

2018-04-14 Atwood Community Gardens All-Gardener Meeting  
Goodman Community Center, Evjue Room  
Attendance recorded in a paper sign-up sheet (not attached).

- Intro to Atwood Gardens Volunteer Leadership & Sam (Food Pantry Coordinator & Garden Administrator) - Name & Plot
- Intro by Gardeners - Name & Plot
- New email address: [atwood.garden@gmail.com](mailto:atwood.garden@gmail.com)
  - Email goes to Volunteer Leaders for review/response, it does not go to all gardeners
  - When appropriate, messages may be shared by Volunteer Leaders with the Goodman Center Garden Coordinator (Sam), for example, billing changes
- Garden Handbook
  - Dates updated for 2018 season; start gardening language updated for clarity (see notes below for discussion and the Handbook itself)
  - Source for expectations, rules for having a plot in the garden; Garden is very visible, want to set a good example for the community
  - For questions, please contact one of the Volunteer Leaders or sent to the new email address (see above)
  - Open session for questions or feedback on the Handbook:
    - Compost & Hay delivery dates - not in handbook because they move every year, these will be communicated by email
    - Discussion about marsh hay possibly containing weed seeds, suggestion to consider straw next year; In the past it's been difficult to find sources for straw, suggestions for sources are welcome
    - Discussion about deteriorating condition of curb concrete; Recommendation to remove large pieces from the street, consider reporting to Madison Streets Division
    - City mows along the bike path (about 3 feet); Keep clear; If you believe it isn't being mowed, contact the City to suggest the bike path be mowed; Gardeners responsible to keep weeds down even if they are on the other side of fencing; The Goodman lease with the city specifies the 3 foot buffer; Mowing can be inconsistent; Complaints to the City would most likely be effective; Sam will talk with Becky Steinhoff to review if actions should be taken as the lease holder; Volunteer Leadership may also contact Marsha Rummel
    - Path clearing is the joint responsibility of plot neighbors and gardeners should coordinate with neighboring gardener(s); Volunteer Leadership will share contact info of neighbors to help with cooperative maintenance upon request; Plot border questions or disputes can be referred to the Volunteer Leadership using [atwood.garden@gmail.com](mailto:atwood.garden@gmail.com)

- Plots may be measured upon request for a complaint and upon reassignment to indicate for a new gardener where the plot borders are located
  - Garden waste pickup by the city is set city-wide, Spring and Fall (Gardens aren't in a special zone); When the city is not picking up, you may compost on-site in a compost bin or take home and compost at home, or take it to a city yard waste site
  - To avoid spreading jumping worms (which are in the garden at least in spots), recommended to keep tools and shoes specific for garden work, wash dirt off plot in the garden
- Request for volunteers to join the Volunteer Leadership (currently meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm at Goodman Center)
- Start gardening: May 1st
  - Plot monitors will be out the first week of May, looking for some sort of activity in the garden, this doesn't mean fully planted, but looking for evidence of plot activity, prior year debris cleared, some evidence showing that you're in there this year, clearing weeds, etc
  - If no evidence of use by May 1st, a notice from plot monitors may be sent
- Plot monitoring
  - Call for volunteers, with many people this means less plots per plot monitor
  - Atwood Gardens are highly visible, want to keep it nice looking, active, keep produce harvested to avoid theft; Respect for gardeners on the always-long waiting list
  - Monitors looking for adherence to guidance in handbook
  - Weeding, using the plot, harvesting, cleaning up debris
  - Cleaning up at the end of the year
  - In extraordinary circumstances, such as personal injury, you may ask for volunteers to help with garden maintenance
  - Treat plot monitors with respect, this is a necessary but thankless job
  - If you have more garden space than you need or want, there's always the option to reduce your plot size without losing a garden, this may create space for someone on the waiting list
- Harvest share
  - Excess produce can be donated to the Goodman Food Pantry at any time (contact Sam @ Goodman)
  - Food pantry can also pickup produce upon request
  - Consider keeping some space in the garden for Food Pantry donations
  - Dates will be sent out by email, two Wednesdays likely in August to bring in garden produce to Goodman Food Pantry and volunteer during Pantry hours
- Hay delivery
  - Sat May 12th ~8:30am
  - Volunteers needed to put bales in plots & street cleanup

- Check hay bale order for correct number of bales, final order not finalized yet but will be very soon
- Water system
  - Call for volunteers to help with maintenance, primarily Spring and Fall
  - When turned on in Spring need to check for leaks, change valves
  - See the Atwood Community Garden site for water usage instructions
  - Don't tighten valves too tight, if there's a leak, report immediately to [atwood.garden@gmail.com](mailto:atwood.garden@gmail.com) or Sam at Goodman
  - In Fall the system is blown out with high pressure air by volunteers, compressors can be rented at AAC Rental, would like to show other volunteers how to do this
  - Water turn on is up to the city, they are contacted around Mother's Day to coordinate turn on - an email will be sent out with more info
- Common space maintenance - volunteers needed - maintaining areas of compost and wood chip delivery
- Split off into volunteer groups
  - Plot monitoring
  - Communications
  - Water
  - Plot marking / waiting list
  - Or indicate interest by sending a message to [atwood.garden@gmail.com](mailto:atwood.garden@gmail.com)

Free seeds provided by UW Extension