

Dear Garden Leaders,

Attached (and appended) you will find information on managing community gardens and access to resources during this growing season (2014). Thank you for your resilience and leadership this season. The central role taken on by Garden Leadership will assure community garden success during this transition period. Please feel free to forward this memo to gardeners.

To: Community Garden Leaders

From: Nan Fey, City of Madison Community Gardens Committee; Lexa Dundore, Dane County UW-Extension; Mark Woulf, City of Madison, Mayor's Office, Food & Alcohol Policy Coordinator, on behalf of the Transition Working Group of the Ad Hoc Community Gardens Planning Committee)

Re: Madison/Dane County Community Gardens

Date: 6/13/2014

Website

CAC's website will remain active with notice of the change in its involvement with community gardens as of 5/31/14; the information on this site may become outdated. A transition website will be developed in July by staff at Dane County Extension; the link will be shared as soon as it is available.

Group Email Lists

The existing Madison Area Community Gardeners (MACG) list will continue to provide a location for posting announcements and discussion with the garden community at large; this listserv is currently being managed by Lexa Dundore (Dane County Extension) and Micah Kloppenburg (volunteer).

Garden leaders have requested another listserv to connect with other leaders and facilitate the sharing of ideas, challenges, successes and resources; it can also be utilized to provide timely updates during this transition period. The Madison Area Garden Leadership Forum has been created and can be accessed at <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/madison-area-community-garden-leadership-forum>.

Central Point of Contact

For general garden inquiries, contacts for garden materials, or garden registrar information, Dane County residents may contact the Dane County UW Extension Master Gardener volunteers either on the Horticulture Hotline at 608-224-3721 or by email horticulture@countyofdane.com. These volunteers can also answer questions about plant care, identification, pest management, and more.

Translation Services

Contact the City Clerk's office (266-4601) or utilize the Community Garden Leadership Forum <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/madison-area-community-garden-leadership-forum> for recommendations.

Leases

Copies of existing leases, permits etc have been sent to Garden Leaders; those involving CAC will terminate on December 31, 2014. The Transition Working Group is exploring how leases can be handled in 2015.

New Garden Fund

No new applications will be accepted in 2014. The Transition Working Group will determine where for donations of plot fees should be directed this year.

Leaf Mulch & Woodchips

Garden Leaders will be responsible for placing orders for these materials by filling out a [request form](#) to submit by email to the appropriate City Streets Division staff based on your garden's location. Please **download** this form to fill out your garden's information, do NOT edit the online form. Leaf mulch and woodchips are free, and will be available throughout the growing season.

Compost

The public received notice that the Dane County Compost sites will close permanently on July 1st. In the meantime, individuals are able to pick up one residential-sized load (~2 cubic yards) per household per day for FREE from the Verona and Waunakee compost sites. At the present time, larger quantities of compost cannot be ordered or delivered; if or when this changes, an update will be posted to the Garden Leadership Forum. For more information on the compost site closure, see <https://www.countyofdane.com/press/details.aspx?id=3409>.

Plant Donations

CAC continues to receive plant donations this season. Given CAC's commitment to continue supporting food pantry gardens, the pantry gardens are being notified first when plants become available; if plants remain, the community garden list serve will be notified. Beyond 2014, CAC hopes to [transfer plant donation contacts to another entity serving community gardens](#). Contact Wayne Morris for questions or to arrange for pick-up (call 246-4730, ext. 206 or email waynem@cacscw.org).

Seed Donations

CAC has seeds that can be picked up by anyone who wants them this season, but many are several years old and may not germinate well. Beyond 2014, CAC will not play a role in seed distribution unless new seeds are donated to them. Contact Wayne Morris for questions or to arrange for pick-up (call 246-4730, ext. 206 or email waynem@cacscw.org).

Water

Billing in 2014 will be handled by CAC as it has in the past; if you have any questions, contact CAC. For routine water issues about an existing hydrant or hookup issues (e.g. minor leaks, end of season request for removal of hookup) call: Amy Jones, Water Utility

Operations Clerk, at 608 -266-4647 or email ajones@madisonwater.org For major large leaks and problems, call the Water Utility's 24/7 emergency number (608) 266-4661.