

COMMUNITY GARDEN SUMMARY FOR JUNE 2010

The garden is growing at an amazing speed. If you haven't been by recently, go and take a look. We have been holding life-skill classes there on Monday nights @ 4pm with our Master Gardener Joyce Brown. The Fire Department has continued to graciously fill our water tank as needed and more sifted dirt was donated for our potato beds. Joyce has been helping us fight off the bugs with organic pest control powders, and we were able to harvest some lettuce, zucchini, and cauliflower already. The sign has been installed with Scott Gleason and Damon Swent's help, and twenty tomato cages were donated by Aurora Baptist Temple. Garrett Black (Eagle Scout) is still in the process of ok'ing everything with the scouts for him to do a picnic area project at our garden location and Randy Conway has offered to plow and till a portion of the land next to the Laundromat (for free) so that we can begin preparing it for next season. Joyce has located a farm for us that will deliver manure that we can "till" into next seasons plots which will be delivered on Monday June 28th.

What has shocked most people so far is that so far we have not experienced any of the vandalism or theft! When we had some extra plants we weren't going to get planted in time, we decided to go door to door in the neighborhood surrounding the garden and give away free plants. This gave us the opportunity to introduce OACAC and the Community Garden vision with them which in essence has created a kind of "block-watch" effect. Our local paper has graciously kept the Garden in the news through their paper, website and Facebook page.

This year has been fun and full of learning opportunities. Our Master Gardener has allowed us to experiment and try new things as many of us have had no experience with gardening at all. The excitement that is displayed with each new zucchini or tomato that develops is fun to watch and we look forward to next year when the garden is opened up to even more families. With an eight member board already in place which includes three Master Gardeners, the overwhelming support of the community, and the excitement and enthusiasm of this year's participants to build on, we are sure that this project will continue to "blossom" for years to come.