

Maryhill Park

COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Maryhill Community Garden is a communal growing space organised by the Friends of Maryhill Park volunteer group (FOMP) as part of a range of activities aiming to maintain and revitalise this mature municipal park. The garden is situated on a previously derelict and unwelcoming site adjacent to old bowling greens and tennis courts. Refurbishment of this site was started in 2016, with support from Glasgow City Council (GCC) Stalled Spaces scheme.

1. Vision

1.1 Purpose of the community garden. We aim to:

- create and manage an informal communal growing area, open and available free of charge to local residents and groups

1.2 Objectives of the community garden are to:

- work alongside other FOMP activities in enhancing the park environment
- provide appropriate spaces and facilities for community gardening
- make a space that is welcoming and attractive for volunteers and visitors
- enhance the entrance approach to new tennis courts (in preparation)

2. Management of site

2.1 The site is owned by GCC (Land & Environmental Services/Glasgow Life) with formal "Permission to Use" (PTU) granted to the FOMP group.

2.2 Managing waste on site - organic and non-organic waste

- organic/compostable material added to compost bins
- non-organic, litter, etc., bagged and placed in nearby litter bins for GCC disposal

2.3 We aim to adopt organic gardening practices wherever possible – no synthetic herbicides or pesticides

2.4 Water management

- no mains water
- on-site rainwater collection feeds to purpose-built storage (water tower)

2.5 Use of sustainable materials on site

- reclaimed/recycled materials for beds & other structures
- peat-free compost preferred
- materials stored securely on site

2.6 Garden tools and storage

- donated tools & equipment kept in secure/locked steel container
- volunteers may bring own tools

2.7 Site safety

- refer to Risk Assessment document
- first aid kit available on site during scheduled activities

2.8 Allocation of plots

- “Adopt-a-Bed” scheme
- advertised locally and on social media (website, Facebook, Twitter)
- first-come-first-served allocation
- families, playgroups, etc. encouraged
- advice available for new users/inexperienced gardeners

2.9 Management of shared areas (paths, litter, etc.)

- by consensus at weekly scheduled sessions (Sunday afternoons)
- volunteers share tasks as and when required

3. Management structure

- relaxed – no formal management structure
- core team of 4-6 FOMP volunteers, one acting as informal coordinator
- volunteers report back to FOMP at regular community meetings
- communications via website/social media

4. Policies

4.1 Access and acceptance

- site is open and unfenced, with 24hr access for visitors and volunteers
- hard surface between beds, with wheelchair/buggy access to most areas
- existing ramp utilised in design for access to tall raised beds
- no acceptance criteria – all welcome

4.2 Alcohol, smoking and drugs on site

- conform to GCC Park Regulations

5. Funding

5.1 Membership fees

- No fees, but members/volunteers usually provide their own plants & materials

5.2 Applying for grants

- pursue appropriate opportunities (Stalled Spaces, etc.) for specific projects
- appoint/co-opt community funding volunteer

5.3 Fundraising activities

- plant sales at summer fair
- donations in kind

6. Challenges

6.1 Vandalism/anti-social behaviour

- accept that it will happen, and learn from experience
- use robust constructions and non-combustible materials
- encourage greater awareness and community ownership of the site
- engage with local youth and community policing

6.2 Recruitment

- address volunteer recruitment & retention issues
- encourage younger members

7. Achievements so far...

- Community involvement (play groups, beds adopted...)
- Raised beds & other structures successful
- Public art/sculptures incorporated into the scheme
- Garden and adjacent areas now used on a regular basis for exercise classes (“Park Power”), mindfulness and other social groups
- Focus for activities at the annual FOMP Summer Fair

8. Future plans...

- More raised beds
- Expand site/ex-bowling green? (if sufficient demand)
- Coordinate with refurbished tennis courts (Maryhill Tennis)
- Appoint/co-opt volunteer with community fundraising skills
- Add more seating/picnic table
