



Sample of Deer/Critter Fencing



Sample of Raised Beds

Why Have a Community Garden in Our Park?

Because research suggests that community gardens are perceived by gardeners to **provide numerous health benefits**, including improved access to quality organic food, improved nutrition, increased physical activity and improved mental health. Community gardens are seen to **promote social health and community cohesion**, as well as **minimizing personal stress** when feeling the smile of accomplishment while watching the garden grow.

Because the plants in a community garden **help the environment** by adding oxygen to the air and helping to reduce air pollution. They also absorb rainwater, reducing potential runoff from above. A carefully placed drip-system for watering (which will be metered) will minimize the impact of water usage.

Because **not every member can or wants to put a garden on their own lot**. Some reasons may be the layout of their lot in relation to patios, decks, walkways, and vehicle parking isn't conducive; it's too shaded; they want a clear lot for placement in the Rental Pool; they already have gardens on their lot, but would like to expand, or they prefer to work with others than work alone.

Because the Community Garden is **supportive and inclusive**. Members can support other gardeners when they are not able to tend their own garden due to illness or travel. Some members may want to share a garden bed. It's intended to be available to any Timber Valley member and, depending on availability, to long-term renters below #25 on the AWL. The size of the Community Garden will be dependent on the amount of interest and placed in an area that can be expanded as needed.

Because the garden creates a sense of an even bigger community as excess organic produce will be shared with park members who are not able to plant their own gardens, as well as with the Sutherlin food pantry. **Sharing a community garden gives people a chance to connect with their neighbors, get to know them, work with them and share in the success that the garden will be. "Sharing and Caring" at its finest.**

Because **having a community garden in Timber Valley is not a new idea, but it is an idea whose time has come**. The cost of food escalating and the inability to get your favorites makes this the perfect solution. Excited park members have been raising funds to establish the garden and are more than halfway there. The first-class nature of the garden will attract prospective members and add to the sense of pride already felt by park members.