

Stettler Community Gardens

Stettler Community Gardens officially opened in May 2010, with approximately 5000 square feet of ground broken in early 2010 on a public plot of land, south of the school complex. Due to high demand, an additional 3600 square feet was broken in the fall of 2010 for the 2011 growing season. All initial ground preparation was done by Town of Stettler staff, with all further preparations (mulching, staking, etc) done by volunteers. Rail fences were added along some parts of the gardens.



The gardens are mainly private plots, ranging in size from 100 square foot plots (10x10) up to 484 square foot plots (22x22), and an 1100 square foot Food Bank garden. In 2011, 7 raised bed planters were added to the site for rental. Wm E. Hay High School wood fabrication students were contracted to build the garden shed and the raised beds. Generous donations from community residents and businesses have supplied a water tank, tools, seeds and other necessary materials. The borders have been planted with ornamental grasses (in 2010) and sunflowers and scarlet runner beans (in 2011).

For 2012, a final expansion of 4400 square feet will be added, working around existing shrubbery and low areas. The fences will be expanded along the west side of the gardens, and low, tiered raised beds containing edible and floral plants will be placed on the eastern edge of the expansion. Perennial vines will be planted at places along the borders and an additional water tank will be added.

Over the life of the gardens, numerous classes from the schools have been able to visit the gardens. Despite the poor weather, produce has been harvested and donated to the Stettler and District Food Bank. In 2010, approximately 45 large freezer bags of lettuce and swiss chard were harvested over a 3 week period. In 2011, 16 cups of radishes, 180L of leaf and romaine lettuce, 18L of broccoli, 60L of swiss chard, 25 pounds of beets, over 100 pounds of carrots and potatoes and miscellaneous cauliflower, peppers, onions and beans were harvested.

The Stettler Community Gardens include the following features:

- Private garden plots for single season rental
 - 10 ft x 10 ft (100 square feet) for \$5 each
 - 10 ft x 22 ft (220 square feet) for \$10 each
 - 22 ft x 22 ft (484 square feet) for \$20 each
- 5 private raised planter beds for single season rental (+ 2 demonstration/neighbourhood beds)
 - 3 ft x 8 ft raised bed (2 ft high) for \$20 each
 - Relatively wheelchair accessible, with 4 foot alleys
- Bark mulched alley ways
- All gardens are staked and marked prior to opening garden
- Community compost bin on-site
- Garden shed (with combination lock)
 - Tools for use by gardeners
 - Watering cans
 - Hoes / Rakes / Cultivators / Shovels / Digging forks
 - Hand tools
 - Push garden seeder
- 300 gallon water tank(s) (with locking valve)
- Food bank garden
 - Planted and maintained by volunteers (school kids, committee members, etc.)
 - All food is harvested and donated to the Food Bank (weekly – as available)
- Ornamental border and rail fence corners
- Within easy driving and walking distance within the centre of town



Come join the fun and get growing and get involved in Stettler Community Gardens TODAY.