

Bock Community Garden News & Information

October, 2025



Photo Credit: Christine M.

What's Happening?

2026 Registration for Returning Gardeners

From this point forward, the City of Middleton will be managing registration. Returning gardeners will have an opportunity to register first, and then the community will have an opportunity to register for any open plots. There will be no active waitlist maintained from year to year. Please watch for emails from the City in January 2026 to complete your registration.

We sent out a survey to determine if you are planning to return next year or not, and if you have any plot change requests. We will be sending an updated list of gardeners in good standing and their assigned plots to the city to help with registration for next year. We will be in touch with you if you have made a request for a change. If you have any questions, please reach out to the City of Middleton at parksandrec@cityofmiddleton.us for more information.

2025 Season Ending - Clean up

Garden plots need to be cleaned up and put to bed for the winter by 3pm on 10/31.

You are able to put garden vegetative waste near the bike racks (outside fence area by the cardboard shed) between 10/18 - 10/31. Work groups on 10/25 and 11/8 will be bringing any remaining garden vegetative waste to the compost facility.

In order to reduce the threat of disease and pest carryover, keep the BCG presentable to neighbors, and facilitate spring planting, gardeners must prepare their garden plots for overwintering. All garden plots, including borders and one-half of the surrounding pathway(s), must be cleaned-up following the guidelines below by 3 PM on October 31st. *Gardeners who fail to do so will lose claim to their plots for the next growing season.* Final plot assessments will be done on 11/8 to determine if plots were winterized properly.

Instructions for Winterizing your garden plots:

1. Except for perennials, hardy fall crops, and cover crops, all vegetation should be cut down or pulled out. Plant residues must be appropriately composted in the gardener's plot (i.e., surface, trench, spaded-under, chopped and placed in a small compost bin in the plot and mulched with hay or leaves) or bagged up and removed from the BCG. Except for healthy asparagus plants, all other perennials and crops harvested after October 31st should be cut down to 4-6 inches height following the first hard freeze or after the tops die back.
2. Collect all dead fruits and vegetables that may have fallen onto the ground and bury them in your plot to decompose or bag and remove them from the BCG. Otherwise, these residues may harbor plant diseases, insect pests, and weed seed or attract rodents and other unwanted animals.
3. Any unused mulch hay should be placed within the garden plot, with nothing remaining in the pathway.
4. Remove all personal tools from the BCG to prevent theft or loss.
5. Non-perimeter fencing, posts, trellises, cages, supports, etc. should be removed or laid flat on the ground and secured, so they won't be blown by the wind.
6. Stepping-stones and boards used for internal paths need not be removed, but boards should be stacked neatly and secured against strong winds.
7. Since there is no garbage pick-up at BCG, items that a gardener wishes to discard must be taken home. Do not, under any circumstances, place trash in the dumpsters or bins of our neighbors. Do not place or leave any garbage by the shed, please remove it if you are no longer using it. If you are not returning for the next season, everything needs to be removed from your garden plot.

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.

Donations may be placed in the coolers or the dedicated wagon on the porch. **Please have produce in the cooler / wagon on Saturday and Sunday by 5:00 pm.**

All produce is delivered on Monday morning and is distributed to families in need. Presently we have donated over 700 pounds of fresh produce this year. Let's keep it going!



October Calendar:

October 9 - 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
[BCG Committee Zoom Board Meeting](#)

All welcome to attend.

Upcoming Work Groups:

****Spots are available****

October 5, 11, 19, 25 and November 8

VOLUNTEERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NEEDED FOR CLOSING ON NOV 8th, PLEASE CONSIDER COMING EVEN IF YOU COMPLETED YOUR HOURS.

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

All the work groups are listed for the season in SignUp Genius. Now is the time to get your hours completed by the end of October. If the sessions are filled-up in SignUp Genius, you are welcome to show up and join the work team as there is plenty of work to do.

In 2025, you are required to work 6 hours per plot for the season. Completing your hours is part of remaining a gardener in good standing and being welcome to return the next season.

GARDEN WASTE CLEAN UP
October 25th and November 8th
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Board Minutes

The BCG Committee has agreed to share our meeting minutes in the newsletter beginning with the May, 2025 minutes and going forward. The volunteer committee has approved the following minutes to be published in this newsletter. Future minutes will be approved and published in each month's newsletter for the previous month.

[August 2025](#)

[July 2025](#)

[June 2025](#)

[May 2025](#)

Community Reminders:

- Close the gates behind you. (This is not optional).
- Follow the expectations and [rules of the garden](#).
- For the end of season pay attention to and manage plants that are dead, diseased, decaying, and dried. Take items to the compost facility.
- Stay on top of the weeds in your gardens and path and take your weeds to the compost facility.
- 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.

Gardening Best Practices

Garden Assessments

Garden Assessments occur once a month until the end of the growing season. It is meant to be a way to communicate with you issues in advance of them becoming a problem. **Our next assessment will be on 10/5 and final assessment on 11/8. All plots are to be winter-ready by 3 pm October 31.** You can avoid a notice by maintaining plot boundaries and pulling your weeds. See more below.

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.

Pulling weeds and Harvesting

Continue to be mindful of pulling weeds, especially thistle, bindweed, purslane 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. Now is the time to be vigilant on harvesting produce before it rots and/or becomes diseased. Can't use all your harvest? Consider donating each weekend to the food pantry.

Garden Photos



Photo Credit: David H.



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!