

## *About Washington Missouri Community Garden (WMCG)*

*OUR MISSION:* To enrich the lives of our community through sustainable urban agriculture. WMCG envisions people experiencing a direct and deep connection with plants, the land, and with each other. Through its reciprocal partnerships, WMCG will strive to reach gardeners and would-be gardeners of all ages to work alongside the organization and build community through urban agriculture.

*OUR VISION:* WMCG's Vision is to see people of all backgrounds come together to experience a deep connection with fresh garden food, the land and each other through shared knowledge, skills, and abilities with respect to the art and science of gardening. When people experience a direct and deep connection with fresh garden food, the land, and each other, positive change occurs. WMCG wants to create and maintain a beautiful garden, where people – youth through adult – can learn about the importance of environmental stewardship; where people can come together to reap knowledge about gardening and the products from their intentions. In the midst of all effort, WMCG wants to provide good food to food-challenged individuals via local food pantry access point(s).

### *WHY URBAN AGRICULTURE IN WASHINGTON MO?*

*Urban agriculture is the practice of cultivating & caring for the land. We want to help interested people within our community plant small scale gardens to produce healthy food for consumption. Unlike rural farming – which is generally practiced for income-earning potential – urban agriculture is achieved through community – based, community gardens.*

*Community-based gardens contribute to health, education, community stewardship awareness, and provide a source of fresh nutrition. Imagine a place to retreat from the routine of daily life environment while providing education and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth, students, & other interested folks.*

*Community gardens allow families and individuals without land of their own, the opportunity to produce healthy food. Too, green spaces provide a place for gardeners & want-to-be-gardeners to share knowledge and skill.*

*Community Gardens encourage exercise for the health of it! Often times gardening motivates people to stay active longer than other activities.*

*Lastly – community gardens add beauty to the community and heightens awareness & appreciation for local ecosystems & green spaces.*

**GOALS** of WMCG are as follows:

- *To improve food security for those who desire to create their own food source by providing garden plots for such individuals, families, or groups to “adopt” on a yearly basis*
- *To promote health, education, community stewardship & awareness*
- *To improve nutritional awareness and promote healthy eating habits by encouraging gardening, & providing fresh, nutritional produce*
- *To provide opportunities for positive social interaction and recreation in a beautiful, non-threatening atmosphere where individuals of all ages and backgrounds may interact in a healthy pursuit*
- *To increase the number of home gardeners by offering green space*
- *To promote the health and wellbeing of participants by providing a platform to encourage physical strength and mental balance*
- *To nurture entrepreneurial opportunities & curiosities, and provide hands-on learning opportunities for children by providing gardening space for use by youth programs and schools*
- *To offer a quiet and restful garden setting for the enjoyment of the natural world of plants, birds, insects, and the four seasons*

## **History!**

In April, 2019 our roots - so to speak - were established on the western slope on the grounds at Peace Lutheran Church in Washington, MO. Since inception, many community hands of participation have allowed the garden to grow! The efforts of a volunteer steering committee in tandem with generous donations of material and labor from Washington community businesses and organizations enabled a preexisting garden / hardscape to be rehabilitated. After the ground was prepared, the land was divided and staked to create 12 individual plots.

After a successful first season (2019), the garden will reopen every spring - as long as there remains community interest! 12 lots are available on a first inquiry/pay, first receive basis. Lots are leased for the growing season at \$25.00 per lot. The \$25.00 growing season fee is used to underwrite the cost of ongoing maintenance, day-to-day operations, & resources (water, hoses, etc.).

**Volunteer Opportunity:** YOU can be the change you wish to see in the world through becoming involved in your local community. WMCG is actively recruiting individuals to join our work crew. If you are interested in joining our work crew, please contact WMCG at Peace Lutheran Church. Peace Lutheran will relay your information to WMCG steering committee (see contact information below).

**Become a Plot Owner for the growing season:** Prospective Garden Ambassadors (lot owners) for the growing season: If you are interested in leasing a garden lot for the growing season, please contact WMCG at Peace Lutheran. Peace Lutheran will relay your information to WMCG steering committee (see contact information below).

## **Contact Information:**

- Peace Lutheran Email: [peacechurchelca@gmail.com](mailto:peacechurchelca@gmail.com)
- Peace Lutheran phone number: [636-239-1878](tel:636-239-1878).
- For specific questions regarding the garden, please contact:  
Rebecca Obermark, Franklin County Master Gardener & WMCG Chairperson:  
[eyebus@charter.net](mailto:eyebus@charter.net)