



# **COMMUNITY GARDENING & WILD FORAGING OPPORTUNITIES IN PARKS**

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# WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GARDEN?

- Community gardens are plots of land in public areas where people gather to collectively manage and care for a garden. These areas often serve as a way for urban residents to grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers.
- When located in public parks, they are in safe, recreational green spaces in urban areas.
- These gardens can also offer educational opportunities for children and families, promote healthy eating, improve mental health, and strengthen community bonds.
- Not as common in less densely urbanized settings where people are able to garden “at home”.



## CURRENT COMMUNITY GARDENS IN NORMAN

- **Red Dirt Collective Community Garden at Colonial Commons**
- **12<sup>th</sup> Ave Rec Center Garden**
- **Little Axe Community Garden**

# What is Wild Foraging?

- Wild foraging is the act of identifying, gathering, and harvesting edible or medicinal plants, fungi, and other natural resources from the wild, such as forests, fields, or urban environments.
- The City of Norman does not officially recommend consuming found edible or medicinal plants in the parks but does not prohibit it.
- Naturally occurring- not managed like a garden.



## CURRENT WILD FORAGING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Foraging Workshop at Saxon Park**
- **Foraging Websites and Facebook Groups NOT Sponsored by the City of Norman**

# RED DIRT COLLECTIVE COLONIAL COMMONS COMMUNITY GARDEN



# RED DIRT COLLECTIVE COLONIAL COMMONS COMMUNITY GARDEN

- Red Dirt Collective organizes volunteers, maintains the garden, and provides materials and supplies.
- Norman Parks & Recreation allows for the garden to be located in the park and approves any expansion to the community garden as the project grows and proves to be useful.
- Other groups may propose a community garden through the Project in the Park application.



# 12<sup>TH</sup> AVE REC CENTER GARDEN



# 12<sup>TH</sup> AVE REC CENTER GARDEN

- City of Norman Parks & Recreation partners with the OSU Extension Master Gardeners Program. A collaborative effort to organize volunteers, maintain the garden, and provide materials and supplies.
- Master Gardeners will visit weekly and provide garden lessons to the children in the after-school program and the summer camp.
- City of Norman Parks & Recreation and DOERs facilitated a Spring Break Eco Camp that culminated with the planting of the garden. The Parks staff and Master Gardeners will



# LITTLE AXE COMMUNITY CENTER WILDFLOWER GARDEN AND ART EXHIBIT: THIS IS PLACE



# LITTLE AXE COMMUNITY CENTER

## WILDFLOWER GARDEN AND ART EXHIBIT: THIS IS PLACE

- “This is Place” is a project initiated by Lauren Rosenfelt in collaboration with Jessie Rosenfelt and funded by the OVAC Thrive! Grant.
- A community wildflower garden and art exhibition site which features Oklahoman artists and poets whose works center topics of place, including artisanship, culture, and pollination.



# **ALTERNATIVE APPROACH IN OTHER OKLAHOMA COMMUNITIES**

- Parks & Recreation Departments provide garden beds, soil, and water. Residents rent the plots yearly and are responsible for planting and maintaining them.
- Parks and Recreation Departments secures the garden and outlines rules and regulations for the garden.

## **COMMUNITY GARDENS IN OKLAHOMA**

- **Community Garden at Central Park, Broken Arrow**
- **Civitan Park Community Garden, Muskogee**



# COMMUNITY GARDEN AT CENTRAL PARK, BROKEN ARROW



# COMMUNITY GARDEN AT CENTRAL PARK, BROKEN ARROW

- City of Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation provides raised beds with planting medium. Raised beds are rented to the community. Users provide their own tools, plants, and seeds.



# CIVITAN PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN, MUSKOGEE



# CIVITAN PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN, MUSKOGEE

- City of Muskogee Parks & Recreation provides raised beds with planting medium, and a water source. Residents are responsible for planting and harvesting of their plots. Plots are rented yearly.
- There are six sites located around the city.



# EDIBLE TREES, SHRUBS, AND FORBS GROWING IN OUR PARKS

- Many are native species to Oklahoma and provide important habitat for mammals, birds, and insects.
- Wild foraging is an important historical and cultural part of indigenous cultures. Traditional methods of foraging have been shown to positively impact seed dispersal and germination, soil health, and plant productivity.



**Wild Garlic**  
*Allium canadense*



**Common Pawpaw**  
*Asimina triloba*



**Pecan Tree**  
*Carya illinoensis*



**Eastern Persimmon**  
*Diospyros virginiana*



**Black Walnut**  
*Juglans nigra*



**Red Mulberry**  
*Morus rubra*



**Prickly Pear**  
*Opuntia engelmannii*



**Chickasaw Plum**  
*Prunus angustifolia*



**Elderberry**  
*Sambucus nigra*

**QUESTIONS?**

