

These Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQs) are intended to help get your new community garden off to a good start by providing information from in-place community gardens on their organization, their garden design and infrastructure, and operation. The Answers reflect the diversity of gardens -- their objectives, structure, and methods. The FAQs are not intended to encompass the many ongoing specific and timely questions that are addressed on the ptcommunitygardens@yahoo.com site.

Garden: Dundee Hill Community Garden

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Date: 1/11/2008

<p>Q1: How is your garden group organized? How many members?</p> <p>What is the leadership -- core group of volunteers with lots of energy or natural leadership/organizing skills? and/or professional gardener who runs the day to day operations? other?</p> <p>What if any committees are there?</p>	<p>The Dundee Hill Garden has about 20 members altogether. We are loosely organized, changing to a new model this year from last, where people will claim specific responsibility for the various things planted in the garden. Everyone has different gifts to bring to the process, bookkeeping skills, organizational skills, garden knowledge, physical capacities, a truck to loan. We do not have committees. Much happens on a rather ad hoc basis based on what people want and have to offer to the process.</p>
<p>Q2: Describe your Member - Host agreement. Are there Member - Host agreements you think are critical to success over time?</p>	<p>The landowner is a member of the garden without being obligated to work. Harvesting privileges are the same as others in the garden. Since we use water from the host's outside hose bib, we bought a water meter, a splitter, and pay for all water used to hydrate the garden and compost areas.</p> <p>It is very important for the host to commit to a minimum longevity for the garden space use! Recommended 5 years at least to warrant the work involved in setting a CG in motion.</p>
<p>Q3: How do you handle damage/injury/liability insurance for members and host?</p>	<p>We all agreed to be responsible for ourselves for what happens while at the garden property. It is possible to sign something, if needed.</p>
<p>Q4: What are the conditions to becoming a member? belonging to the neighborhood? other?</p>	<p>Garden members are to live within the geographic boundaries of Dundee Hill which are: Hastings, Sheridan, Umatilla, and Howard Sts.</p>

<p>Q5: Do you have guidelines or rules about when new members can join the group, i.e., limited windows of opportunity during the year? ..</p>	<p>We add new members before the planting season begins, and after the harvest season is over, generally. Not a hard and fast rule, tho.</p>
<p>Q6: Do you have a philosophy, guidelines, rules, and/or by-laws? What are they?</p>	<p>Keep it FUN. Don't get too focused on adhering to a "fairness" principle or judgments proliferate! Do what feels good to you to do.</p>
<p>Q7: What is the one-time new member financial commitment? What are the continuing dues, and how often are they collected?</p>	<p>With one year behind us, individuals have contributed \$75, couples \$100, and families, \$125. We collected more money from those who could afford another contribution when we decided, midsummer, to erect a plastic hoop house. New members in year two matched the initial fee. Since all the infrastructure is paid for, we may not need any more contributed than that, but this is still experimental.</p>
<p>Q8: How much, how often, and for what one-time expenses have you collected special dues?</p>	<p>See above, for the greenhouse midsummer. Those who could, chipped in \$25 more, each.</p>
<p>Q9: Do you pay a gardener to organize and oversee member work? Why?</p>	<p>No. We want the hands on, and there is enough garden know how in our group.</p>
<p>Q10: To what extent has your membership grown after the initial garden was established, eg. after clearing, rototilling, major soil amendments, fencing, irrigation were completed?</p>	<p>We lost two garden members at the end of the growing season, and 3 members have joined since then. If anything, we could likely grow the space utilized as we learn how to can, dry, and store what we grow.</p>
<p>Q11: Do you have 'categories' of membership where quantity of produce and work are 'graduated' -- similar to some CSAs where one can purchase, or work for, small (couple) or large (family) shares?</p>	<p>No we don't have categories other than the set fee being set related to the size of the group.. (i.e. couple, family, etc.)</p>
<p>Q12: Do you offer the option of garden members having a p-patch (an</p>	<p>Yes, or we did this the first year, anyway. An extra and separate plot cost an additional \$25. All the resources are</p>

<p>individual plot)? If so, are there common garden resources that are shared with the p-patch gardeners?</p>	<p>shared alike, hoses, tools, etc. Only two people opted for P-Patch plots, and we dedicated one for Food Bank donations.</p>
<p>Q13: How are organizational functions such as bookkeeping and purchasing handled? Other non-gardening activities?</p>	<p>We have one person who handles the bookkeeping and banking, although there are two signatures possible on the checks. People who purchase supplies for the garden get reimbursed by the bookkeeper. Various functions get organized in an ad hoc fashion. Other non-gardening activities included making pesto together, attending a composting workshop, and the like.. all set up on individual initiative.</p>
<p>Q14: What forms of community service does your membership perform -- food bank donations? community education? assisting new/startup community gardens? other?</p>	<p>Frequent Food Bank donations. We have assisted other start up gardens with tours of ours, an onsite composting class, etc. Two of us joined the local gleaning group to move unharvested fruit to the Food Bank, schools, and senior nutrition programs.</p>
<p>GARDEN DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION</p>	
<p>Q15: What is the typical? the ideal? garden size? How have you taken advantage of exceptionally small/large garden plots, less than ideal amount/duration of sun, and ‘difficult’ soil types?</p>	<p>TheDHG has been blessed with great soil conditions for our community garden as well as ample space. Our garden was a challenge in that we started with Quack grass in most areas, but there is full sun all day, and access to water is easy.</p>
<p>Q16: Describe your overall garden design/layout and what factors influenced it? Has it changed over time and why?</p>	<p>The garden is 60X100 or so. One whole end was carved into (6) 10’X20’P-Patch plots. Other than these, the entire space was open as community harvest area and gardened collectively. This might change if more people suggest we grow more storage foods.</p>
<p>Q17: Does your garden include art? Describe.</p>	<p>There is art only in a few places here and there. Signs, ceramics, mostly. We hope to add more flowers and art this year. Maybe a scarecrow.</p>
<p>Q18: Describe what “organic” means in your garden. Does it apply to non-</p>	<p>We try our best to steer clear of any chemical exposure, including what can be dropped for our compost area, thru</p>

<p>chemical insecticides, pesticides, herbicides? and non-chemical fertilizer? other?</p>	<p>donations from non-gardening neighbors.</p>
<p>Q19: What if any invasive and vining crops do you prohibit (ex. Mint)?</p>	<p>Quack grass! Bind weed! Be gone!</p>
<p>Q20: What produce have you chosen to grow -- perennial/annual vegetables? fruits? flowers? What season(s) have you chosen to grow -- spring-summer-fall, or winter garden also? What types of food use have you chosen -- immediate consumption? food preservation? Do you grow for seed production?</p>	<p>We grow all the usual veggies and have 1 apple tree, two rows of raspberries, about 6 blueberry plants, and a bed of strawberries. We put up a hoop house, thinking we might be able to leave it up year around, but opted to take of the p plastic, luckily, thinking it would not withstand winter winds. We'll put it back on this spring. Mostly, we focused in year one on immediate consumption... but we are moving into more emphasis on storage foods, things that can be canned, etc. So far, we are not much into seed saving, but we may go there!</p>
<p>Q21: What materials and methods of irrigation/watering and why? What suggestions regarding rain barrels?</p>	<p>We have a drip system from Dripworks Co. partially installed, and will finish the rest this year. We hand water with both hoses and watering cans in other areas. Altho we possess some rain barrels, we have yet to figure where we will use them as roof access is at a distance.</p>
<p>Q22: Any advice or considerations in selecting a water meter (assuming there is a host-provided water source)?</p>	<p>We got the DLJSJ Hose bibb meter with garden hose swivel ends for 79.95 from Daniel L. Jerman Co --at www.watermeters.com - 800 654-3733</p>
<p>Q23: What infrastructure (fencing, hoop house, watering/irrigation, compost bins, tool shed, and other) did you put into place initially? How has it grown? What approximate costs?</p>	<p>We put in a deer fence, drip irrigation, hoop house, compost triple bin system, and there was a tool shed already accessible. We hope to add a worm bin and raspberry supports this year, and beef up the deer fence, which did not succeed fully in keeping the deer out! We spent most of what we collected from individual contributions, which totaled over \$1000. (not sure on exact amount collected)</p>
<p>Q24: What methods do you use for managing compost -- bins, heaps, sheet-composting, other? How many households contribute</p>	<p>We have a triple bin system, with 2 free standing piles of compost, as well. We have a locking lid garbage can available with for neighborhood use to dump food waste, locking to protect from wild animal intrusion. We have</p>

compost material? Does the garden accept neighborhood waste? What kinds of problems have you experienced and how were they solved?	not opened up the garden waste composting to the larger neighborhood as yet. There are concerns about ensuring that what is dropped off is actually organic waste.
Q25: What is a good lab for soil testing? What kinds of soil test do you recommend?	Don't know.
Q26: What suggestions do you have for getting low-cost, free, donated, or loaned equipment and materials for garden startup activities?	If we cannot find donations from within our group membership, we ask on Freecycle, use word of mouth, check with other community gardens as to their sources for things, and ask on both yahoo garden list serves, also.
Q27: What grant sources are available?	Master Gardeners of Jefferson County does grant funds twice per year. Fiskars Tool Company has a Community Garden grant. There are likely others if you search.
Q28: For what projects/materials has your garden received grants?	None so far.
Q29: What methods have worked to develop your garden incrementally? Do you have suggestions for starting with a small section and developing the garden as infrastructure and membership grows?	Our garden was fenced initially to be 6000 square feet in size. It seemed a size that at first overwhelmed some people and did detract a little from the enjoyment until it really became clear that we could, actually, use that much space. Starting with a smaller footprint and expanding with time is probably a good idea in order to maintain consistent good will.
OPERATIONS	
Q30: How does membership communicate (other than gardening together) -- phone trees, email list, at-garden message board, regular meetings?	We communicate mostly through a group email, seeing each other around the neighborhood and occasional phoning. Our message board was not consistently used at the garden. And one person does not receive emails at all, and requires phone notification.
Q31: Do members meet regularly? For what purpose? How frequently? What location? What is your meeting format	We do not meet regularly, but we do meet, usually over food – for a brunch, or dinner. We meet at garden member's homes and at the garden itself, weather

(committee reports? problem solving? social/food? other?)	permitting.
Q32: How are decisions made -- by leader(s), by member consensus? both? other?	Different kinds of decisions are made in different ways. In the case of ones impacting the whole garden group, we strive for consensus or at least a mutual understanding. Smaller decisions can be made independently since the overall size of the garden gave us more room than we “needed”, people could plant what they wanted to plant, for the most part.
Q33: How are work parties organized - around a special task (ex. fence building)? or regular, weekly sessions for ongoing gardening (planting, weeding, watering, etc.)?	Work parties are generally likely to happen on the weekend, and get organized via email. Other more ad hoc efforts can draw in a small group of people, to complete a certain project, like putting up the deer fence, or going to haul manure, perhaps. We did not have regular work parties on any predictably scheduled basis. They happened when they happened, usually at the email request of one person who wanted some collective effort for something to be done. Watering responsibilities were taken on by a core group of 4 or so people. This proved to be too much for some of them. We learned we needed more collective sharing of the watering.
Q34; How is work shared and/or assigned?	Very ad hoc arrangement, here. Different people have different time availability, physical energy, and interests. We tried a message board at the garden, that only worked temporarily. One person was charged with garden “overview” last year. This is changing this one to a more broad-based leadership effort.
Q35: How do you harvest so that produce is shared equitably and that produce use is maximized?	We do not emphasize equitability so much as taking what you need for that day, or immediate future time. Different people like different crops, so harvesting in equal portions does not really make sense. Where there is some collective harvest, for instance, when the basil was picked to make pesto, we agreed to make pesto together, and those who liked pesto participated. We did agree, since the Food Bank day was Wednesday, to get what we needed for personal use on Tuesday, for sure.

