

# Troy Community Gardens Plot Monitoring Guidelines

---

*This document provides additional detail to the Plot Monitoring guidelines as listed in the General Information, Rules and Expectations of the plot application.*

**PLOT MONITORING** is performed by members of the Plot Monitoring Subcommittee about every two weeks. Monitors look for plots that have been neglected to a point where garden rules are being violated or neighboring plots are being affected negatively. Monitoring begins in May and continues through October. In May, monitors are looking to see that plots are being tended and actively planted by May 15. 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.

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.
- 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.

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.

At the end of the growing season, if you have been contacted repeatedly by a plot monitor about a problematic situation, you may be asked to forfeit your plot(s) for the following year. 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 in Troy Community Gardens 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 2017, you may re-apply for the 2019 season).

If you are asked to forfeit your plot, you can submit an appeal to the Troy Gardens Leadership Committee by emailing or leaving a message for Anna at the Community GroundWorks office ([info@communitygroundworks.org](mailto:info@communitygroundworks.org), 240-0409). The deadline for submitting an appeal is 10 days after the date of being contacted to forfeit your plot.

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