



**WHAT:** The Ionia County Community Food Network is adding several new gardens this year and seeking community volunteers to get involved.

**MISSION:** It is the mission of the Ionia County Community Food Network to facilitate the development and on-going support of community-grown food sources and related distribution systems in order to provide locally grown, donated fresh produce to county residents in need.

#### 2009 Gardens

Clarksville Horticulture Station  
Hubbardston Community Center  
Krazy Acres Community Garden  
Maple Row Dairy Garden  
North Plains Garden  
Harvest Community Garden  
Portland Community Garden

#### 2010 Gardens

Washington St Educational Garden  
First Presbyterian Church Garden  
MSU Extension- Salsa Garden  
Branch Adventures Camp Garden  
Saints Peter & Paul Garden

**WHO:** Community Volunteers of all ages are invited to get involved in one or more garden. Each garden is planned, planted, and maintained by volunteers. You can volunteer as part of a group, family or individual as little or as often as you want.

**WHY:** Produce from local community gardens is distributed to volunteers and through local food pantries to help feed low income families throughout Ionia County. Most gardens have supervisors that are willing to teach you what needs to be done. Only by working together can we accomplish our goal of providing locally grown food to Ionia County families in need.

**WEB:** For more information about the Ionia County Community Food Network visit [www.ioniahost.com/garden](http://www.ioniahost.com/garden). Also visit the Calendar of Events to find out when each garden is using volunteers!

**HOW CAN OTHERS GET INVOLVED:** Volunteers can sign up to help for one day or on a weekly basis depending on your schedule and how much you want to be involved.

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Penny Beeman 1-800-417-2622

**CONTACT:** ENRICH of Ionia County, 343 W. Main St, Ionia, MI 48846  
616-522-1126 ICCFoodNetwork@gmail.com



### **Garden Updates:**

Krazy Acres Community Garden will be hosting a unique group of volunteers on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Grassroutes Caravan is a group of 25-50 bicycle riders that will be traveling through our area and staying at the Leaven Center. While they are here, they wanted to volunteer in a local community garden where they will be assisting with planting, weeding, and a few other smaller projects that are needed at Krazy Acres Community Garden.

Maple Row Dairy Community Garden is in need of volunteers that can assist with planting! Due to weather conditions this year several gardens are being planted a bit later than normal. Maple Row Dairy has prepared the ground for a 1 acre garden, but we need to get it planted as soon as possible. Volunteers are working as often as possible. If you would like to volunteer please contact ENRICH of Ionia County at 616-522-1126.

Portland Community Garden still has lots available for you to reserve! It is not too late to plant your garden plot this year! Plots are 10 ft by 10 ft and you are allowed to choose what you plant and when you tend your garden. If you are interested, please contact the Law Offices of Duff, Chadwick, and Associates at [ccherpes@duffchadwickpc.com](mailto:ccherpes@duffchadwickpc.com) or 517-647-4345.

### **New Garden Plans:**

Washington St Educational Garden is an Educational Garden where volunteers can learn the most basic gardening skills such as planting, tending the garden, helpful tips, and later in the year harvesting and preparing produce. Anyone interested in learning more can visit this garden every Thursday from 3pm to 5pm.

First Presbyterian Church Garden is open to all community members who want to get involved in something healthy this summer. Events will be planned to help encourage community members to get to know each other better and work together to grow healthy families. Work will begin this week with assistance needed on Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 5pm.

MSU Extension- Salsa Garden is a Square Foot Garden Example to help teach others in the County about this new, yet simple gardening technique. Ionia Kids Club Members are assisting with the care and maintenance and will work together to make homemade salsa when the produce is harvested.

Branch Adventures Camp Garden is planting a 20 ft by 20 ft plot of garden for their campers and volunteers to take care of and would like to offer space for other volunteer groups who are interested in caring for their own section 20 ft by 20 ft section of garden. If you group of volunteers would like to register for a plot, please contact the Ionia County Community Food Network at [ICCFoodNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:ICCFoodNetwork@gmail.com).

SS Peter & Paul Parish has a community garden and will be sharing its produce with the local food pantries. Conscious of preserving our water source and respecting Mother Earth, we have installed 4 large rain barrels for watering and use only natural fertilizers such as lawn clipping compost.