

Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County Parker F. Scripture Botanical Gardens Reopening Plan

Date: July 1, 2020

Oneida County and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County (CCEOC) recognize that the Master Gardener Volunteer Program (MGV) plays a critical role in providing horticulture information to the public. The Extension's Parker F. Scripture Botanical Gardens is made up of a demonstration garden and nature trail which is designed and maintained by MGV. These gardens are used as educational tools. The raised vegetable garden highlights Cornell Vegetable Varieties and All America Selections plants. The produce grown is used for SNAP-ED and Eat Well Play Hard program needs.

To ensure the health and safety of volunteers and visitors, effective July 1, 2020 public safety guidelines from the CDC and Department of Health, and Cornell Garden based Learning will be implemented. The gardens also offer volunteers the opportunity to exercise and commune with nature which helps their overall well-being as we work toward recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The following requirements must be met:

- Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) must read, sign, and submit to the Extension Office the Assumption of Risk Agreement before returning to the gardens.
- MGV are required to sign up with the Extension Educator first with the date and time they will be in the gardens.
- MGV are required to verbally answer the Health Screening Questionnaire each visit to staff member.
- MGV must follow NYS travel advisory guidelines.
- MGV must review the attached document COVID-19 Guidance for Community Gardens.



COVID-19 Guidance
for Community Garde

- If the public shows while MGV are working in the garden, they need to note the time and length of stay of that visit.
- MGV are encouraged to bring their own garden tools, water, snacks, and sunscreen. If tools are needed, they are available in the garden shed and should be wiped down with hand sanitizer before and after each use. CCEOC will provide hand sanitizer for use when MGV volunteers are working in the gardens

Updated: 6/30/2020

- Social distancing and masks are required. The limit for gathering is 25 people.
- Any MGV who needs to use the restroom during their scheduled work session will need to be brought inside the building by a staff member or garden intern. The building is locked at all times.

A comprehensive reopening plan is needed to ensure the health and safety of Master Gardener Volunteers, staff, and visitors. This plan provides guidance to reopening Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County Parker F. Scripture Botanical Gardens during the 2020 summer season. The plan will be reevaluated and revised as necessary throughout the season.

The following people will be responsible to develop, maintain and implement this reopening plan and will serve as organization contacts:

Name: Mary Beth McEwen

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Name: Holly Wise

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Name: Matt Baisley

Position: Superintendent of Building and Grounds

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Name: James Genovese

Position: Commissioner of Planning

Updated: 6/30/2020

Key External Contacts (public health officials, emergency management agencies, key government agencies, local health care, disaster relief agencies, social service agencies, others)

Agency: Oneida County Department of Health Contact: Communicable Disease Department
Phone: 315-798-5290

Government Agencies: Oneida County Government
Contact: James Genovese

Agency: NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Agency: Farmers Market Coalition

Agency: Farmers Market Federation of New York

University: Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell Small Farms Program, CCE NY Extension Disaster Education Network

Staff, MGV, and visitors should always take the following preventative measures to mitigate risk:

Follow CDC recommended preventative actions to reduce the risk of developing COVID-19, flu or other respiratory diseases, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- When you are sick, stay home.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- [If you haven't already been immunized against the flu, it is not too late to get a flu shot.](#)

Recovery and Return Plan:

The reopening planning committee recognizes that ensuring the health and safety of employees, vendors, and the general public will be top priority and will guide the decisions made by the committee. As Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County prepares to reopen the Extension Gardens, we will continuously monitor guidance from the CDC, New York State Department of Health, Oneida County Department of Health, NYS Government and Oneida County Government and review and revise the reopening and operation plan accordingly.