Welcome Back Gardeners

Now that winter cold is waning we must take time to start planning our gardens. It matters not if you start your plants from seeds or purchase plants from a garden center. This is a time of year when you imagine picking all your colorful vegetables, perhaps even sharing a few with your non-gardening neighbors.

The Manhattan Community Gardens have approximately 180 gardeners and 280 plots. Gardening is more than sweat, hard work and harvesting. Gardeners enjoy the camaraderie of their garden neighbors while they learn and share their gardening knowledge. Tell your neighbors to join us at Manhattan Community Gardens - where we always have room for one more! Remember we have a variety of gardeners and garden practices, which means we can learn all kinds of new tricks.

Disposal of Plant Waste and Trash

The MCG Board would like to share our “plant waste and trash removal” costs. Our drop-off dumpsters cost $75.00 for each garden. To empty a dumpster costs $150.00 plus $10.00 a ton. If trash is found in the contents, the rate increases to $250.00 plus $50.00 per 1.5 tons of waste. Our cost also increases if you put garden waste in our trash containers. Proper disposal of plant waste and trash is vital to keeping garden expenses within budget.
Our Spring Garden Focus

The Manhattan Community Garden Board has concluded that garden-courtesy compliance must improve:

Read and understand garden rules.
Maintain your garden plot, keeping it free of weeds, trash, and other waste.
Maintain the paths around your plot, keeping them mulched and weed-free.
Keep your plants inside your plot boundaries.
Repair your fencing this spring. Every year there are injuries from bad fences.
Prevent garden overgrowth and remove trees.

Heads-up. Expect to hear more about this in 2018. If you have a question, contact:
Collins Lane - Deane Lehmann
deanelehmann@gmail.com
Riley Lane - Derek Frasier
derek4sier@gmail.com
President - David Claus
dclaus171@gmail.com

Committees

Plot Tilling

Between Riley Lane and Collins Lane our tilling committee now tills approximately 30% of the plots. If you have chosen to have your plot tilled, make sure you have inspected your plot. All plant waste must be removed as well as cages, stakes, bricks, etc. Tilling committee members are not responsible for removing waste and other obstacles before tilling. If your plot is not ready on time, the tillers will move on and you’ll have to make another appointment.
Derek Frasier – derek4sier@gmail.com

Equipment

We are fortunate to have first-rate equipment-committee people to maintain our community tools. Breakdowns are expected because of high usage, but reports of misuse have become more common. Instruction will be provided at the social April 7 at Collins Lane. If you’re not sure how to use a piece of equipment, ask a neighbor gardener. The basic rule is: clean it, refuel it, and store it for the next gardener.
Aran Ryan – akryan08@hotmail.com

Mowing

The mowing committee has a big job at both Gardens. Mowing is done to keep our gardens looking fresh and groomed. When you find a rock or brick in your plot, please don’t toss it in the grass or along the railroad tracks at Riley. Instead, put it in the

Workday Commitments

You signed up for two workdays when you registered for your plot. The Board has heard concerns about workdays and is planning for improvement. We really need gardeners to complete the task to which they committed. To help you remember, Kim Smith will be sending you an email reminder (twice). If you can’t make your workday, e-mail us an alternative date.
Deane Lehmann – Collins Lane –
deanelehmann@gmail.com
Derek Frasier – Riley Lane –
derek4sier@gmail.com
David Claus – Both Gardens –
dclaus171@gmail.com
Learn something new at our spring socials!

New this year, socials will feature a brief educational component. We invite all MCG gardeners to socials held after our April and June workdays; just bring a home-made dish to pass. Please come if you want to meet your fellow gardeners, volunteered at the workday, or signed up for socials (providing tasty food, setup, and cleanup). Spring socials will be held:

*April 7, Collins Lane, 11:15-11:45am. "Equipment show and tell"—Our MCG Equipment Team will teach you how to use tillers, mowers, and more!

*June 9, Riley Lane, 11:15-11:45am. “What’s up Doc?? How’s my soil?” Learn how to diagnose common soil problems and improve soil health.

Socials put “community” in community gardens. We hope to see all of you at our two spring socials.

Timely Topics

Trash containers and toilets will be in place by March 1. The water hydrants will be on by March 15.

Much Appreciation

Board Chairman David Claus wishes to thank Dick Green and the Men’s Garden Club who proposed in December to install electricity and lighting at the Collins Lane shed. The board agreed and the project was completed immediately and under budget! Thank you to Dick’s crew Pat Butler, Joe Mainey, John Darch, and David Meirerer. The Gardens are very fortunate to have volunteers willing to go the extra mile.

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