

January & February 2024

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.” Anne Bradstreet

Our 21st Garden Season

The Steering Committee hopes that everyone enjoyed the holiday season and is looking forward to our 21st garden season at Riverbend Community Garden. It's still not too late to experience a major snowstorm and a few more extreme cold spells. However, with any luck, March will come in like a lion, will go out like a lamb and we will, once again, be able to plant and cultivate our plots from April to November.

Charlotte's Plot Update

In the November Newsletter, we mentioned that Charlotte's plot is available for reassignment. To date, no garden member has expressed interest in Charlotte's plot, Garden members have until March 15th to express interest in reassignment. After this date, we will offer Charlotte's plot to our waitlist candidates.

Our Garden's Waitlist

Several years ago, our garden's waitlist had approximately 40 applicants for membership, This number significantly dropped after the City formed the Medford Garden Commission and created more garden space for residents of the City of Medford. To date, we have 24 applicants on our garden's waitlist who are seeking membership at Riverbend Community Garden. If anyone asks you how to apply for membership at the garden, please direct them to visit our website:

<https://riverbendcommunitygarden.weebly.com/>
Once there, they should click on the link: To Join the Garden and complete the short application.

2023 & 2024 Workdays

Last week, I sent a workday report to the Steering Committee which details how many hours each member was required to complete in 2023, how many hours each member completed in 2023 and how many hours each member will be required to complete in 2024. The report shows that approximately one third of garden members did not complete all or part of their garden workday hours. This percentage is unacceptable.

We are not terminating anyone's membership this year, even though we have the right to do so, because many of the scheduled workdays were postponed and/or cancelled due to inclement weather. However, we are looking at ways to reduce or eliminate the practice of carrying over unworked hours to the following garden season.

Once we define the 2024 Workday Schedule, Garden members are encouraged to carefully select workdays that do not coincide with their personal known schedules like, conferences or conventions, sports events, vacation plans, etc.

2024 Garden Needs

This year, we hope to replenish stone dust and playground chips throughout the common areas of the garden, and we hope to order compost for your plots. We postponed purchasing some of these items for several years due to Covid restrictions and, last year, due to inclement weather. We hope the reconstruction of the nearby playground and bike path, and inclement weather, will not interfere with our plans.
