

Collaborative Program Teaches Sustainable Living through Vegetable Gardening
Monthly Presentations Offered Throughout the Summer

Glen Ellyn, IL. - Learn tips and tricks of successful vegetable gardening at a series of presentations that are a collaborative effort of the Glen Ellyn Park District and the University of Illinois Extension – DuPage.

The park district has donated the use of two 20-foot x 20-foot garden plots to be used as a hands-on teaching garden. Master Gardeners from the U of I Extension – DuPage will teach principles and techniques of successful gardening.

Master Gardeners are a group of volunteers trained to provide a network of gardening and horticultural programs to educate the public. In conjunction with the environmentally friendly goals of the Glen Ellyn Park District, the program aims to ensure that each garden plot or home garden is successful by demonstrating a healthy, affordable, and sustainable food system in the community with the presentations.

Monthly presentations take place at Village Green Park, 130 S. Lambert Road in Glen Ellyn, from 7 p.m.-8 p.m. on the following Thursdays:

- June 10: Tips and Tricks for a Successful Vegetable Garden
- July 8: Problem Solving - Insects/Disease/Environmental
- August 12: Enjoy the Bounty - Harvesting & Storing
- September 9: Putting the garden to bed - planning for next year

The program's teaching points are:

- Operate a hands-on teaching garden that demonstrates University of Illinois Extension principles and techniques
- Provide food for local food pantries and soup kitchens.
- Provide a community garden that allows people who don't have their own space to grow food and feed themselves
- Educate the public on sustainable living by demonstrating a healthy, affordable, food system
- Engage communities on the economy by showing how growing local reduces the environmental impact of transporting and warehousing food
- Grow fruit of different shapes and sizes and varieties to show how home gardening offers many more choices than store bought items
- Show how gardening creates a shared experience for the family and makes meals more personal
- Lower the cost of providing families with healthy, organic vegetables
- Provide a wholesome activity for people of all ages and lasting memories
- Satisfaction and exceptional taste from freshly harvested, organic vegetables

The presentations are part of the Plant A Row for the Hungry Project, created by the Garden Writers Association to encourage readers/listeners to donate surplus garden produce to local food banks, soup kitchens, and service organizations to help feed America's hungry. PAR provides focus, direction, and support to local volunteer committees who execute the programs.

For more information about the program, contact: Sarah Navrotski, Master Gardener Program Coordinator, at 630-955-1123 or visit: www.extension.uiuc.edu/dupage.