JULY

Growing a Food Garden through the Seasons
Wednesday, July 10 ▪ 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Carnegie Community Room/Read & Seed Garden
Learn about the many ways a vegetable garden can be grown in the region to benefit the nourishment of you and your family, as well as the greater community around you. Learn tricks of the trade like square foot gardening, using raised beds, as well as identifying way to extend your harvest into the fall season with succession planting. Presented by The GardenWorks Project. Established in 2012, GardenWorks promotes organic sustainable agriculture within the western Chicagoland region to promote food security and to nourish neighbors in need. **REGISTER**

AUGUST

Seed Saving
Tuesday, August 27 ▪ 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Huntley Meeting Room/Read & Seed Garden
Saving your own seeds is easy and free. A University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener will discuss how to save seeds from your own garden. Find out which seeds are worth the effort and which are not along with methods of cleaning and storing your seeds. Weather permitting, we will walk out to the Library's Read & Seed Garden and look at different vegetable plants and see which would make good candidates for seed saving. **REGISTER**

Look for more programs in the fall issue of *Discover Your Library* or on our events calendar at scpld.libnet.info/events.

A special thanks to Midwest Groundcovers, Heinz Brothers Greenhouse, The Huntley Family, and the University of Illinois Master Gardeners program for making this all possible.

READ & SEED GARDEN

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need"
-Cicero

St. Charles Public Library
One South 6th Ave., St. Charles, IL 60174
630-584-0076
scpld.org

HUMBLE ROOTS

Welcome to the Read & Seed Garden, planted for the community to explore and learn! The idea for a garden grew from our Seed Library. The Seed Library started in 2015 to provide heirloom and open-pollinated seeds to the community to increase the availability of fresh produce, increase biodiversity and sustainability, and allow gardeners to experiment and grow new plants with little risk.

Now, with the help of a donation from the Huntley family, we have expanded the Seed Library into the Read & Seed Garden. This will create and grow an accessible and sustainable green space that is beautiful and functional, providing fresh produce and opportunities for learning, discovery and community outreach.

RISING UP

The Read & Seed Garden is composed of five raised beds. We built raised beds because of the numerous benefits including increased drainage, control over the environment and increased accessibility. Each bed is filled with mushroom compost and a special mix provided by Midwest Groundcovers.

PLANT YOURSELF

The garden is available to all to relax and enjoy a good book. Sit on the garden bench honoring former Library Trustee Norman C. Huntley, the longest standing board member in St. Charles Public Library history, serving the community for 49 years.

WHAT IS GROWING?

1. **Seed Saving Garden**: Filled with easy-to-save seeds like tomatoes, peppers and beans. We plan to increase the sustainability of our Seed Library by saving these seeds to add to our collection, making them available to the community next year.

2. **Sensory Garden**: Take in a flash of color or the fragrant blooms of heliotrope. Run your hands along the bumpy surface of dinosaur kale or the velvet softness of lambs ear. The senses of sight, smell, hearing, and touch are featured. Due to allergen concerns, we have skipped the sense of taste.

3. **Children's Garden**: Filled with miniature/dwarf varieties of vegetables, this is just the right size for the little ones.

4. **Square Foot Garden**: Vegetables can be tightly spaced to maximize production. You will find peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, herbs, marigolds, and more, all based on the method devised by Mel Bartholomew.

5. **Tea Garden**: A fully ADA-accessible bed raised two and a half feet, This bed is filled with fragrant herbs that are perfect for making a relaxing cup of tea.

READ & SEED GARDEN MAP