

Troy Community Garden Plot Monitoring Guidelines

This document provides additional detail to the Plot Monitoring guidelines as listed in Troy Community Garden Information, Rules and Expectations document.

PLOT MONITORING is performed by members of the Plot Monitoring Subcommittee about every two weeks May – October. Monitors are looking to see that plots are being tended and actively planted *by the first work day in May*. If the monitors see no activity in your plot, you will be contacted and asked if you plan to garden this season. If not, your plot will be reassigned before June 1 so that another gardener can access the plot for a full season. Monitors also look for plots that have been neglected to a point where garden rules are being violated or neighboring plots are being affected negatively.

Later in the season, monitors are looking for such things as:

- Weeds being kept to a minimum. Weeds will affect your plot's productivity and can spread to neighboring plots by seed or underground.
- Use of only organic products in plots.
- Your plot being free of garbage, excess waste, and unsafe materials.
- Half the width of the paths around your plot being maintained by you, so that weeds are kept down, no digging or planting occurs outside your plot boundary, and no debris materials are tossed into the paths.
- No unapproved perennial or woody plants are in your plot (see rules for list).

If a plot does not meet these basic standards, a monitor will contact you by email, phone, or letter. Gardeners will have 10 days in which to correct the situation or provide an explanation. If there is no response by the gardener or the situation is not corrected within 10 days, the Garden Leadership Committee will determine if the gardener should forfeit the plot. If yes, then the plot fees are forfeited as well.

If you have been contacted repeatedly by a plot monitor about a problematic situation, you may be asked to forfeit your plot(s). Additionally, if you are contacted for the same problem in multiple years, you may be asked to forfeit your plot for the following year. Anyone forfeiting their plot in one season will not be eligible for a plot at Troy Community Garden the following year. You may re-apply for a garden plot after the one-year penalty period (e.g., if you forfeit your plot in July 2018, you may re-apply for the 2020 season).

If you are asked to forfeit your plot, you can submit an appeal to the Troy Gardens Leadership Committee by contacting troy53704@gmail.com or (608) 313-5188. The deadline for submitting an appeal is 10 days after the date of being contacted to forfeit your plot.

We welcome any Troy gardeners to be a part of the Plot Monitoring Team to keep our garden healthy and neighboring gardeners happy.