way?*

No.

- *Will the CCG have a website or Facebook Page?*

Chocoley Community Garden Group on Facebook

- *Who do I contact for more information?*

Tina Hall – Rotary Volunteer 225-0139 [chall@tnc.org](mailto:chall@tnc.org)