



Mukilteo Community Garden Newsletter

Our Mission: To grow a healthy community through gardening

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Calendar


- 3/25/18 – Bed Renter Orientation @ the Garden (10 am)
- 4/7/18 - Work party @ the Garden (10 am)
- 4/7/18 - New Fence Prep Work Party
- 4/7/18 - Little Gardeners Club meeting
- 4/9/18 - Board Meeting @ the Chamber of Commerce (6 - 8 pm)
- 4/14/18 – Our Soil is Alive class @ the Garden (10 am)
- 4/14/18 - Giving Garden Prep (10 am)
- 4/21/18 - Opening the Garden with the Kiwanis (10 am)
- 4/28/18 - Work party @ the Garden (10 am)
- 4/29/18 - QFC Fresh Fruit & Veggie Drive (10 am)

2018 Bed Rentals:

All of the P-Patch beds are rented for 2018! There will be one last **Bed Renter Orientations** on March 25 at 10 am in the Garden. It is **mandatory** that all bed renters attend one of the orientations. At the orientation you will:

- Pay the annual rental fee for your bed
- Sign-up for your volunteer hours
- Review / sign necessary documents
- Learn about the exciting changes happening in the garden and learn how you can get involved!

H&R Block Donation Opportunity:

	EXCITING NEWS - With every new client who files their 2018 taxes with H&R Block or Block Advisors and presents the attached coupon, \$20 will be donated to the Mukilteo Community Garden.
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WOW...TELL YOUR FRIENDS. All you have to do is download the H&R Block Coupon on the last page and take it in to *any* H&R Block office when having your taxes prepared. A new client is a person who did not have their taxes prepared by H&R Block or Block Advisors the prior year. The referral form must be presented prior to completion of the initial tax interview.

Grants:

In the fall of 2017, the Mukilteo Community Garden was awarded two grants. We wish to thank the City of Mukilteo and the Snohomish County Master Gardeners for these grants and their continued support

- **Mukilteo City Grant:** The funds from this grant will be used to replace the front gate and a portion of the front fence due to the current gate and fence are unsafe and unsightly. Also, the grant will be used to install irrigation to the plants along the front fence and to plant a native garden in this area.
- **Master Gardener Grant:** The funds from this grant will be used for the Giving Garden Beds (i.e. Rebuilding Giving Garden Beds, seeds, gravel, hardware cloth, etc.).

Find Us On Facebook

www.facebook.com

MCG Web Page

[MCG Website](#)

Volunteer Hours

mcghours@gmail.com

Contact Us

For more information contact us by emailing:
admin@mukilteogarden.org

Our mailing address is

Mukilteo Community Garden
P.O. Box 1053
Mukilteo, WA 98275

Little Gardeners Club:

The Mukilteo Community Garden is proud to announce the introduction of the **"Little Gardeners Club"**. Children ages 5 to 11 are invited to join this exciting and fun new club. Gardening opens whole new areas of exploration, awareness, enjoyment, amazement, and learning for children. The Club is dedicated to growing young minds in a stimulating environment through educational and enriching classes. The classes are designed to bring delight in gardening with hands-on projects the kids start themselves and take home to continue to watch grow or give as gifts. The children will also plant, tend, and harvest their own vegetable bed and donate their harvest to local food banks. The group will learn about such things as soil composition, helpful and harmful insects, the parts of plants, and the water cycle.

The Little Gardeners Club will kick-off on April 7th at 10 am at the Mukilteo Community Garden. Classes will be held twice a month through September. Sign-ups and orientation will be held on Saturday, March 17 and Sunday, March 25 @ 10 am at the Garden. The club coordinator, Stephanie Casino, will be available to provide the curriculum and to answer any questions. The Club is open to all, but the class size is limited, so sign-up early. Adults are requested to stay and help out as needed, or to volunteer in the Giving Garden beds in the Garden.

Education:



On Saturday, March 10th the "Let's Get Sharp" class on tool sharpening and maintenance was held at Rosehill Community Center. The class was taught by Dave Whitesell, a Snohomish County Master Gardener. Dave reviewed the supplies need for cleaning and sharpening tools, (30 wt oil, sandpaper, steel wool, gloves, safety glasses, sanding stone) and showed the proper technique for hand sharpening garden tools. How well tools are maintained will greatly affect their quality, usefulness, and lifespan. Dirt and rust build-up will dull metal blades and affect the ease of use.

Long term neglect of tools will shorten their useful life. Tools need to be cleaned, sharpened, and oiled regularly to keep them in good working order. Wooden handles should also be oiled to prevent the wood from drying out and developing splinters. Always keep cutting blades clean and sharp to reduce the chance of injury to the operator or the plant. The next class will be held on April 14 - Our Soil Is Alive - in the garden.

Upcoming Events:

- Apr 7th - the Saturday work parties start.
 - April 7th - the first Little Gardeners Club
 - April 7th - the garden will be having a - New Fence Prep Work Party. Everyone is welcome!
 - April 14th - The "Our Soil is Alive" Class will be held on Saturday, April 14th at the Garden @ 10am. Come and learn how to transplant the seedlings in the garden soil, potting soil, compost and growing alternatives spaces - window boxes, pots, vertical.
- April 21st - the Mukilteo Kiwanis will be helping with the opening the garden for the season. Come out and help to get the giving garden ready for the 2018 growing season!

Garden News:

March is a great time to get your garden started. There are gardening activities this month that take place in and out of doors. Some things you can be doing indoors now are:

- Plan your garden for success. Review your garden notes from last year to pick the winners and eliminate the losers. Or try something totally new just for the fun of it this year.
- Inventory/replenish your seed supply and organize your seed starting supplies. You'll want clean out your used pots and clean and sharpen your tools.
- Start seeds indoors – broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, leeks, lettuces, spinach, peas, and radishes.

Some things you can be doing indoors now are:

- Prepare soil for planting with compost if needed.
- Keep-up with early weeding!
- Mid month plant garlic, beets, onion starts, potatoes and peas.
- Transplant nursery start of lettuce and salad greens, spinach, and leeks.

Volunteer Opportunities: (don't forget to record your hours at mcghours@gmail.com)

Mark your calendars. Garden work parties are scheduled for:

- April 7th - The Saturday Weekly Work Parties start @ 10 am in the Garden
- April 7th - New Gate/Fence Prep
- April 14th - Prepping the Giving Gardens
- April 21st - Opening the Garden with the Kiwanis
- April 28th - Saturday work party
- April 29th - QFC Fresh Fruit and Veggie Drive

If anyone is looking for something to do in the garden while you wait for the soil to dry a bit and warm up, the pathway between the gate and the first greenhouse (cedar greenhouse) needs to be weeded. There shouldn't have grass growing there. What needs to be done is:

- grab a wheelbarrow, and
- a bucket (behind the 2nd greenhouse), and
- a shovel from the tool shed, and
- your favorite weeding tool.
- remove all the plant material in that pathway.
- fill the wheelbarrow with wood chips, located just outside the garden,
- spread a nice layer of wood chips from the gate to the greenhouse.

All your weeds can go into the green bins outside the office.

Saturday Work Parties: The tasks include prepping the Food Bank Beds, starting seeds in the greenhouse, planting starts in the beds, laying wood chips in the pathways, and the ever fun job of **weeding**. NOTE: Wednesday work parties will start shortly. For the most part the Saturday work parties are more for the planting and maintaining and the Wednesday work parties are for harvesting. Hard as it is to believe with the record setting rain of the past months, as the weather heats up, we will soon be in need of hose-and-can waterers during the growing season to supplement our drip irrigation system.

Watering Team: We will be forming the Watering Team shortly. We need at least two people for each day of the week, which provides flexibility for shared duty and coverage during vacations. The watering team is responsible for tending the plants and seedlings in the two Greenhouses, outdoor pots of edibles such as the potato tower on the east fence, and the newly seeded areas of the Food Bank Beds/Giving Gardens. Even with drip irrigation it is sometimes necessary to give the Beds a drink.

If you would like to join the sprinklers, email admin@mukilteogarden.org with the day(s) of the week you prefer. If you have a fellow gardener or a friend in mind you want to partner with, let us know that as well. Being a current renter at the Garden is not a requirement! Ann Ramos will set up an orientation session or two at the Garden for those interested.

Community Outreach: The garden is part of the community, so we like to get out and support where we can. We will be holding a Fresh Fruit and Veggie Drive at QFC on Sunday, April 29th. All donations will be delivered to the Mukilteo Food Bank. Come join us or stop by and donate. Other community activities that will be happening this year are "Shred Day" at the Senior Center and Q&A's at Ace Hardware. And this year we will be sponsoring a booth at the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival (more information to come)!

H&R Block Coupons