

FRIENDSHIP EVERGREEN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT EHRHARDT PARK

Since our May update on our community garden many new developments have taken place. We now have 56 plots completed, 36 raised and 20 ground level, all filled with high quality soil with the final irrigation lines now being installed in each plot. The master irrigation controller system is operational, complete with a user control valve installed on each plot. The garden lighting system is operational, complete with a master timer control and lamp deflectors to control the lighting area. All the walkways and general landscape fill has been completed. In addition, the peripheral security fencing and both east and west entrance gateways are completed. A demonstration plot, that will allow wheelchair/walker access evaluation, has been constructed. All plots have been numbered, an essential first step in the plots assignment process. To date, we have 16 FVT residents and 13 community residents that have responded to our plot assignment questionnaire. Two utility sheds, one for gardener tool storage (shed #1) and the other for maintenance (shed#2) have been installed. Plans are in process to design and construct shelving in shed #1 to contain the personal storage bins for all 56 plot holders. The composting station, containing eight bins, has been designed and constructed ready for the filling of composting ingredients such as: shredded newspaper, tree chippings and small branches, coffee grounds, kitchen organic waste, grass clippings, etc. The composting cycle will take from 1 to 3 months, depending on the type of composting process one uses. Composted soil will be then be available for use in the plots, our Rose garden, or elsewhere. Our community garden web site (<https://friendshipevergreen.com>) is up and available for all to access. It contains many recent garden photos, as well as links to: Gardening Resources, a Donations site, Steering Committee Minutes and Documents, and a Question and Answer (Q&A) site for new gardeners. Several important documents have been recently completed by the Steering Committee (SC). As we transition from the garden development to its operational phase the SC structure will no longer meet our garden management needs. Therefore, a Management Board plan has been completed, the details of which can be reviewed in the August 25 SC Minutes located on the above Web site. Most importantly, the Steering Committee will be seeking volunteers to initially fill the positions of the seven member Management Board. All persons who have previously indicated an interest in the garden will be invited to serve on the Board, with final selections being made based on background experiences most appropriate for one the seven available positions. Finally a document, entitled FECCG User Agreement, spells out the Rules (dos and don'ts), in Part I, which each gardener will need to follow in order to retain their access to a garden plot. Part II contains the signed contract required by each gardener prior to being assigned their

plot. Again, both documents can viewed on the garden web site. The details of both documents can be reviewed on the garden website (<https://friendshipevergreen.com>). After our rather lengthy development process we are looking forward to formally gaining access to the garden area, as well as hosting the official opening, planned for October 24th. More details to follow on this plan.