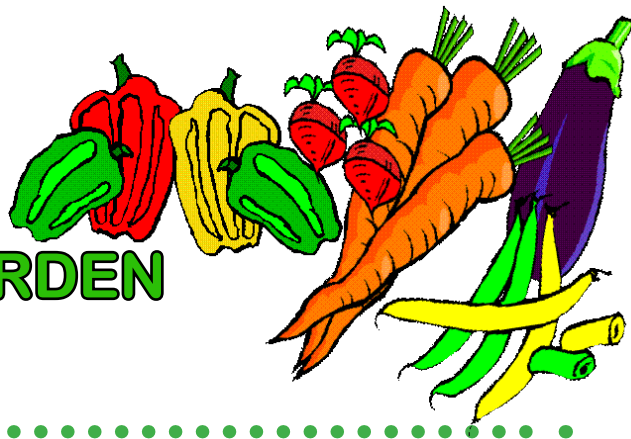


April 21, 2012

INDIANA COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS



Greetings! With our second newsletter, we are proud to announce that the Indiana Community Garden in Mack Park has become a reality.

What We Have Accomplished

On Saturday, April 14, volunteers from the community, the ICG team, and IUP succeeded in building and filling fifteen individual raised beds and three larger community plots. IUP students from the "Into the Streets" program, organized through the Office of Service Learning, provided much of muscle necessary to build the beds, shovel the dirt, haul it by wheelbarrow down to the plots, and rake it into place. It was an exhilarating day that brought us perfect weather, and all of the work was accomplished on schedule.

The success of our building day, and all of the activities that led up to it, would not have been possible without the generosity of local businesses and sponsors. The ICG would like to thank The Mack Park Foundation for donating one acre of land for our use, Lezzer Lumber for delivering our lumber for free, Risingers for donating ten tons of top soil, and Penn American Water for pledging \$500 and agreeing to install a lawn pump for water at no charge for labor or equipment. We would also like to thank the two local garden clubs for donating \$200 each to build two long flower beds, which they will also be planting and using for educational purposes. The Evergreen Garden Club's bed is located along Carter Ave and the Indiana Garden Club's bed is located along South Sixth Street.

All fifteen of the individual raised beds have been rented for the 2012 season. As soon as gardeners have submitted their registration form and rental fee, they are welcome to start gardening! For those who have not rented for this year, all are encouraged to continue to be part of the experience throughout the season by coming to the garden, helping with its organization, and working in the communal plots. Jason Stubbe of Horace Mann Elementary School will be coordinating the efforts of his K-Kids group to take care of one of the community plots. People volunteering will benefit from the produce, and the excess will be distributed to local food banks. Volunteers for many aspects of ICG development should contact Marie Olson at molson88@verizon.net.

What Is to Be Done

The next phase of the ICG project is to build a pavilion with an attached shed. We are aiming for a post-style pavilion with a slanted roof and gutters to be attached to rain barrels. We hope to accomplish this in the weeks to come, in addition to building an entrance archway at the corner of South Sixth Street and Carter Avenue.

Needs and Wish List

We will need a continuing influx of donations, both in dollars and in kind, to continue developing the Indiana Community Garden.

Above all, we invite any interested member of the community with experience in fundraising to become actively involved in this crucial activity.

Ola Kaniasty is working on establishing our bank account, and Justin Thyme is developing the ICG website (www.indianacommunitygarden.org). Once we have our own account, donors will be able to contribute directly through the website. Sponsorship flyers remain available through Sandi Petkus, who may be contacted at sdpetkus2@gmail.com.

Any level of commitment is welcomed and appreciated; for now, checks should be made out to Penn State Extension/ Special Account and mailed to Marie Olson at 472 South Seventh St., Indiana, PA 15701.

What follows is our "wish list" of items that we will need in the near future; used durable equipment in good condition will be gratefully accepted: **garden supplies** (seeds, seedlings, plants, manual lawn mower), **arch** and **pavilion** (design, material, construction), and **compost bins**.

Important Dates

April 24: Organizational Meeting
Location: Indiana Free Library
Time: 5:00 p.m.

