



NEWS RELEASE

Woodlands Community Garden Expansion Completed

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (March 2, 2010) – Thirty new plots have been opened at The Woodlands Community Garden, according to Lynne Aldrich, manager of the Environmental Services Department of The Woodlands Township, the group that oversees the operation.

The expansion almost doubled the size of the garden, she notes. The garden, located at Bear Branch Sports Field, now provides vegetable gardening opportunities for over 70 Woodlands residents.

“Some people have waited a year and a half for a gardening plot,” Ms. Aldrich said, adding, “all the new plots are already filled.”

Not only are the new plots filled, but a waiting list also exists. “We’ve got about 30 people waiting for a garden plot and the list grows every day,” she said.

According to a report issued by *Garden Writers of America*, home gardening is on the upswing. The report indicates that over 41 million Americans grew vegetable gardens in 2009. Of that group, over 7 million were new to gardening.

The report indicated that home gardening spanned age groups. The largest collection of gardeners were those between the ages of 35 and 44, who comprised 29 percent of gardeners. The second largest group were gardeners between the ages of 55 to 64, with those 65 and older comprising the third group of gardeners.

College grads made up the largest group of gardeners in the U.S., followed by persons with some college.

Unpredictably, people who made between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year comprised the largest group of gardeners, with those making over \$100,000 per year comprising the next level. Gardening was split pretty evenly between the sexes, with 53 percent female and 47 percent male.

“These national numbers show there is a great deal of interest in residential gardening, which is one of the reasons we have a waiting list here,” said Ms. Aldrich.

A similar study, released last year, indicated that 69 percent of the gardening population would spend less than \$500 on their home garden, while 18 percent would spend between \$500 and \$1,500 on their garden. Six percent of gardeners plan to spend between \$1,500 and \$2,500.

Woodlands Township residents who would like to be placed on a waiting list for a community garden plot may call 281-210-3900.

For more information on The Woodlands Township government, please call 281-210-3800 or visit www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov.

Photo: Community gardeners haul soil at a communal workday held recently at The Woodlands Township Community Gardens.



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