



Plot Checker

The main responsibility of the Plot Checker is to initiate the plot citation process. This includes checking plots monthly for weeds or trash, plant overgrowth in pathways, and safety concerns such as uncapped rebar; reporting violations to WCG Garden Manager; and providing a follow-up check one week later. If you are unable to complete your responsibilities, please contact your WCG Garden Manager so that they can make other arrangements.

Monthly Plot Checks

When a community garden is overgrown with weeds and appears neglected, passersby will assume that the garden is abandoned and available for theft. That is why gardeners are required to keep their plots and surrounding pathways tidy throughout the growing season.

From mid-June to mid-October, please check all plots the week of the 15th of each month. Carry the plot map and record the name, plot number, and description of policy violations you see. Then, please mark their plot with a red flag from the shed. Specifically, you should look for:

- Weeds or Trash: Any weed in the garden plot or surrounding pathways that is larger than 6" in height, 12" in width, is beginning to flower or going to seed, needs to be removed. If the weeds are in a pathway directly between two plots, include the plot numbers of both plots in your notes. If you are unsure if a plant is a weed (an undesirable plant not grown intentionally), email a photo and description to the WCG Garden Manager. Some intentionally grown plants that spread like weeds, such as sunflowers or Amaranth, are considered weeds once they begin to set seed.
- Pathway Overgrowth: When large plants such as squash and tomatoes block pathways or grow into neighboring plots, the owner will need to prune, redirect, or trellis the plants until the pathways are accessible.
- Safety Concerns: Holes in pathways, tools left outside, uncapped metal rebar/T-posts, etc.

Notifying the WCG Garden Manager about Plot Violations

Shortly after your plot check, notify the WCG Garden Manager with a list of plot numbers and whether the policy violations is a weed, trash, overgrowth, or safety issue. The WCG Garden Manager will then email them with their first citation. If you do not have any violations to report, please contact the WCG Garden Manager and let them know that is the case. If they don't hear from you, they will assume you were unable to complete the plot check and will find someone else as a substitute.

You are not an enforcer of plot violations, so you do not need to feel any pressure about confrontation. In reality, your job is to prevent fellow gardeners from losing their plots, by allowing them to receive advance notification to make the necessary improvements, and if you encounter any gardeners during your duties you should approach them in a positive and helpful way.

One-Week Follow-Up Check

One week after your initial plot check, please return to the garden to verify if the violations you noted have been resolved, and return the red flags of any corrected plots to the shed. However, if any violations in the previously cited plots for that month remain, please let your WCG Garden Manager know. They will provide a final warning with seven more days to resolve the issue, and then they will do the final plot check themselves. Gardeners with remaining violations at that point may lose gardening privileges, and the plot will be turned over to the next person on the waiting list.

