

Riverbend Community Garden  
Newsletter  
May 2018

---

**2018 Garden Committee**

Your Garden Committee Members for the 2018 garden season are:

Bryan Manter  
Co-Garden Coordinator

Bob Veneziano  
Co-Garden Coordinator & Treasurer

Linda Arini, Wanda Strukus and Richard Laskey

---

**Three Vacant Half Plots Available**

We have three half plots available for re-assignment. Please email [riverbendcommunitygarden2003@gmail.com](mailto:riverbendcommunitygarden2003@gmail.com) if you wish to either downsize from a full plot to a half plot or switch from your present half plot to a vacant half plot.

Time is of the essence. We will begin to fill these vacant plots with candidates from our waiting list if we don't hear from any of our present garden members by Thursday, May 17, 2018.

---

**Memorial Day Weekend**

As a reminder, your plot should be cleaned, maintained and somewhat planted by the end of the Memorial Day weekend. **This includes removing the weeds that are growing in the playground chips surrounding your plot and any herbs or vegetables that are growing beyond your plot and into the playground chips and/or stone dust paths that surround your plot.**

We realize that the weather hasn't been as cooperative this year as it has been in past years but everyone should make an effort to clean and maintain your plot and take full advantage of the few months that we have left to plant, grow and harvest our produce.



**Contaminated Soil**

At our Annual Meeting in April, some gardeners expressed concern about high levels of arsenic and lead that the City discovered over by Ships Avenue in the designated area of the proposed Bike Path. Riverbend Community Garden's Jane Hamel was kind enough to speak to Alicia Hunt, Director of Energy and the Environment and obtained the following helpful information:

- The City is mitigating the land that's currently marked off and contaminated with lead and arsenic by letting the grass grow and keeping people off of it.
- The main concern for us would be dust blowing from that site to the garden.
- Alicia would like to know if we notice dust blowing from that area to our garden area.
- For now, it seems like there hasn't been a problem with the current mitigation measures.
- The entire area had been filled with clean fill in 1999.
- Since then, the wind turbine was installed.
- Soil testing was a part of that process, and while some contamination pockets were found, they were mitigated.
- To do so, they tested out from the center of contamination in concentrically larger circles to determine where the contamination ended.
- The contamination ended somewhere between the turbine and the garden.
- The contaminated area did not include the garden.
- Lastly, the recently built dog park included soil sampling as well.
- Those samples all came back within guidelines and no mitigation was necessary for that area at all.
- While those levels would likely be different than gardening levels, it's encouraging nonetheless.

The Committee, led by Bryan Manter, is soliciting bids from facilities that test soil. We realize that this is the busiest season for testing soil and it may be too late to test our soil this year. We will keep you posted whenever we receive further information.

---