

**Riverbend Community Garden**  
**Newsletter**  
<https://riverbendcommunitygarden.weebly.com/>  
**May 2020**

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**"Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end."**

John Lennon

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### Local Update on the Covid-19 Pandemic

This week, Mayor Lungo-Koehn reported 752 positive cases of Covid-19 in Medford. Earlier in the week, Governor Baker said "we have flattened the curve," but extended the business closure order and stay-at-home advisory until May 18. And today, the Governor signed an executive order requiring face coverings (masks) while out in public effective next Wednesday.

Some states with low positive case numbers and deaths are relaxing their guidelines and restrictions. Other states are reopening in spite of warnings against reopening and the threat of a second wave of the virus. While we are encouraged by medical and pharmaceutical professionals who are focused on alternative treatments and the race to develop a vaccine, we are anxious to know when we will be able to return to a normal life style.

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### 2020 Garden Fees

A majority of Steering Committee members voted to reduce garden fees this year to help anyone who may be financially affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2020 garden fees will be \$10. for full plots and \$5. for half plots.

Please wait for your 2020 Garden Handbook which will provide you with instructions on paying your garden fee. We will return to the \$25. / \$15. garden fee schedule next year.

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### 2020 Work Days

Most of the suggestions that we received for the 2020 garden season were incorporated into the Board of Health Guidelines for Medford Gardens. We are waiting for the City's Board of Health to relax the guidelines before we propose a definite Work Day Schedule.

While we wait for relaxed guidelines, Fred Laskey suggested and the Steering Committee agreed that there will not be any work days for May and June. Garden members will be responsible for weeding their plots **and** the stone dust and playground chip paths adjacent to their plots.

We suggest that you work out an alternate weeding schedule with your neighbor(s) where you share the responsibility in the area(s) between your plots. If possible, volunteer to help our senior garden members who may need help.

Due to social distancing guidelines, we are postponing purchase of compost, playground chips and stone dust until the 2021 garden season. These items require a majority of garden members / volunteers to be at the garden to take compost to their plot and to spread the playground chips and stone dust in the paths and common areas of the garden.

We hope to reduce the total number of work days and hours, if everyone cooperates with this proposed work day schedule.

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