

April 1, 2013

Sally Ellertson  
Public Information Officer  
141 West Renfro  
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261  
817-426-9622  
F: 817-426-9390  
[sellertson@burlesontx.com](mailto:sellertson@burlesontx.com)  
[www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com)

Applications are now available for the Community Garden at Russell Farm, which is owned by the City of Burleson.

The public area of Russell Farm, 405 W. County Road 714, comprises about 11 acres which will be home to the community garden. The garden area will be open daily, except for Sundays, for garden members and volunteers. Children under 18 are welcome in the garden but they must be accompanied by an adult.

“As a nation we are becoming more interested in where our food comes from and how it was grown,” Peter Krause, director of parks and recreation for the City, said. “The community garden is the natural response.”

Gary Burkins, Russell Farm supervisor, adds, “Our mission is to enhance the quality of urban life by providing a gardening environment. This environment at Russell Farm’s community garden educates those involved about the benefits of gardening while cultivating community bonds and friendships.”

The annual individual plot rental fee is \$50 for a 5-foot by 8-foot plot or \$90 for a 5-foot by 16-foot plot. The garden fee covers the garden plot with organic top soil medium added, water, and liability insurance. There is also a one-time plot cleanup deposit of \$20. There are a few scholarships available. Recipients of those scholarships, which cover the annual \$50 fee and an annual tool fee of \$20, will be asked to donate four hours of volunteer time monthly.

Garden members may bring their own tools or choose to be part of the tool cooperative (\$20 fee). If you rent a plot, you are responsible for maintaining your own beds and providing your own plants and seeds. You are also free to harvest your own crop. If you can’t use all of your harvest, the food will be donated to an area food bank. Go to [www.burlesontx.com/communitygarden](http://www.burlesontx.com/communitygarden) for more information.

Russell Farm is an historic farm on 30 acres on the south side of Burleson that was donated to the City of Burleson in October 2011 by the Boren family for historical, art and agricultural/natural uses. Charlie and Louise Boren transformed the farm into the Russell Farm Art Center. The property was renamed Russell Farm when the farm was donated to the City.

The original farmhouse, along with its barns and other restored farm buildings are all nestled within stands of native Texas oaks and mesquites. While you are at Russell Farm, tour the galleries, stroll along the nature trails, sit in the shade or participate in workshops and classes. Russell Farm is also available for rental for private events. The hours are Monday and Tuesday, 8 a.m. -5:30 p.m.; Wednesday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.