



GANTZ ROAD COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Where is the Gantz Road Community Garden located?

A. The garden is located at the intersection of Gantz and Frank Roads, on Columbus' near southwest side.

Directions. From the north, take I-71 south from downtown, exit Frank Road. The exit deadends into Frank Road. Turn left onto Frank. Following Frank approx 2 miles to Gantz Road. Turn left onto Gantz. The first right is the entrance to the property. The garden and parking lot are on the immediate right.

From the south, take I-71 north, exit Frank Road. Turn left and go west to Frank Road. Turn left onto Frank. Following Frank approx 2 miles to Gantz Road. Turn left onto Gantz. The first right is the entrance to the property. The garden and parking lot are on the immediate right.

Q. What are the purposes of the Gantz Road Community Garden?

A. *Preserving green space.* The increasing urbanization of Franklin County threatens to continually reduce the amount of undeveloped land available for outdoor recreation. Community gardens add to the acreage currently protected through parks and other means, while allowing the land to be used in a productive manner. The current lull in development presents a window of opportunity for land to be acquired for gardens.

Support local foods. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, most produce grown in the United States travels 1,500 miles before it gets sold; foreign-grown produce traverses greater distances. Our food systems are highly petroleum dependent, and community gardens are a tool to reduce our carbon footprint.

Support food banks. Community gardens could be used to help supply our local food pantries. Fresh produce is always in high demand, and a portion of the food grown at each garden could be directed to food banks in their immediate vicinity.

Further social equity. There is a critical need for improved nutrition in low-income communities. Access to fresh produce in these areas remains a challenge, and it is often the case that residents must travel significant distances to obtain it. Efforts can be made to connect low-income residents and food from community gardens. Additionally, the potential for gardeners to sell a portion of their product can provide them with some extra income.

Q. When will garden plots be assigned?

A. Requests will be honored and plots will be assigned in the order of receipt. Gardeners will be contacted beginning Wednesday, August 5. Access to the garden will begin August 5 as well.

Q. What is included in my garden plot assignment and what am I responsible for providing myself?

A. Included in plot assignment:

- Garden plot(s) for use during the 2009 growing season.
- Access during daylight hours
- Water

You are responsible for providing:

- Tools
- Hoses
- Plants & seeds
- Other gardening materials

Q. What vegetables can you still plant for a fall crop?

A. There is an array of vegetables that still can be planted for fall harvest. Through mid-August leafy greens such as lettuce, spinach, collards, and kale can be planted for a fall harvest, as can some root vegetables such as beets, radishes, and turnips. For additional information on growing fall vegetables, please visit your local library or go to the OSU Extension Master Gardener Resources website <http://franklin.osu.edu/horticulture/gardening-resources-new>.

Q. Will there be storage on-site?

A. No. You must take your tools and hoses with you when you leave the garden site.

Q. What do I do if an emergency arises?

A. Garden will be open from dawn until dusk. It is recommended that gardeners keep a cell phone close at hand. If the need for immediate assistance arises, call 911.

Q. When will I be able to access my garden plot?

A. The Gantz Road Community Garden will be open to participating gardeners from dawn to dusk seven days a week.

Q. Who do I contact for questions and assistance?

A. A Garden Coordinator will be regularly available at the garden, though the schedule is not yet finalized. When not on site, the Garden Coordinator may be reached at 221-8889 ext. 317.

Q. Do I have to have gardening experience to get a plot?

A. No. Beginners are encouraged to utilize the excellent gardening resources available in Columbus through either the Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Program or Franklin Park Conservatory. Gardening classes covering a range of topics are available for interested parties.

Q. Am I allowed to sell the produce that I grow?

A. Absolutely.

Q. Is the garden organic, and if so what does that mean?

A. Yes, organic principles must be used. This means that no pesticides or herbicides should be applied, except those that are organic.