



Collaborative efforts of the Grant United Methodist Church and the USDA Service Center are creating an opportunity for those wishing to grow their own produce this summer.

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Thanks to grant funding, space donation, and ambitious community patrons, a community garden project is coming together.

With lots of sunshine and care, the plots adjacent to the USDA Service Center at 9th and Central will be producing fresh vegetables by the end of summer.

Anyone interested in a garden plot or volunteering may contact Deb Hansen at 308-352-2215. She, along with Daryl Snyder as representatives from the United Methodist Church and employees from the USDA are overseeing the community garden project.

“We expect this garden to be a wonderful asset to our community!” said Grant United Methodist Pastor Nora Mendyk. “Together we can make a difference.”

There will be six 11x14 foot ‘family’ plots. Families or groups of people may apply to have a plot.

How It Came About

Pastor Mendyk received a call from the United Methodist Omaha Big Garden Project indicating there was grant money available for a community garden and inquired whether Grant might be a good location.

Pastor Mendyk visited with several folks in the area and found that office employees at USDA had grown garden produce near their facility for a few years, known as the “People’s Garden.”

“So it was natural to ask if expansion would be a possibility,” said Mendyk. “It took off from there with budget planning, site planning, and grant proposal.”

All within a week’s time the grant was prepared and approved.

“Yea God!” she said.

How It Works

The six ‘family’ plots of 11x14 will be adjacent to four smaller plots that will be tended by Hugs-n-Teddy Bear Daycare.

The produce from the daycare will be shared with the senior center.

Those interested in a family garden plot will submit the type and number of plants they need and the plants will be purchased with the funding from a Community Garden Project from the Peter Kiewit Foundation of Omaha totaling \$1,240.

The ground will be tilled and ready for gardeners to plant their own produce. Tools will be provided, and the USDA Service Center will take care of the watering.

Each group will plant, weed and harvest their own plot, with the expectation that they will keep their garden space ‘in order’ and share what they do not use with others, explained Mendyk.

Daryl and Pickle Snyder have graciously offered the use of their garden plot at their home for planting potatoes.