



For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrew Werthmann (715) 495-2451

As Spring Approaches, Forest Street Community Garden in Downtown Eau Claire Welcomes New Members

Located near Phoenix Park, the garden offers a shared garden and expanded rental plots

Eau Claire, Wis. – Forest Street Community Garden is entering its eighth year of growing vegetables for plot holders, shared garden members and charity. The garden has more than 60 rental plots available to past gardeners and new garden enthusiasts, and a “shared garden” with over half an acre dedicated to growing vegetables for shared garden members. New this year, garden enthusiasts will be maintaining perennial fruits and nuts around the parking lot green space at the corner of Madison St. and Forest St., which can be harvested by passersby.

New garden plot applications are being accepted and will be open until sold out.

Joining the shared garden is a great opportunity for those new to gardening. Callie Herron, a new member of the shared garden, joined with little gardening experience and as someone new to town. “The garden has given me the confidence to grow and process my own food,” explains Herron. “Equally important is the sense of community the garden creates over morning harvests and delicious potlucks.”

Private garden plots are available for \$35.00 per 20’ x 20’ space. Additional plots are available for \$30.00. Shared Garden Memberships can be had for \$20.00 per person, \$35.00 per family through June 15th. This membership entitles participants to learn about gardening and harvest their bounty.

“Shared garden members learn from each other as they prepare soil, plant seeds and seedlings, water, weed and witness the ‘fruits’ of their labor come ripe and be harvested,” said garden founder Andrew Werthmann. “It’s amazing to see new gardeners connect with seasoned veterans over a shared lemon cucumber or sunny weeding session.”

Surplus vegetables from the shared garden will be harvested and donated to the Community Table. In addition, individual plot holders are encouraged to donate vegetables they can’t use.

If you would like to know more about the Forest Street Community Garden or other Community Garden options, visit www.eauclairecommunitygardens.com. Please follow the links on the map to the garden you wish to join. Find Forest Street Community Garden info here: http://eauclairecommunitygardens.com/forest_st/index.htm

About Forest Street Community Garden:

Forest Street Community Garden is a collaborative effort focused on empowering urban residents with the vision, knowledge and experience needed to grow their own food. Located in Downtown Eau Claire near Phoenix Park, the garden features rental plots and over half an acre of shared garden, which is run jointly by volunteers who share in the work and harvest. While dedicated to working with all Eau Claire community members, Forest Street Community Garden is particularly aware that many residents in our community face financial hardship and food scarcity issues. With that in mind, we partner closely with the Eau Claire Community Table, WIC (Women Infants and Children Program) and like-minded nonprofits to donate thousands of pounds of food each year to supplement their services.

###