



Extension

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March 6, 2020

Dear Extension Community Gardener:

Thank you for your past participation and ongoing interest in our Extension Community Garden Program. We are fortunate in Milwaukee County to have an extensive garden program that reaches all areas of the county. Our gardens are an outstanding resource for growing fresh, locally-grown food that is enjoyed by you, your families and friends, and our micro-farmers' customers.

As you will notice, we have increased our garden plot rental rates this year. This is our first increase in many years. After careful evaluation, we determined an increase was necessary for our operations. This is due to reductions in state-level Extension funding; an ongoing trend for a number of years now, as well as an increase in our cost of service.

The increase in our rental rates will help us continue the quality services we provide for the garden rental program. These services include:

- Tilling the soil to loosen and reduce compaction
- Road maintenance
- Tractor and implement maintenance and repairs
- Measurement of each garden plot
- Posting garden plot identification signs
- Lawn mowing around the garden plots
- Maintaining the watering system
- Providing a constant supply of water
- Mediating gardener disputes
- Promoting safety at garden sites
- Providing portable restroom facilities at large garden sites
- Maintaining rental records
- Working to maintain a family-friendly gardening community

I know at this point we are all anxiously waiting for spring to begin. I hope you have a wonderful gardening season in 2020 with Milwaukee County Extension. I look forward to seeing you in your garden plot this summer. If you ever have any questions or ideas, feel free to contact me at jerold.braatz@wisc.edu.

Sincerely,

Jerry Braatz
Area Extension Director