

WATER SOURCES FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS IN THE CITY OF AKRON

The City of Akron Water Department is asking community food gardens to look at alternative water sources rather than using fire hydrants.

If one of the following options is not available to the community garden, a hydrant use application will be considered as a last resort. However, it is the goal of the Water Department to discontinue hydrant use for community food gardens within the next two years. Community gardeners will be expected to cover the cost of water for the growing season.

The following options have been suggested:

1. Ask an adjacent neighbor for access to an outside water spigot and pay their water bill overages during the growing season.
2. Ask an adjacent neighbor to have separate meter installed (at no charge) through the City of Akron Hose Bibb Program. Additional information is attached. The homeowner would be responsible for connecting this meter from inside the house to an outdoor spigot to be used by the community garden. The neighbor would only be billed for water used by this separate service (sewer and trash charges would not be added).
3. Install a permanent water line and fixture for the garden that would be metered and charged only for water. Additional information is attached. If an existing water line exists at the site, the charge for this would be \$1150 for the Water Department to add a meter pit and connect service. If a new line must be connected to the main water line, the charge would be \$3500. There is an additional cost for the fixture (ie: frost free hydrant) and installation of the fixture by a plumber that must be inspected by the Water Dept.

Let's Grow Akron will work with the Water Department to request funding to cover the cost of the installation of these permanent water fixtures.

Rain barrels should also be considered as a supplemental water source but are not sufficient as the sole source of water for a community garden.

Akron Waterways Renewed gives away free rain barrels and holds installation workshops.

More information is available on their website:

<http://www.akronwaterwaysrenewed.com/community/rain-barrel-program.aspx>

If you would like to join the discussion about water access for community gardens and other topics relevant to local food and urban agriculture, get involved with Summit Food Coalition and/or attend the next Advocacy Committee meeting.

More information can be found on the website: <https://www.summitfoodcoalition.org/>

Please contact Let's Grow Akron for questions and concerns regarding this transition.

We are committed to supporting community food gardens and will continue to communicate needs to the Planning and Water Departments.

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