

## 2023 Community Garden Wrap-up comments from the co-coordinators

Hi everyone!

I have not been down to the garden since probably August, so Brenda can speak more to any issues or changes that might need to be made. Seems to me that everyone, especially the "regulars," enjoyed another year of gardening. Two beds seems to be what many people prefer and ask about, and we should have plenty of beds to accommodate that without adding additional beds (although might want to build one last one with the extra bits in the shed).

That said, I think there are some maintenance concerns that should be handled by DPW. It is simply too much to ask for gardeners to weed the lot, and I frankly find it ridiculous that this is the expectation beyond a few casual tidy-ups. We are already asking them to pull the weeds around their beds. Asking them to also weed all the open space on a government-owned parcel is unreasonable. A huge step forward would be to have the DPW apply Neem (weed preventative) to the entire gravel area, and then maybe once/month, if that, during the summer. That could result in just requiring a light weeding throughout the season.

The gravel area probably could use an edging as well - again, you cannot ask volunteers to do this. Linda had suggested gardeners could borrow a weed whacker and other tools from DPW, and I thought my head would explode at the idea. I know DPW is busy, but none of these suggestions add significantly to their time.

I still think a fence, even decorative, would be a nice addition and could be funded through grant money (even another application to Consumers). I also think some activities/events would be nice, but again, you need someone to coordinate them and that's a big ask for a volunteer position (especially when we have a DDA that ought to be doing...something, anything. But no sense in getting into that.).

That's all I can think of at the moment. Huge thanks to Brenda for taking over the coordination of it all! And to you Julie, for taking on more than a Zoning Admin should have to...good work, everyone!

Rebecca

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Hi guys!

Other than forgetting to look for and put out the signs about picking veggies/flowers at the beginning of July which led to some theft of produce, all was well. Everyone was happy about their harvests.

As for the weeds; With that lot being 95% crab grass and weeds for the better part of 40 years, weeds are expected. Everyone, minus a couple of renters, did a good job of weeding around their beds. A few even helped with weeding in the common areas. It "might" help if the grass area around the garden (between the gravel and sidewalk) was treated with some form of weed prevention, but I'm not sure if that is cost effective. It would take too many treatments because there are just too many. Most of the weeds that I'm pulling are young crab grass clumps. Between the wind, birds, and lawnmower, the seeds germinate in the gravel. They are very easy to pull and I and a couple others were able to keep the main aisle(s) clear. I only spent an extra 45-60 minutes once a month. Not a huge deal.

A few renters aren't returning next season. We'll have (4) beds up for grabs, as of right now.

If I had a wish list, it would be for some form of edging around the gravel. If not edging, then have DPW use the weed whip around the gravel area. I would also like them to weed whip around the shed, poles, and EV units while they are at it. \*\*\* I noticed weeds are allowed to grow in the crack between the asphalt and cement curb around the parking lot. Those need to be addressed with weed killer or damage will be done to the asphalt. (crumbling around the outer edge) I just hate weeds!

That's pretty much it.  
Brenda Bogatay