



Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc.

The Community Garden

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is The Community Garden?

- The community garden is a piece of land that is 7,600 square feet centrally located in downtown Westminster. The Garden relies on support from community members to grow fruits and vegetables and to help maintain the piece of land. 100% of the produce goes directly to Westminster's low income community, local shelters, and soup kitchens.

2. Who manages the garden?

- Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc. (HSP), Jenny Graybill, Opportunity WORKS Program Manager, manages The Community Garden.

3. How much time is required to be given when adopting a plot?

- Adopting a plot is a weekly commitment. It is important that crops are watered, plots are weeded, and fruits and vegetables are planted and harvested in a timely manner.
- Once the crops are harvested it is the "adopters" responsibility to weigh produce and take it to an *approved location*.

4. What is an approved location?

- An approved location is where produce can go. Approved locations are verified non-profits, soup kitchens, or food pantries. Approved locations are verified by the Program Manager. These locations have active volunteers and have adopted at least one plot.
- Approved locations for 2015: Grace Lutheran Church, West Middle Food Pantry (only when school is open), Second Chances, and Manchester Baptist Church Food Pantry.

5. Where do the vegetables go?

- When working in the garden you are allowed to pick a reasonable amount of fruits and vegetables for yourself. However, we ask that the majority of the produce be weighed and delivered to Grace Lutheran Church (located at the top of the street) or Second Chances (located at 23 W Green St. Westminster, MD 21157, open Monday – Friday 10AM – 3PM). Both of these organizations use the produce to feed our low income community, as well as, local shelters and soup kitchens.
- If additional organizations would like to benefit from harvest, they must adopt at least one plot. Final approval is also needed by Jenny Graybill, Program Manager.

6. How successful have you been in the past?

- The Community Garden is a huge success story, however, we are still striving to do better. Last year the Community Garden harvested over 600 pounds of produce and feed over 400 households.

7. How do I get to the Garden?

- The Garden can be very tricky to find and is not one that you can easily enter into a GPS. Therefore, we have two separate sets of directions:
 - From Rt. 140: Turn onto Englar Road headed toward Main Street. Englar Road turns into Carroll Street. Turn right onto Milton Avenue. Follow to the end at 25th Street. Park along the curb on Milton Avenue, or in the grass next to the garden.
 - From Main Street: Turn onto Carroll Street (at the Shell/Jiffy Mart). Turn left on Milton Avenue. Follow to the end at 25th Street. Park along the curb on Milton Avenue, or in the grass next to the garden.

8. What does it mean to adopt a plot?

- Adopting a plot requires a time commitment and willingness to work diligently. When you adopt a plot you are responsible for planting your crop (fruit or vegetable) and seeing it through.
- A plot is an area of space marked off in the garden where you will plant, weed, water, and harvest the fruit or vegetable of your choosing.
- You are required to log your volunteer hours, weigh and log the weight of what you harvest, and deliver the produce to the desired locations.
- Adopting a plot does have its benefits! You are allowed to harvest and take home a reasonable amount of the fruits and vegetables, while also, feeding many low income and underprivileged families!

9. What can I do to help?

- There are many things you can do to help! First and foremost, you can donate your time. You and/or your organization can spend a day working in the garden or you can adopt a plot! Second, you can donate produce. The Garden is always taking donations for vegetable and fruit plants and seed. Lastly, you can donate products. Without donations of fertilizer, bug repellent, mulch, etc. the Garden would not be successful.

10. Important “Must Know” Information

- Initial volunteers must have an orientation with the Garden Manager before working in the Garden.
- An HSP Volunteer Packet must be filled out and submitted before shed combination is distributed
- You must bring your own shopping bags when harvesting produce