

# Welcome to the MCGA Newsletter!

May 2022



It is with great pleasure that we share with you the first edition of the MCGA newsletter! Our goal is to keep you informed of Marymoor garden activities. We welcome your input and look forward to sharing photos, information and links!

Website: [Marymoorgarden.org](http://Marymoorgarden.org)

## *A Note from the President...*

Our garden community has gotten better and better and now that the challenges of covid have waned, we will continue to contribute 10,000 pounds of produce to Hopelink.

### **Rent-by-the-Bed**

We have added 7 beds in the SW corner of the garden nearest the dog park and eco bins. This is a pilot program. If it goes well, we plan to add more beds.

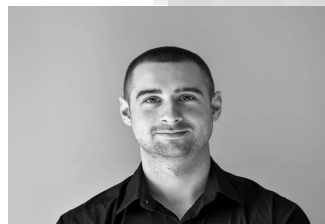
### **Mentorship**

This year we are investing heavily in the Mentorship program. Be on the lookout for a welcome letter from your mentor in the coming weeks. Mentors are responsible for maintaining contact with you and are available to address questions and facilitate communication.

### **Technology**

As you may have noticed we have streamlined the application/payment process and improved the experience for other areas of the garden.

***Featured Board Member*** We will feature a board member each month, so let's start with our President, Michael and Vice President, Elona.



Michael - MCGA President

Hi MCGA! I have been gardening at MCGA for 4 years. I started as a Mentor and transitioned to focusing on technology and managing the Board documentation. I am so proud of how many of you volunteer your time to make this a wonderful place to garden. I enjoy telling folks about the impact of our Food Bank and the work being done to make our garden better every year.

My plots are D20 and D21. They are pretty easy to identify by the arbors in the center and at the front. I enjoy cooking and being creative with food so I try to grow interesting ingredients that I can't find in stores. Some of my favorites are yacon, passionfruit, fresh asparagus, gooseberries, and kiwano (horned melon).



Elona - MCGA VP

Hello Gardeners, What I love most about MCGA is the drive and the passion all of you express around gardening and supporting our community. I am on the Finance and Grounds crews this year. In Finance, we're working on getting MCGA 501(c)3 non-profit status, developing a Finance playbook, and keeping MCGA in good financial and legal standing. For Grounds, we've created some new perennial garden spaces and planted those with flowers to donate to Hopelink. **If you'd like to help out with Grounds, we'd love to have you!**

My plots are A14 & A15. I love to mix planting flowers with food crops. I especially love growing vertical so you'll see a lot of green arches and fences in my garden. My favorites are flowers that support hummingbirds and pollinators, roses, brassicas, salads, squash, tomatoes, and berries. I've been gardening with MCGA since 2017.

## Feature Article

### Water Conservation

*Small changes we make can create big changes for our community*

- ♦MCGA Annual Water bill is approx. \$12,000.
- ♦The water is turned on generally from May 1 to Oct. 31 but is controlled by King County.
- ♦Check hoses and gaskets for leaks.
- ♦Be sure to always **turn off water after use**.
- ♦NO **automatic** drip lines/hoses are allowed.
- ♦The water pump recycles at roughly 10am, 2pm and 6pm and the water goes off for about 2-3 minutes. The water turns off daily at 10pm and comes on at 6am.
- ♦Please be conservative with your water use.

## Follow our Food Bank

The Food Bank (FB) committee plans crops according to the seasons, the hardiness of the plants and most importantly the needs of the Hopelink community that we serve.

For example, so far the food bank has planted onions, beets, broccoli, spinach, leeks, potatoes, radishes and cilantro. We can look forward to planting our scrumptious summer crops such as lettuce, squash, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, swiss chard and tomatillos. Just thought we'd share some spring season planting ideas with you. More to come!

## Spring Reminders

- ❖ Let's get those beds ready to plant! If you haven't already, remove the straw and you can either recycle it in the far back SE corner of the garden or place it in the "CLEAN GREEN BIN" in the front.
- ❖ IMPORTANT! Please do not put anything in the CLEAN GREEN BIN that is not organic matter. We have found plastic and metal objects in it already. There is a dumpster just to the left for all the garbage.
- ❖ Remember our garden is Organic and we must **not** use inorganic soils, amendments or fertilizer such as Miracle Gro. Organic Sluggo is acceptable.
- ❖ Wheelbarrows should be returned to the front of the garden and placed on the left side of the entry walkway. Those needing repair should be placed on the right side of the entry walkway. (Signage to come!)
- ❖ June 1 is the deadline for plot cultivation. This means that your plot should be weeded and planted.
- ❖ As the season progresses, look to King County's Marymoor Park Upcoming Calendar of Events:

<https://do206.com/venues/king-county-s-marymoor-park>

## *Upcoming Work Parties*

- Saturday 5/7 1-3:30 pm
- Saturday 5/14 1-3:30 pm
- Saturday 5/21 10 am-12:30 pm
- Wednesday 5/25 10 am-12:30 pm

Watch for individual emails as others are added. To sign up directly, go to [SignupGenius](#), which is also linked from the front page of our [website](#).

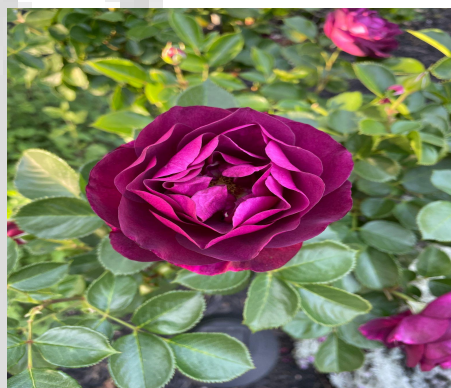
## *MCGA Board Meetings*

We welcome your attendance at the monthly board meetings. Learn about issues and decisions being made about our garden. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except December) at 7pm, via [Zoom](#).

- May 18
- June 15

You will also find this information on the front page of our website:

<https://www.marymoorgarden.org/>



## *Help Wanted*

### Application Development

We are seeking help from anyone who is interested and may have knowledge in UX/VX design or as a Project Manager to further develop and refine the user experience. The tool we use is Bubble.IO. See the email below to reach out to us.

### Mentors Needed

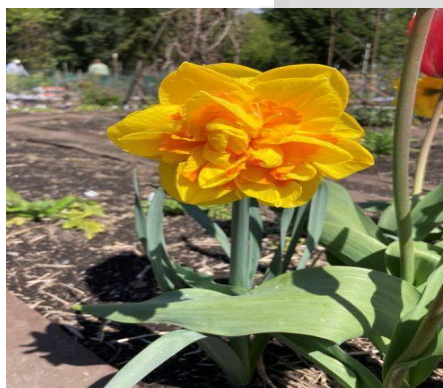
Mentors are experienced gardeners who are responsible for maintaining contact with the gardeners in their assigned section throughout the gardening season. This is a great role if you enjoy interacting with gardeners and want to help facilitate communications with your neighbors.

### Produce Drivers Needed

During the growing season the garden relies on drivers to deliver the produce to HopeLink food banks in Redmond and Kirkland. Please reach out if you are interested in being a driver!

Send your show of interest to:

[mcgaboard@gmail.com](mailto:mcgaboard@gmail.com)



*Happy Gardening*