



# COMMUNITY Garden

Seeking interested people, families or groups to maintain our church donation garden as we plan to expand the garden this year.

No experience necessary, we will train motivated and enthusiastic people interested in helping grow fresh produce for those in need in our community.

## Activities include:

**Garden bed preparation:** Manually moving dirt and tilling soil into shapes that provide the best place to plant seeds and plants, this also includes laying coverings on the ground that isn't to be planted so weeds won't grow. *(typically 3 times per year)*

**Planting:** Manually putting in seeds and plants with proper spacing and fertilizing. *(typically 3 times per year, Late March, May, August)*

**Weeding:** Pulling weeds around plants avoiding disturbing the good plants roots, removing large areas of weeds in pathways. We don't use toxic herbicides as weed killing. *(any day, every day starting March)*

**Watering:** Directly after planting seeds and plants water is essential every day for at least 2 weeks. Watering plants is necessary when no rain falls for a week. It is best to water just the planted areas and only the soil and nowhere else to keep weeds from growing. Watering is best done in the morning, but anytime can work. *(every day after initial planting, and when it is dry the rest of the season)*

Interested? Contact Michael Rea at [mrea@jccc.edu](mailto:mrea@jccc.edu)

**Harvesting:** This is needed about every other day during the season. Picking what is ripe, so that it can get to those who need it. The first items to harvest are the greens (kale, collards, and chard), in June the strawberry's need picked every other day, later, cucumbers and tomato's need picked every other day. Potatoes are a one day event when they are ready, harvesting is best done in the morning when it is cooler. (every other day, June-September)

**Pest control:** We have 5 fruit trees that require daily attention when the Japanese beetles arrive, other garden produce needs constant attention and visual inspection to reduce pests. Hand picking is preferred. We only use safe pest management practices.

**Delivery to donation centers:** This is typically done right after harvest so that Greens don't wilt, it is also ideal so that consumers at pantries get them the same day and they can get them to their fridges faster. There are many options for delivery, whatever is quickest for you, some that we have used in the past are, Lenexa pantry, Shawnee community services, etc. (every other day, June-September)

**Creative promotion and sign making:** This year we would like some help making the garden beautiful and educational with designs and signs that better identify what is growing and where. Also conveying the message of our purpose of giving and discipleship. This could be painted wooden signs, social media posts, etc

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