

Knitting Mill Creek Community Garden
PHILOSOPHY / GUIDELINES
Revised 2/2010

1. KMCCG is mostly for Colonial Place/ Riverview community folks, with easy exceptions.
2. KMCCG is a mixture of communal gardening and personal plots.
3. KMCCG values the input, ideas and energy of all interested parties/members for the garden's present and future.
4. FUN is an operative word for KMCCG, even though sometimes the actual labor is sweaty. Several parties may be organized into the year – in the past, KMCCG has hosted or been included in May Day festivities, the Back Yard Garden Tour, Front Porch Art Walk, and a Garden Tea.
5. KMCCG is pesticide and herbicide-free, and we all want to learn more about how things grow, as well as beautify the plot we have permission to inhabit. We want to learn about the earth, how to compost, how to nurture growth, how to listen to the land and care for it as a living thing.
6. KMCCG is a beautiful haven for the whole community. Food and flowers grow together in free-form beds, drawing the eye with curving paths and lines.
7. KMCCG strives to operate on a scaled-down and laid-back minimum of structure. That structure includes garden leaders/co-chairs and general membership.
8. Most communication is done through email.
9. Garden Leaders/Co-Chairs:
 - a. The garden leaders (currently Greg and Sue VanHecke and Jim Holden) hold the vision of KMCCG, are responsible for the overall design and plan of garden layout, tweaking the flow of the beds and paths, balancing the ratio of food to flowers and holding the visual needs and future plans together.
 - b. All changes, suggestions and innovations MUST go through a discussion process with the garden leaders.
 - c. The garden leaders are responsible to the CPRV Civic League for reports and communication, and serve as the chairpersons for the Garden Committee for the Civic League.
 - d. The garden leaders communicate with community folks with project ideas or donations; and communicate with surrounding businesses.
 - e. The garden leaders collect fees and handle monies through the KMCCG's POC at Knox Presbyterian Church, the garden's insurer and accountant.
10. General Membership
 - a. \$15 per year is the dues for membership in KMCCG.
 - b. All members are required to devote some time every week to site maintenance. Some of the beds are obviously communal, like the berries, fruits, flowers and herbs, plus the borders on the Fellini's parking lot and those facing the streets.
 - c. Members can request a personal plot for an additional \$50, although they still owe time to general site maintenance.

- d. In prior years, there has been a general membership meeting once a month (on the second Saturday). This idea can be revisited, if there is interest.
- e. Decision-making is largely consensual, whenever possible, with ideas valued from everyone.
- f. Members are entitled to a shed key, where designs and plans and work lists are available on a bulletin board. They are free to come at their convenience and work at what's needed and what they like to do.
- g. Some members may specialize in certain areas, always on behalf of the whole garden.
- h. Members can join in the planning at any time, to the extent that they have time and energy to invest. HOWEVER – suggestions and changes must be run by the garden leaders. Larger changes will be talked over at garden meetings or by group e-mail. Respect and communication are vital.

II. Basic Gardening Ideas and Garden Rules

- a. Free-form beds that are built “up” through a layering technique. Rototilling and other intensive cultivating methods are not used, although new compost may be dug in as available, or used as mulch. Organic and natural soil amendments may be used.
- b. Mulching the beds will help with retaining moisture and keep down weeds. Straw makes a good mulch, and donations are appreciated. Wood chips will not be used - they use up nutrients as they break down.
- c. No landscape timbers, except perhaps later for a raised bed for seniors, if done.
- d. Personal plots must be cared for at least once a week: people may lose the privilege of a personal plot if more than 2 weeks goes by with no maintenance (see garden agreement).
- e. All waste will be picked up and disposed of before the gardener leaves for the day. Weeds and garden waste will be taken to the compost area, trash taken home.
- f. Some tools are available in the shed – clean and put away after use. Roll up the hose near the shed if you have watered.
- g. Bring your kitchen compost, leaves or grass clippings (only if you don't use chemicals on the grass) to the compost bin and help us make nutritious food for the plants.
- h. Lock your car even for short runs – if you value your cell phone!
- i. Please supervise your children at the garden. We want them to enjoy the beauty and learn about the earth; however, we want our strawberries, too.
- j. Many thanks to Fellini's, which lets us run a hose to their outdoor spigot during dry spells.
- k. Personal Plots – preference will be given to folks who have gardened previous years; then newbies are “first come, first served.”