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News Release

For Immediate Release

Urban Garden Rental Season Underway

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board is currently accepting applications for the Adopt-An-Urban Garden Program (AUGP) at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Community Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146.

In its second year at the Farm Park, AUGP provides area residents with a space in which to grow a garden, along with providing an opportunity to gather with others who have a similar interest in gardening. Garden plot sizes are eight-feet by 16-feet, for \$25 per season; 16-feet by 16-feet, for \$40 per season. Half of the 60 plots are still available for 2011; first come, first served.

All food grown is the property of each plot's owner. Each participant is responsible for maintaining weed control, providing all seeds and other equipment required to grow a garden and removing debris at the end of the growing season.

The growing season is March 1 through November 30 each year. Season renewals will be first offered each December to existing participants. Plots cannot be resold or sub-leased by any individuals or group. The Park Board provides a raised bed with a compost soil mixture and water access for each plot.

An AUGP guide and application is available directly on the Park Board's Web site at <http://bit.ly/fktMTJ> or www.parkboard.org. Applications are subject to staff review and condition. Call the Farm Park at 417-837-5949 for more information.

"The goal of the Urban Gardens program is to offer a space for people to grow fruits, vegetables, or flowers, who otherwise don't immediately have the space available in their own backyard, said Parks Director Jodie Adams. "They also will offer an opportunity for youth field trips to see and participate in a working garden, along with generally providing fellowship with others and recreational, exercise and therapeutic benefits to our community."

For more information, media contact: Amy Dooley, Farm Park Coordinator, 417-837-5944.