



Gardening for Community

The July 2021 Newsletter of the UFM Manhattan Community Gardens

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President's Message

Happy summer, Garden Friends! It's time to garden hard and read strong - two great hobbies! Recently, I read a solid book and listened to an insightful podcast on "**The Blueprint: 6 Practical Steps to Lift Your Leadership to New Heights**" by Doug Conant, co-authored with Amy Federman. The book on leadership and life reminded me a lot of gardening! See what you think:

Get Unstuck

1. Reach High - Envision.
2. Dig Deep - Reflect.
3. Lay the Groundwork - Study.
4. Design - Plan.
5. Build - Practice.
6. Reinforce - Improve.

1: REACH HIGH — ENVISION

Envision what success looks like, articulate your purpose and set your intention. - Gardens are a key part of keeping a balanced life for me. Setting the purpose with your garden experience is so key to rolling with a successful season.

2: DIG DEEP — REFLECT

Reflect on your experiences to dig deep to uncover what makes you, you. We can uncover lessons that develop an understanding of your unique skill set. - Gardens often reflect who we are and naturally a metaphor for the root-based work of establishing a solid foundation for growth.

3: LAY THE GROUNDWORK — STUDY

Study to fill in the cracks and lay the groundwork with the learnings beyond your personal experiences. - I can't get enough of learning from those around us at the community gardens with wisdom, stories and Chuck's weekly emails. It's the best study guide possible!

4: DESIGN — PLAN

Solid plans provide a design for your personal leadership model. - This is much like the ongoing, evolving garden areas in our plots. The plans are all coming to fruition.

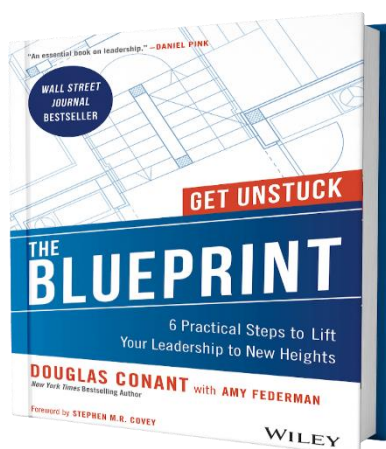
5: BUILD — PRACTICE

Practice small, actionable practices that you can begin to fold into your habits. - Gardens are the result of cumulative small steps and time to build a spot to be proud of!

6: REINFORCE — IMPROVE

Improve, continually learning from what you did right and what you could have done better. - Gardens can reinforce the improvement cycles to always try to learn to do things better with boundless opportunities.

Hope these connections to The Blueprint and our gardens provide some new thoughts. We hope you're having the best season and making the most of the summer in MHK!



Lucas Shivers – lshivers@hotmail.com

Be a Good Garden Neighbor

All gardeners agreed to abide by the MCG rules by signing the MCG Garden Application. For reference the rules are available at:

<https://tryufm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Final-Rules-Sept-8-2020.pdf>

Following the rules is a start to being a good garden neighbor. Using common sense can ensure members get along throughout the year.

Here are suggestions:

- Get to know your neighbor by name. They may help with advice, take care of your plot during an absence, and watch for trespassers.
- Stay out of other plots without permission. Don't drag hoses through neighboring gardens.
- Keep noise to a minimum. The garden is not the place for noisy radios or loud talk.
- If located next to a path take care of it. Control weeds and apply woodchips.
- Keep a tidy plot. Non-garden related structures or articles should be kept to a minimum. Place trash in the proper receptacle.
- Don't encroach on borders. Plan your plantings with sufficient space to not approach boundaries.
- Fences can make enemies. Control weeds that grow in the fence line. If you have a fence, MAINTAIN it!
- Don't roll up hoses. String them out in linear fashion near the hydrant. Don't leave a spray nozzle attached for someone else to remove.
- Consider tilling your plot(s) at the end of the garden season.

Contact – Darin Marti - dmarti7528@gmail.com

Put Away & Lock Up



Put Away & Lock Up

Security is important at our gardens sites to help prevent theft. Unfortunately Riley Lane is not fenced so it is pretty easy for someone to just walk in off the street. Collins is fenced with a barb wire fence along Collins lane and does have a gate with a lock on it to help deter intruders. Both sites have equipment sheds with locks. It is very important that gardeners put away the tools and equipment they have used and lock up the shed before they leave the gardens. And at Collins, please lock the gate! We do know for sure that some of the thieves at Collins last year, entered through the gate that was not closed when the last gardener left. And that some of the hand tool theft was personal tools just left in plots.

If you are leaving the gardens and you notice a shed open and no one else is around, please lock it. Later in the season when vegetation prevents you from seeing across the gardens to know if someone is still there, lock the gate and sheds just to be sure. Locking someone in isn't all bad! Theft of equipment and tools cost the gardens to replace them and remember, your plot fees pay for that! Keeping any expense down benefits all of us! Locking gates to help prevent trespassers helps all gardeners if it cuts down on theft.

Disposal Costs

MCG pays for dumpsters and trash bins for each garden site. We have roll-off dumpsters, lidded dumpsters and trash totes. New signs have been installed in front of each dumpster that outlines what materials can be placed in each. Please follow the instructions on each sign.

Each dumpster has specific purposes which are as follows:

- Roll-off Dumpsters (the large ones) – to be used **ONLY** for plant materials that come off the garden plots or tree limbs that fall around the garden site.
- Lidded Dumpster (Collins) and Trash Tote (Riley) – need to be used **ONLY** for non-vegetative materials.



This disposal cost the MCG \$100 per pickup plus \$10 per ton of plant material in the roll off dumpsters. Any non-vegetative garbage thrown in the roll off has to be removed by the hauler and he charges an additional \$250 per pickup and \$50 per ton when he has to sort it. Consequently it is imperative that we follow these requirements.

We also ask that you not bring trash from home to put in any of these containers. And no Hazardous material!

Other ways to control disposal cost is to recycle the plant materials. In reality, everything that grows in your plot can be chopped by hand or with a lawn mower and tilled right back into the soil. This saves the MCG money and benefits the soil profile of your plot! Much of the time it is less work than hauling debris to the roll-off! MCG rules state that burning is not allowed in your plot. Burning could certainly create an unsafe situation. In addition, MCG does not have a county burn permit so it is against county law as well.

Workdays

At registration you agreed to work board designated activities which may have included one workday. John Kobiskie, Records & Communications will be sending email reminders prior to the workday month you chose. You will have the month you selected to complete the task assigned to you for the month. Gardeners need to fulfill their commitments to maintain eligibility for the Subsequent year.

John Kobiskie - johnkks@cox.net

Committee Reports

Plot Maintenance

All new gardeners should have received a set of rules when they registered for the gardens. Returning gardeners should have a copy of the rules from last year as they were sent out a number of times throughout the year. If you have misplaced them, they can be accessed from the UFM website. They are printed in

somewhat small print but it is **very** important that you read them and know what is in them.

All of the rules are important but rules 8, 9, 10, and 20 pertain especially to plot maintenance. Your garden coordinators spend considerable time reviewing these rules at the gardens. These 4 rules are intended to help keep plots from encroaching and/or spreading weed seeds on neighboring plots and paths and to keep our plots in good condition in the event a gardener leaves the gardens. When a gardener leaves a plot with unwanted vegetation and items on it, other gardeners have to help clean it up so we try to prevent this from happening.

Throughout the year, the garden coordinators will walk the gardens making observations on conditions of the paths and plots. When plots are observed to be out of compliance, emails or letters will be sent to those gardeners, asking for them to take care of the issue. The first notices will of course be as friendly as possible. Rule #20 spells out the procedure the coordinator is required to follow. In the event that you see you are unable to care for a plot due to illness or travel, feel free to contact us at communitygarden@tryufm.org and let us know your situation. We will work with you to find help you find assistance in keep your plots clean. Remember, all gardeners have an obligation to keep the gardens in good condition. We would appreciate your cooperation on this issue. Thank you.

Mulching Plants

The MCG provides prairie hay for mulch. It is used to conserve moisture and control weeds. Good quality prairie hay is composed of perennial native grasses and forbs mowed prior to seed production. It should not contain weeds. Reasonable amounts of prairie hay mulch can be tilled into the soil and composted in place.



Equipment

Cleaning mowers and tillers involves using the hose and water to remove soil and debris from the blade or tines. **Do not turn the machine over or on its side** as oil or gas will clog the air filter. Handles can be hooked on the produce cleaning table making it easy for one person to clean under the machine. Do not use water on a hot engine.

Gardeners are responsible for reporting damaged or non-functioning mowers and tillers to the equipment committee. Tags are available in the shed to note any non-functioning motorized equipment.

Contacts:

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Pat Duggan, Riley Lane

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Records & Communications

The Board communicates with members by email and uses the address you provided at registration. We keep your information secure and send messages to you in a way that does not expose your information to others. A few members have no email, so we call them at the phone number they provided at registration. We use emails to remind members of workdays,

social events, equipment use, facility security, gardener responsibilities, and for special announcements. We also maintain records of your plot, payments, workday obligations, etc. to give you credit for your service and keep you in good standing. So please be sure that the email you gave at registration, is **an email address you use and check often**. Feel free to contact board members with questions or to resolve scheduling conflicts.

John Kobiskie - johnkks@cox.net

Theft Issues

Those of you that are returning gardeners are aware of the theft issues we experienced last year so this article is to remind you and to update new gardeners of this issue. I suppose we have always had some degree of produce theft every year and either were not aware of it or just let it slide but last year it was brought to our attention with numerous instances. Thieves were actually seen at Collins gardens stealing melons and gardeners at Riley had hand tools missing! Other gardeners just noticed produce missing. Dealing with this is certainly a challenge. Most times, we do not see the culprit but just notice something missing. At other times we may see someone in the garden that we don't think should be there.

If you suspicion something missing and want to report it, the police require that the victim report it to them, not the garden board. Now for them to find the time to deal with a \$20 or \$30 theft may be tough but if numerous gardeners are missing items at the same time, the dollars add up so several reports may trigger a response. If nothing else, they may beef up patrols in the area for a while.

If you catch someone in the plots actually stealing, confronting them may be a first response but I would caution you to be careful. Getting shot over a couple melons may not be worth it! It is probably a good idea though to ask unwanted visitors to leave unless they have

a plot. Try to get their name so you can verify with the board if they have a right to be there. If you happen see another gardener in a plot helping themselves, please report that to the board. Taking pictures of any of these instances will help to give proof of the incident. When confronting someone, get another gardener to go with you if possible.

Be Safe During Hot Days

During the dog days of summer, keeping hydrated is a must if one is going to stay safe during the very hot temperatures that we will experience this summer. There are a few things you can do to make your summer gardening experience more pleasurable:

- Drink plenty of fluids. Avoid caffeine and alcohol prior gardening in hot temperatures.
- Wear light colored clothing. Light colored clothing helps to keep you cooler and not absorb heat as dark colored clothing will do.
- Wear a hat to cover your head to prevent sunburn on the scalp. A wide brimmed hat will also cover the back of your neck area to also prevent sunburn.
- Using a sunscreen will help prevent sunburn and help keep your skin from dangerous UV rays. Experts recommend using an SPF 15 or SPF 30 rated sunscreen for the best protection.
- Cooling towels are a great asset during hot days.

Taking a few precautions before leaving for the garden on hot days will make your gardening experience an enjoyable adventure.

2021 Board of Directors

President	Lucas Shivers	lshivers@hotmail.com
Past President	Darin Marti	dmarti7528@gmail.com
Vice President	Dale Hayden	dalesmhs@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Linda Teener	linda@tryufm.org
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Riley Lane Garden Coordinator	Dean Zollman	dzollman@phys.ksu.edu
Collins Lane Equipment	Dale Hayden	dalesmhs@gmail.com
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Compost/Mulch	Jeff Hellerich	jeffhellerich@hotmail.com
Communications/Records	John Kobiskie	johnkks@cox.net
Newsletter	Alan Boerger	aboerger@cox.net
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Collins Lane Mowing/Tilling	Frank Arthur	fha@ksu.edu
Riley Lane Mowing/Tilling	Hannah Birge	hannah.birge@tnc.org
Socials	Open	



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