

Village of Dexter



Community Garden

2013 Season

Getting the garden growing

Garden applications were available from the late winter until spring through links on the Village of Dexter website. To promote the gardening program, a variety of resources were used to reach as many area residents as possible. Information was first made available on the Village website in January 2013. The Village spring newsletter further promoted the program. In early March, a number of flyers were placed on the information boards throughout the village. Flyers were also placed with several local businesses. An article was also placed in the Dexter Patch local news website. Dexter Library's electronic signage was utilized to promote awareness of the gardening program, as well. Finally, Walkabout Creek residents received a special article about the program in their community newsletter.

As in previous years, Village of Dexter residents had first priority over non-residents in applying for plots and returning gardeners were allowed to request the same plots as they had used previous season.



Village of Dexter Community Garden 2013

After receiving confirmation of their plot applications, plots were assigned and gardeners were invited to participate in the Spring Work Party.



Village of Dexter Community Garden 2013

After a particularly wet spring, plowing and staking out of the garden was completed on May 15th. On Saturday the 18th of May, a nice large group gardeners turned out for the Spring Work Party!

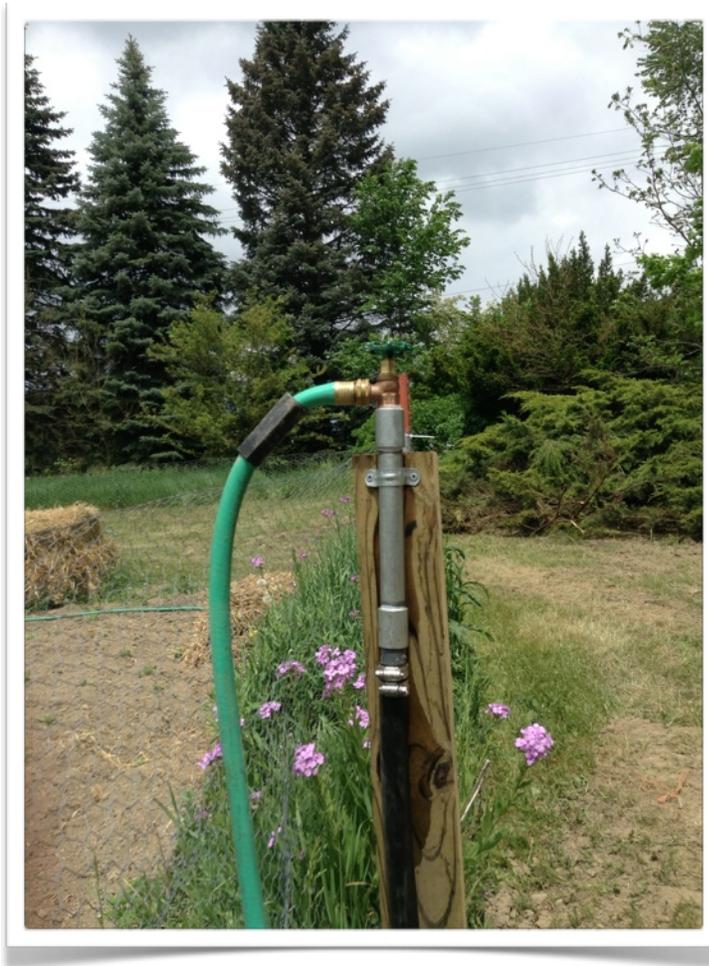


At this party, fencing was raised at the north and south ends of the garden and re-secured and repaired along the other sides. The north and south entrance gates were installed, mulch was spread in the main pathway, and gardeners had a great opportunity to meet their gardening neighbors and start planting.

Exciting improvements

Thanks to wonderful support from the Village Council and the DPW, a new watering system was installed at the garden this spring. This included two new spigots at the garden.

The improvement was dramatic! Gardeners in the main garden were able to water with ease, with the hose staying in place in the garden and accessible at all times. The raised bed gardeners enjoyed having their own spigot and hose for simple and easy access right at the beds.



End of the season

The garden clean up party was held on the 12th of October. Gardeners removed the entrance gates and brought in the north and south sections of the fence. The garden was also tidied up in preparation for the fall tilling. We had a nice turnout and gardeners exchanged thoughts and experiences aplenty!



Community Garden Survey Results

All gardeners were asked to participate in the Community Garden End-of-Season Survey. Not all gardeners responded to the survey, and not all of those responding answered all the questions.

Number of garden plots: 16 full plots (or 32 half plots) and 4 raised beds

Number of primary gardeners: 18

Number of surveys received: 8

The answers below represent combined totals and are based upon the best estimates of responding gardeners, extrapolated out to cover all the garden plot.

Total number of people who gardened with the Community Garden this season: 65 among respondents, total likely nearer 100

What did you grow on your plot?

Zucchini, peas, sweet corn, potatoes, green beans, cabbage, kale, brussels sprouts, basil, dill, sweet peppers, hot peppers, marigolds, cosmos, yellow squash, turnips, spinach, eggplant, watermelon, honey rock melons, carrots, sunflower, pumpkins, cucumbers, beets, radishes, lettuce, onions, tomatillos, and butternut squash!

How much would you say you have harvested from your plot this season? 700+ lbs

(Note: Many gardeners responded to this question with answers such as “2 shopping bags’ full” or “25 ears of corn”.)

How much have you shared with others? 200+ lbs

How many people did you share your produce with? 88 among respondents, total likely well over 100

(Note: this means that no fewer than **153** local residents enjoyed fresh healthful produce from the Community Garden this year!)