

COMMUNITY GARDENERS OF MANITOWISH WATERS

News



April, 2019 Vol. 6

SUBMIT YOUR 2019 GARDEN PLOT REGISTRATION NOW!

Plots are being assigned on a first-come basis.
Please contact us at mwgarden18@gmail.com if you want to receive a registration form via email.

Spotlight on: VOLUNTEERS!

Appreciation level: High
Community value: High

We need YOU!!!



Our "Volunteers" Kick-Off meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11th – 9:00 am - Town Hall.** We'll explain the tasks in our Garden project plan, the timing, and the level of volunteer effort needed to accomplish our goals.

PLEASE BRING YOUR FRIENDS

★ *Let's get ready to play in the dirt!* ★

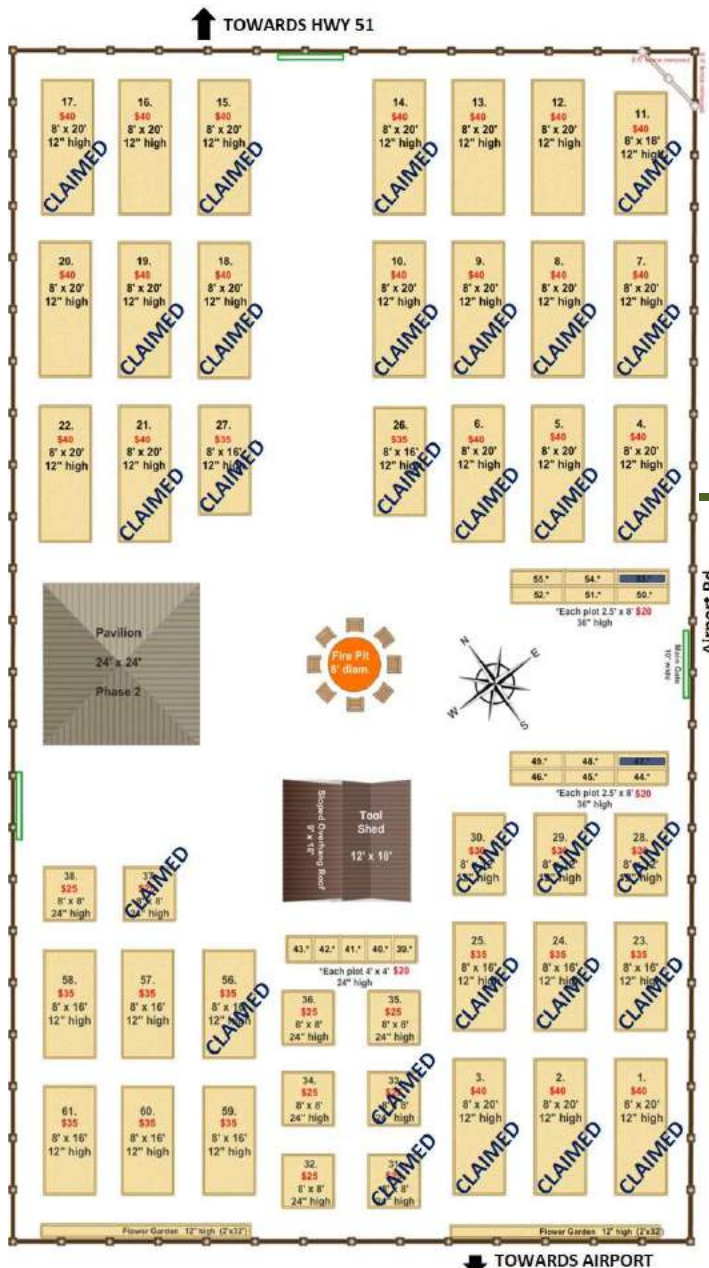
CELEBRATE EARTH WEEK AT THE KOLLER LIBRARY APRIL 22-27

**DO YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR ENVIRONMENT?
DO YOU WANT FOOD TO EAT?**

IF SO, YOU'LL WANT TO SAVE OUR POLLINATORS!

In celebration of Earth Week, the library will promote pollinators! There ARE little things you can do to keep them happy, healthy and most importantly, ALIVE. Who are our big pollinators? Butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, beetles, and even bats contribute to pollination.

- Enter our drawing to win a **POLLINATOR basket!** Enter NOW through April 27th. Drawing will be April 29th. It's FREE!
- Enjoy honey treats all through Earth Week!
- Watch a short movie "Pollinators Under Pressure" on Monday, April 22 at 1PM. Win a prize!





Going forward you'll find our experienced gardener, Judy Barry, in our new Community Garden tending her own plot! A heartfelt thanks to Judy for helping us get this column started.

This month, we want to present a unique approach to gardening that starts by asking you to "*forget everything you know about gardening*" - the **no-till method**.

But first, why is there a problem with tilling?

- When the soil is turned, you can lose up to 90% of the decomposing crop from the previous year – the organic matter that keeps soil healthy and worms happy.
- The bare soil is exposed to wind and rain, causing some of it to be washed or blown away.
- Tilling creates a hardpan just below the depth of the tiller that you don't want under your plants' root bed.

So, what are the goals of no-till gardening?

- **Try to disturb as little soil as possible.**
- **Keep the soil completely covered with mulch.** The key to mulching is using *lots of it* (compost, manure, rotting straw). Simply laid on top, it needs to be thick enough to prevent weed seeds from germinating.
- **Do not walk on the planting areas.** Make paths to walk on in the garden area and use a board to stand or kneel on as you are planting. This will keep the soil from becoming compacted.
- **Create a plan** that places the tallest plants in the back and stair-step down to the smallest plants in front.
- **Prepare for the "next" gardening season.** At the end of the current garden season, leave the roots in the ground and lay smaller-sized leaves and additional mulch on top that will decompose over winter.

Ready to give it a try? The secret behind any no-till garden lies in regular mulching with organic matter. Mulches covering the soil's surface protect it from erosion, lock in soil moisture and suppress weeds. As they rot down they add fertility to the soil while at the same time improving its structure, without the need to dig. ***In no-till gardening, mulching replaces digging!***



5 Things Kids Can Do To Help Pollinators

1. **Be kind to your pollinator friends.** Pollinators like bugs and birds are small and fragile. It's easy for people to hurt them. Be gentle and quiet when they are near!
2. **Look but don't touch!** When you see a butterfly, bee, beetle, or hummingbird outside, look, but don't touch! Pollinators won't hurt you if you leave them alone and are nice to them
3. **Don't use poison sprays.** Bug your family to stop using poison sprays in your house and garden. This poison kills bad bugs, but it hurts pollinators too.
4. **Keep pollinators' homes safe.** Help make a habitat for pollinators. Take care of a garden. Plant some flowers.
5. **Bug someone!** Bugs and pollinators are fun and interesting. Teach your family and friends about these important animals. Teach them to say "Thanks Bugs!"

Taken from:

https://pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/5-things-kids-can-do_170620_195353.pdf

3 EASY STEPS TO CREATING A RAISED-BED POLLINATOR GARDEN

- Plant various, blooming perennials that provide color year 'round, such as:
 - Spring: Dwarf iris, daffodil, and hyacinth to add food sources for pollinators.
 - Summer: Cardinal climber vine (trellis), goldenrod, white coneflower, allium, creeping phlox, and aster.
- Plant native plants, such as:
 - Bee balm, anise hyssop, and coreopsis.
- Plant "Just for Butterflies!", such as:
 - Passionflower vine (trellis), milkweed, tithonia, parsley, caryopteris, verbena, dill, and zinnia.

