

Bock Community Garden News & Information

July, 2025



Photo Credit: Christine Milovani

What's Happening?

BCG Survey for Gardeners

Please take a couple minutes to complete this [short survey](#) to support the BCG Board. Please complete by TUES July 8th. Thank you!

Food Pantry Donations

BCG is committed to engaging with the community. In addition to opening our garden to the public, we work with the Middleton Way Forward Food Pantry to distribute produce from a dedicated garden plot as well as donations by BCG gardeners. [Pantry Donations Wish List](#).

Donations may be placed in the coolers or the dedicated wagon on the porch every **Saturday and Sunday beginning July 5.**

Please have produce in the cooler/wagon by 5:00 pm Sunday evening. All produce is delivered on Monday morning and is distributed to families in need. Help us reach our goal of 600 pounds this season. A weekly tally is posted on the chalkboard. Look for this wagon on the porch every weekend.



New Board Member

Raquel C. Orchard Coordinator



My name is Raquel and I am serving as your Orchard Coordinator. I have had plot #21 since 2023. My husband John (Wisco-born) and I moved here from Houston, TX where we lived for 10 years. While in Texas I was the master gardener for our HOA and maintained a glorious patch of Texas natives and a community herb garden as well as planted a forest of

water oaks (post Hurricane Harvey). If you want to talk about farmers markets, or Hollyhocks, or Wisconsin soil, please come by and say hi.

I volunteered to be a part of the Orchard Team because I wanted to learn new things. I'm especially grateful to Jim Harrison for all I've learned about pruning and grafting these past three years. If you are interested in joining the orchard work team for individual and group projects, please send an email to bockgarden@gmail.com and I will be in touch with you.

The orchard team works with a variety of tasks from spring through fall to ensure a healthy crop of apples, pears, peaches and cherries. In the early spring of 2026 I will be arranging to have a master orchard gardener come give a presentation to teach grafting and pruning techniques. Please join us!

Warm Regards, Raquel C.



Organza bags are being placed on some fruit to help manage pests without spraying.

July Calendar:

****Currants and Cherries are ready to pick!****

July 10 - 700-830 pm

[BCG Board Zoom Board Meeting](#)

All welcome to attend.

Upcoming Work Groups: July 12, 19, 21, 30

****Spots are available for July****

All the work groups are listed for the season in SignUp Genius. Additional work groups or spots may be added through the season, so keep checking for opportunities to support the garden.

Register for work groups using the [SignUp Genius](#) link.

Those who wish to work independently for your 6 volunteer hours need to contact us at bockgarden@gmail.com to get your assignment.

You are required to work 6 hours per plot for the season. Gardeners who complete their work hours by the end of the season are considered "gardeners in good standing" and are welcome to return the following year.

Volunteers Needed for the following areas:

We have some areas with ongoing needs that do not always have a work group set up in advance on SignUp Genius. If you still need to complete your hours and are interested in one of these areas, please let us know.

- Children's Garden (looking for donations for new garden beds)
- Maintenance / Grounds Team
- Orchard Team
- Weeding Team

Email us at bockgarden@gmail.com to let us know you are interested in supporting these areas through individual projects, special work groups or events and your information will be forwarded to the coordinator.

Recruiting Work Group Leaders:

We are recruiting seasoned gardeners to lead, or support our work groups as a backup or co-leader. All volunteer leaders would receive credit for 3 hours per work group. Sign up for two and you've completed your hours for the year! All work will be thoroughly explained before each session so you know exactly what your teams' tasks will be that day! Email us at bockgarden@gmail.com if you are interested.

Good-Neighbor Garden Team

At BCG, we realize that “life happens” and we are here to help. If you find that you need assistance with your plot for a limited time period (up to 2 weeks), email your concerns, dates needed, plot number and best way to contact you (email, text or phone) to nkieraldo@gmail.com. Our goal is to help you get back on your feet so that you can continue with successful results.

Please consider joining our new Good Neighbor Team. Any physical work that you accomplish toward helping a fellow gardener would count toward your 6 hour volunteer hours for this year. If interested in joining this team, please email nkieraldo@gmail.com

Fence Updates

You may have noticed some changes to the fence around the garden. With the help of work groups, the grounds coordinators are working on the fence in order to: keep bunnies out, to make weeding easier and to support repairing the fence. Please help us out by keeping straw bales and personal items off the fence, and let us know if you see a hole.

Community Reminders:

- Close the gates behind you.
- Tick season! Please check for ticks when you leave the garden.
- Follow the expectations and [rules of the garden](#).
- Stay on top of the weeds in your gardens and paths.
- Clean your tools with sand and brush, and immediately place them properly back on the tool rack.
- Remember to return yellow buckets to the tool shed area.
- Share the hose, turn off the hose at the spigot. Remember to turn the hose all the way off, and if there is a leak let us know.
- Return the hose back immediately and place the hose on the designated hose rack if there is one, and in a “figure-8” on the ground if there is not a hose rack.
- Donate flattened cardboard free of tape and staples, and place neatly inside the cardboard shed.

Gardening Best Practices

Maintaining Plot Boundaries

A gentle reminder that all of your plants, hardware and fencing need to be contained within your plot boundaries (inside the plot posts). Plants are growing fast with all of the recent rain, and there are a lot of plants growing into the pathways. Please be mindful of your plot boundaries and community pathways. Plants that are growing into community pathways may be removed by a work group.

Additionally, continue to be mindful of pulling weeds, especially thistle, bindweed and grasses that may be growing in your plots and pathways. Every little bit helps, so if you are in the garden and see a weed in a pathway, feel free to remove it. Thanks for doing your part to support our community garden.

Managing Colorado Potato Beetles at BCG

Attention potato growers! Now is the time to be vigilant on removing potato beetles from your plot. The easiest way to control these beetles is to hand remove them and then place them in a bucket of water. Keep up with this practice daily, if possible. If everyone stays on top of this process, the chances are we will all end up with a better crop.

Two good resources for more information:

[Information from UW Extension](#)

[Information from University of Minnesota Extension](#)

Mulching Techniques

There are so many good reasons to keep your growing area mulched throughout the growing season. Your best source at BCG is the marsh hay that was delivered to your plot at the beginning of the season. Check out these tips for keeping your produce happy by mulching to keep the weeds down and using less water.

[Mulching 101: Techniques for a happy and healthy vegetable garden](#)

Garden Photo



Photo Credit: Christine Milovani



Work Session Sign Up link. Click on icon to sign up for an upcoming 2 hour work session. Six hours per plot is required for the garden season.



Click on Middleton icon for BCG Website. Find garden map, rules and regulations, registration information and more.

- Questions? Comments?
- Do you have some garden photos to share?
- Is there something you want to contribute for the newsletter?

Email us at: Bockgarden@gmail.com

Happy Gardening!