

What is a gardener in “good standing?”

- Gardeners in good standing pay a yearly plot rental fee, fulfill their community service commitment, and actively cultivate their plots from May through October.
- Currently, the yearly rental fee is \$90 for a full 10' x 40' plot (\$45 for a half plot).
- The annual community service commitment is 8 hours for a full plot and 4 hours for a half plot. Community service hours must be completed by the end of the last work party in October.
- The spring cultivation benchmark is May 1st. “Cultivation” is the work of clearing weeds, preparing the soil, planting, and caring for your plot. Depending on spring weather and crop choice, many MCGA gardeners start planting between April 1st and June 1st. We would like to see clear evidence that gardeners are present and actively preparing for the season by May 1st. Plots not worked by this benchmark may revert to the rental pool. While gardeners are required to cultivate or otherwise maintain their plots from May through October, they may cultivate year-round. However, the water is turned off at the end of October.
- During the gardening season, gardeners in good standing maintain their plots and keep their borders free from weeds that may infringe on their neighbors.

How do I fulfill my service commitment?

MCGA members commit to complete a minimum of 8 community service hours per full plot (4 hours per half plot) every gardening season. This work allows us to support the food bank garden and maintain the grounds plus 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 application. The organization runs small work parties as well as garden wide work parties. There are multiple opportunities to complete community service hours. If you have any questions, please contact the volunteer coordinator:

How do I meet the May 1st cultivation benchmark?

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Is there mulch available to gardeners?

Wood chips and leaves are available in the concrete eco-bins in the northwest side of the garden. These are free to gardeners.

How can we help to conserve water at MCGA?

The wise use of resources, including water, includes replacing gaskets and leaking hoses when needed. Report faulty spigots to your board so they may be repaired. Water-wise gardening will cut down on our water bill, which is our largest expense.

Foodbank 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 neighboring plots. Quack grass, bindweed, and buttercup are especially invasive weeds, and gardeners should not let them spread. Gardeners should remove these weeds from their plots, borders, and adjacent paths.

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

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

What are MCGA Good Neighbor Practices?

Be polite, be friendly, and be respectful to your neighbors. This tradition makes MCGA a welcoming and robust community. You will share faucets, share hoses, and maintain the border areas between your plot and the adjacent one. Please be aware of how your tall plantings are placed (corn, sunflowers, trellises) so they do not shade a neighbors' garden. Maintaining the garden border is a community effort. We ask that gardeners on both sides of a border share the work of weeding it.

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 to reduce health risks and environmental impacts. For more information, click the following link: <https://ipm.wsu.edu/>. Gardeners may use products approved for organic gardening that are OMRI certified, such as fertilizers, compost, and amendments. Examples of organic products for controlling pests include OMRI certified products like Sluggo and Safer Insecticidal Soap

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

Hoses on the hose hangers by the faucets are considered "public." Hoses kept in gardener's plots are "private" and should be detached from the spigot when not in use. Never enter another gardener's plot for "borrow" hoses or tools without prior permission.

Foodbank 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. 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, they must always be supervised by an adult, especially in the parking lot and along the north and south roads.

- Do not allow children to 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.

First, call the King County Sheriff's office and report the incident. You may also file a report online. Once you receive a case number, then, please report the incident to the park office.

Contact Information:

King County Sheriff's office: 206/296-3311

<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/sheriff/on-line-reporting/on-line-reporting.aspx>

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

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**.

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 Care ("TLC") crew will help "gardeners in good standing" who have a medical issue/ other issue that temporarily prevent them from tending their plots. You can request this service by filling out a TLC application ([Link](#)) and returning it to TLC@marymoorgarden.org. TLC does not maintain plots for gardeners who go on vacation.

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. Furthermore, you can fulfill 25%

of your service requirement by helping a neighboring gardener in this way, for a total of two hours for a full plot and one hour for a half plot.

The park rules prevent us from blocking the service road, but I sometimes see cars parked there. 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. Move your vehicle and allow cars to pass. 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.” bin. 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 garden items 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, please dispose of it properly.

What about dogs?

We love dogs, but we cannot have dogs in the garden, which includes the garden plots and paths that connect one section of the garden to the next. The north road (the gravel road that flanks X, A, B, and C sections) does not belong to us. 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.

What am I not allowed to do in my plot?

- Grow flowers or vegetables for commercial use.
- Grow marijuana.
- Grow trees.
- Smoke
- Use tires for raised beds and other things.

- Have open containers of water.
- Have invasive plants such as English Ivy, Hops, or bamboo.
- Have any plants on the King County Noxious weeds list.

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds.aspx>

What about parking?

Marymoor Park requires all visitors to pay a fee for entering the park. You may buy a monthly, 3-month, 6-month, or yearly pass at the park office, or a daily pass as you enter the park. To park in our parking lot requires an MCGA decal. You can get these at work parties and meetings throughout the year.