

What is a “Gardener in Good Standing?”

MCGA gardeners pay a yearly plot rental fee, fulfill a community service commitment, and actively cultivate from May through October. Currently:

- The yearly rental fee is \$75 for a full 10' x 40' plot (\$37.50 for a half plot).
- The minimum service commitment is 8 hours for a full plot and 4 hours for a half plot. More hours are appreciated. We maintain our grounds and work the Hopelink garden with your help. We appreciate all that you do throughout the season to help us successfully operate MCGA.
- The spring cultivation benchmark is May 1. (See below.)
- While gardeners are required to cultivate or otherwise maintain their plots from May through October, they are permitted to cultivate year-round.
- Community service hours must be completed by the end of the last work party in October.

How do I fulfill my service commitment?

MCGA members make a commitment to donate a minimum of 8 hours per full plot (4 hours per half plot) every gardening season. This allows us to support the food bank garden and maintain the grounds and equipment. Members are encouraged to do more if they are able, as there is usually more work to be done than there are required hours.

Current service options are listed in the MCGA applications. If you have any questions, please contact the [Volunteer Coordinator](#).

How do I meet the May 1 cultivation benchmark?

“Cultivation” is the work of clearing weeds, preparing soil, planting, and caring for your crops. Depending on spring weather and crop choice, most MCGA gardeners start to plant between April 1st and June 1st. Our benchmark is that we want to see clear evidence that gardeners are present and actively preparing for the season by May 1st.

Our goal is to keep the plots and adjacent paths weeded through the end of the fall growing season -- usually around November 1. This, along with mulching over the winter, should result in plots that are essentially “weed free” when the next gardening season begins.

Is there mulch available to gardeners?

Wood chips and leaves are available in the mulch bins on the northwest side of the garden. These are free for gardeners.

MCGA organizes community mulch and compost purchases throughout the year. Typically compost is ordered in the Spring and straw is ordered in the fall. These are when MCG gardeners pool their resources to obtain a large delivery at a reduced price. These materials are not free for use and must be pre-ordered. Please check your email for mulch purchase announcements.

What about water use and conservation?

Wise use of resources, including water conservation, goes to the core of what we are doing. Replacing leaking hoses when needed and replacing gaskets annually will save our precious water resource and will cut down on our water bill, which is our largest expense.

Food bank managers offer tutorials about effective watering during work our parties – please stop by or ask how you can efficiently water your garden.

What about weeding?

Gardeners should keep their borders free from weeds, vines, or other plants that will creep into their neighboring plots. Quackgrass, bindweed, morning glory, and buttercup are especially invasive weeds and gardeners should not let those or others spread. Gardeners should weed these from their plots, borders, and adjacent paths.

Marymoor Park prohibits us from growing comfrey, which grows as a weed in the park. Please remove any comfrey that grows in your plot by digging up the entire root structure.

We avoid growing plants that are invasive and hard to eradicate such as mint.

Gardeners who grow raspberries must keep them trellised and contained to within their plot boundaries.

What are MCGA Good Neighbor Practices?

Be polite, be friendly and be respectful. Neighbors helping neighbors is a tradition that makes MCGA a strong and welcoming community. As neighbors you will share the faucets and maintain the border areas between you. Being a good neighbor makes a gardening at MCGA a positive experience for all.

- Please be aware of how your tall plantings are placed (corn, sunflowers, trellises), so they do not shade a neighbors' garden.
- Gardeners must keep weeds, vines, and plants from spreading into their neighbors' plots.
- Maintaining the garden path is a community effort. We ask that gardeners on both sides of a path share the work of weeding it.

Please be kind to your garden neighbors.

What organic gardening practices does MCGA follow?

We follow Washington State University's (WSU's) guidelines on Integrated Pest Management ("IPM"). IPM is a set of sustainable agriculture practices with the goal of reducing health risks and environmental impacts. For more information click the following link: <https://ipm.wsu.edu/>.

Gardeners should use organic fertilizers such as compost, composted animal manure, seaweed, fish emulsion, bone meal, blood meal, coffee grounds, earthworm castings, and bat guano. The use of cover crops is encouraged.

Gardeners should use organic methods for controlling weeds and pests. Examples of organic products include OMRI certified products like Sluggo and Safer Insecticidal Soap brands.

Are there community tools available for me to use at MCG?

Hoses on the carriers by the faucets are considered "public." Hoses kept in gardeners' plots are "private" and should be detached from the spigot when not in use. Gardeners should feel free to use the first but ask permission before using the second.

Food bank tools are primarily for use with Hopelink activities. If gardeners use them, they should return them to the food bank stand and store them properly.

MCGA Wheelbarrows must be returned to the west end of the garden near the parking lot. Per King County Parks Service: please keep wheelbarrows from blocking the Clean Green bin.

Can I bring my children with me to the garden?

We welcome children to the garden. To ensure their safety and the gardens', they must always be supervised by an adult. In particular:

- Do not allow children play with garden tools or wheelbarrows.
- Do not allow children to climb fences or dirt piles, enter another gardener's plot, or handle another gardener's crops.
- Do not allow children to play in the water or operate hoses and spigots.
- Do not allow children to enter the food bank garden areas.

What if I witness a crime, or something of mine gets stolen or vandalized?

Reporting theft or vandalism is a two-step process at Marymoor Park.

1. Call the King County Sheriff's office and report the incident. It might take a day or two before they can contact you for an interview, but please do so to obtain a case number.
2. Once you have a case number, please report the incident to the park office.
Alternatively, you can report it to board@marymoorgarden.org, and a board officer will report the incident to Marymoor Park.

If you see a crime in progress, call 911.

If you see someone using garden water to wash their car, please take the license number and report it to the park office. They will receive a citation from the park service.

Contact Information:

King County Sheriff's office: 206/296-3311, [Online Contact Form](#)

Marymoor Park office: 206/477-7275, marymoorpark@kingcounty.gov

What can I do if my neighbor's neglect is interfering with my ability to garden?

Send an email to board@marymoorgarden.org. Please include your plot number and your neighbor's and describe the problem. A row monitor or board officer will contact the neighbor to resolve the problem.

Gardeners should never enter or modify another gardener's plot without their explicit permission.

What is TLC?

Our Tender Loving Committee ("TLC") crew will help "Gardeners in Good Standing" who have a medical issue that temporarily prevents them from tending their plots. You can request this service by filling out a TLC application ([Link](#)) and returning it to TLC@marymoorgarden.org.

Will TLC weed and water my garden while I'm on vacation?

No.

Who will care for my garden if I go on vacation?

You can have a friend care for your garden. Or, you can ask your garden neighbors to help. Gardeners commonly take turns watering each other's plots when they are out of town.

What's more, you can fulfill 25% of your service requirement by helping a neighboring gardener in this way. That is for a total of two hours for a full plot and one hour for a half plot.

The park rules prohibit us from blocking the service road, but I sometimes see cars parked on it. How is that allowed?

You should not park your car on the service road. You can park on the road temporarily to load and unload objects for your garden, so long as you are available to move your car immediately and yield to another person passing through. Be considerate of others who want or need to use the road.

Where can I leave my garbage and garden waste?

We dispose of weeds in the "Clean Green" bin and trash in the dumpsters. Please do not leave wheelbarrows or inorganic debris in front of the "Clean Green." The Park crew needs that space clear so they can bulldoze it.

We currently do not have a recycling bin. In the interest of minimizing landfill garbage please take recyclables with you when you leave and recycle them at home.

If you have something that can be reused you can leave it on the picnic tables at the Northwest end of the garden. If nobody takes it in three days time please dispose of it properly.

What about dogs?

We love dogs but we cannot have dogs in our garden. This includes the garden plots and the paths that connect one section of garden to the next. The north road (the gravel road that flanks X, A, B, and C sections) does not belong to us, though. It is a utility road controlled by the park. Park visitors can walk their dogs on that road, so long as they are on a leash.

Where can I update my contact information if I move?

Please send an email to registrar@marymoorgarden.org.