



# Gardening for Community

The March 2022 Newsletter of the UFM Manhattan Community Gardens

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## President's Message

Gardeners - Welcome to the 2022 garden season! I'm so ready to start growing this year with the hope of

another crop ahead at the Community Gardens.

To help inspire and fan the flames, I wanted to share about one of my favorite heroes, the great global humanitarian Dr. Paul Farmer who recently passed away. I wanted to reflect for a moment on some of his influences connected to gardens and our community. Farmer, co-founder of a group called Partners in Health, was a physician and anthropologist who devoted his life to the care of people living in underserved rural areas around the globe. My favorite Farmer quote is: "The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world."



Farmer's footprint is everywhere, like in Haiti when I supported ag,

education and faith projects after the 2011 earthquakes. Farmer and his teams consistently invest to make the world a better place to live. I see those with gardens around the world also making a positive difference in their lives and often the community around them.

From a garden on the top of a roof in downtown Port-a-Prince (pictured below) to my buddy Jude who I met in Haiti (pictured below from 2012) and immigrated to the US. He's currently living in Texas a decade later where my son and I visited pre-pandemic in 2020 to plant flowers in his front yard with his girls, one of which is my god-daughter.

I've found that my intertwined philosophies on life continue to intersect with Farmer's work, books and lectures that inspired me with the provocative hypothesis to invest in nutrition, education, clean water, access to basic health care and human dignity ultimately results in better health outcomes. Treating people like human beings is good medicine.

At the gardens, this collective wisdom is all around us - just like Farmer. These people live next to us. They are modern day heroes. Thanks for being ready to

support and love others with compassion. Let's keep sparking important connections that we each have a moral responsibility to continue together.

"With rare exceptions, all of your most important achievements on this planet will come from working with others - or, in a word, partnership." -- Paul Farmer

Lucas Shivers – [lshivers@hotmail.com](mailto:lshivers@hotmail.com)



### Great Gardening: MCG Workshops and Free Plants and Seeds

Join us for an educational and support series and learn from experts. Be at the gardens on select Sundays at the schedule below from 3:00-3:30.

Never garden alone! Our spring months informal demonstrations are the perfect companion to take the guesswork out of gardening. We'll cover what to do each week to have great vegetable gardening success all year. We'll tailor the sessions to issues that affect your

garden the most and find practical ways to support your success!

Open to all ages and anyone. Incentives of FREE seeds and plants from Hanesville Greenhouse for anyone who attends!

Watch emails for final weather details and special locations. Extra seeds and plants will be shared in the sheds following each session.

- **Sunday, March 27** from 3:00-3:30 pm - Larry @ Riley Lane gardens -
- 
- **Sunday, April 24** from 3:00-3:30 - Dale @ Collins Lane gardens
- 
- **Sunday, May 15** from 3:00-3:30 - Dean @ Riley -

Look for more soon!

### 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 everyone has a great experience 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, it is your responsibility to take care of it. Control weeds and apply wood chips.
- 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.

### Put Away & Lock Up

Security is important at our gardens' sites to help prevent theft. Unfortunately Riley Lane is not fenced so it is easy for someone to just walk in. Collins Lane is fenced and does have a gate with a lock on it. 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 sheds before they leave. At Collins Lane, **please lock the gate!** We do know for sure that some of the thieves at Collins last year entered through the gate which was not closed and locked. Also, if you bring your own tools, please remove them when you leave. Some of

the hand tools stolen were simply left in the plots.

Confirm that all sheds are locked if you are the last to leave. 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. Remember, your plot fees pay for that! Keeping any expenses down benefits all of us.

### 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. No hazardous material!**

Recycling plant materials is another way to save on costs. 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 and could create an unsafe situation. In addition, MCG does not have a county burn permit so it is against the law.

### Operating Expenses

MCG is very similar to any business in that we have income and expenses. Income is derived from plot rental and expenses are generated in various ways. Expense items include:

- Equipment purchase and repair
- Building repair
- Garden hoses and hand tools
- Road rock for Collins gardens
- Trash Disposal
- Compost, Wood chips, & Mulch
- Portable toilets

It is up to each gardener to help control these costs by taking care of the equipment and tools. Using only the amount of mulch and compost that is needed and not wasting it is also a good practice. MCG does have a few dollars in reserve but we can see possible major expenses coming in the next few years so conserving all we can, helps all of us by controlling the amount we charge for plot rental.

### Workdays

At registration you agreed to work board designated activities which may have included one workday. Jay Davis, 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.

Jay Davis - [jdsd4956@gmail.com](mailto:jdsd4956@gmail.com)

### 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 four rules are intended to help keep plots from encroaching and/or spreading weed seeds on neighboring plots and paths, as well as keeping plots in good condition in the event of a gardener leaves. When a gardener leaves a plot with unwanted vegetation and items on it, other gardeners have to help clean it up. Following the rules prevents 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](mailto:communitygarden@tryufm.org) and let us know your situation. We will work with you to help find assistance in keeping 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.

## Committee Reports

### Compost, Mulch, and Wood Chips

The MCG provides several types of material to enhance garden plots and paths.

#### MULCH

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.



#### COMPOST

Most compost comes from the Riley County Transfer Station. This material is derived from grass clippings, leaves, and other herbaceous vegetation. Another source of compost (available only at Collins Lane for the time being) comes from the Kansas State University livestock facility. Its origin is the manures of cattle, poultry, and hogs. The carbon source required in composting is from animal bedding and other available

vegetative materials. Composting temperature can reach over 150 degrees Fahrenheit which ensures pathogens, insect larvae, and weed seeds are destroyed.

The benefits of using compost are:

- Improved soil tilth,
- Increased soil water holding capacity,
- Enhanced soil microbial action,
- Increased plant nutrients including phosphorus and potassium with some nitrogen in the animal based compost.

Composts from both sources are not considered “organic” by the USDA standards.

#### WOOD CHIPS

Wood chips are obtained from the City of Manhattan Forestry. They are to be used on the paths between garden plots. Since wood chips do not readily biodegrade they should not be used in the garden plot as mulch.

Contact: Jeff Hellerich:  
jeffhellerich@hotmail.com

### Equipment

MCG provides power and hand tools for just about any use in our gardens. While the equipment committee provides annual service for our equipment, it is the gardener’s responsibility to use tools in the manner or which they were intended. For instance, using a pitchfork or hoe for prying out a stump will probably break a handle or fork tooth.

Mowing at the lowest setting is dangerous because objects could be

sent flying and strike the operator or bystanders. Not only can misuse cause accidents, but it can damage the equipment beyond repair. Remember, equipment is purchased with your garden dues. Proper care and use will keep everyone's expenses down. If you have questions about the operation of a piece of equipment, please ask someone or contact your equipment manager listed at the end of this article.

Cleaning equipment is very important. Tillers and mowers clogged with bindweed, crabgrass, and other materials tend to transfer weed seeds to other plots and make more work for others. Each garden has designated areas where power equipment should be cleaned. At Riley Lane, cleaning equipment needs to be done at the hydrant located in the grass near the portable toilet and the Peace Pole. At Collins Lane, there are two designated areas and cleaning tables which are located near the equipment sheds. Please use these areas to clean the equipment.

Take time to remove debris from the power equipment and put the plant material in the plant debris dumpster. Once the power equipment is cleaned and /or washed, please add fuel to the implement. Remember, it is never safe to add fuel to a hot piece of equipment due to risk of fire or explosions.

Normal wear and tear on garden equipment means that repairs will be eventually needed. Hang tags are provided for you to list any issues with the equipment and should be attached to the tool or machine. These tags are

the only way that the equipment managers know repairs are needed.

#### Note to Riley Lane Gardeners:

The older Husqvarna Rear Tine Tiller has been known to lock up between two gears. Be sure it is all the way engaged in the gear you desire. Thanks.

Contacts:

Dale Hayden, Collins Lane

[dalesmhs@gmail.com](mailto:dalesmhs@gmail.com)

Pat Duggan, Riley Lane

[twopats6@juno.com](mailto:twopats6@juno.com)

### 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 to keep you in good standing. 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.

Jay Davis - [jdsd4956@gmail.com](mailto:jdsd4956@gmail.com)

## Tilling Assistance

Every year anywhere from one to two dozen gardeners at both Collins Lane and Riley pay for spring tilling on their plots. While we have volunteers who are willing to till those plots, it is important to remind people of a few simple things they can do to facilitate this process. Tilling will usually commence once the temperatures warm up in March and the ground thaws. Gardeners must clean everything off of their plots so that they can be tilled. Tilling volunteers are not responsible to ready the plot for tilling. Each tilling volunteer will have a list of plot assignments, and they may do all of them at one time. We often get questions such as “why can’t I coordinate with the volunteer tiller and be out there when they work, and move my stuff around the plot?” This is difficult if not impossible because the volunteers work on their schedules, not necessarily the gardeners’ schedules. The volunteer tillers have regular jobs, families, commitments, etc., and are providing a service to the Garden Board and gardeners. Even if you pile your stuff in a corner, the tiller must still work around your cages, fences, and equipment. This is not an easy task, anyone who has operated one of the tillers will attest to this fact! Also, we have had gardeners put their personal property in the pathways to get it off of their plot. That is not allowed. Please, if you have requested tilling please remove all of your materials from your plot, ASAP. You may also receive a similar notice from the Garden Board.

If you wish to do your own tilling, and you have never operated one of the tillers, they do take some practice. We have tillers of different sizes and depending on your skill level and strength, some are easier to operate than others. Even if you are an experienced gardener you may benefit from a refresher training session on the tillers. If you have not used our tillers, please contact one of the equipment coordinators, Pat Duggan ([twopats6@juno.com](mailto:twopats6@juno.com)) Riley Lane, or Dale Hayden ([dalesmhs@gmail.com](mailto:dalesmhs@gmail.com)), Collins Lane. We will offer an instructional session to teach you how to safely use the equipment. Tillers are housed in the locked sheds at each of the Gardens.

If you have paid for and requested tilling and you have any questions, please contact Ann Redmon, Mowing & Tilling Coordinator, [annred97@gmail.com](mailto:annred97@gmail.com)

We have a list of plots to be tilled, and will assign those plots to the volunteer tillers. You can also view a video on the UFM website, [tryufm.org](http://tryufm.org), which will describe what you need to do to prepare your plot for tilling by one of our volunteer tillers.



## 2022 Board of Directors

|                                 |                |  |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| President                       | Lucas Shivers  | <a href="mailto:lshivers@hotmail.com">lshivers@hotmail.com</a>           |
| Past President                  | Darin Marti    | <a href="mailto:dmarti7528@gmail.com">dmarti7528@gmail.com</a>           |
| Vice President                  | Dale Hayden    | <a href="mailto:dalesmhs@gmail.com">dalesmhs@gmail.com</a>               |
| Secretary                       | Erin Bishop    | <a href="mailto:erbish82@gmail.com">erbish82@gmail.com</a>               |
| Treasurer                       | Linda Teener   | <a href="mailto:linda@tryufm.org">linda@tryufm.org</a>                   |
| Collins Lane Garden Coordinator | Frank Arthur   | <a href="mailto:fha@ksu.edu">fha@ksu.edu</a>                             |
| Riley Lane Garden Coordinator   | Dean Zollman   | <a href="mailto:dzollman@phys.ksu.edu">dzollman@phys.ksu.edu</a>         |
| Collins Lane Equipment          | Dale Hayden    | <a href="mailto:dalesmhs@gmail.com">dalesmhs@gmail.com</a>               |
| Riley Lane Equipment            | Pat Duggan     | <a href="mailto:twopats6@juno.com">twopats6@juno.com</a>                 |
| Compost/Mulch                   | Jeff Hellerich | <a href="mailto:jeffhellerich@hotmail.com">jeffhellerich@hotmail.com</a> |
| Communications/Records          | Jay Davis      | <a href="mailto:jdsd4956@gmail.com">jdsd4956@gmail.com</a>               |
| Newsletter                      | Erin Bishop    | <a href="mailto:erbish82@gmail.com">erbish82@gmail.com</a>               |
| Nominations                     | Dale Hayden    | <a href="mailto:dalesmhs@gmail.com">dalesmhs@gmail.com</a>               |
| Collins Lane Mowing/Tilling     | Ann Redmon     | <a href="mailto:annred79@gmail.com">annred79@gmail.com</a>               |
| Riley Lane Mowing/Tilling       | Ann Redmon     | <a href="mailto:hannah.birge@tnc.org">hannah.birge@tnc.org</a>           |
| Socials                         | Open           |  |



**UFM Community Learning Center  
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