

# Community garden plots thicken



John Hurlburt, Clackamas Print

Hurlburt hoes his parent's plot for planting, as his dog, Sophie, looks on intently.

## John Hurlburt

Co-Editor in Chief

...gives buried in dirt surround...  
...ions, Sarah West, a horti...  
...ident at Clackamas, plucks...  
...d grass from her plot in...  
...e's community gardens.  
...est, this is the second year...  
...ace, and to her the gardens...  
...e proven to be a valu...  
...it," West said. "For me it's

great. I live in Portland, and a lot of the plots there are in like the \$70 range."  
West is just one of 73 individuals or groups that are currently digging into Clackamas Community College's discounted community gardens. That number is still growing. With current total of 111 plots, there are still 38 spaces available for both the green and green-thumbed gardeners.  
Over the last few years, the gardens have welcomed a gradual and consistent incline in users. To some

this may be surprising, considering on April 2 of last year the college announced it would be taking over management of the gardens from the Green Spaces Club.  
The management change came with a doubling of the fees, a ban on the use of sprinklers and a shift from the club maintaining funds to the college managing the money itself as a community enrichment program. Upon receiving news of the change, many in the club expressed disdain,

## Comparison of community gardens in Portland and surrounding areas

CCC's Community Garden  
Price: \$40  
Size: 400 square feet  
Duration: January 1 through December 31

Portland City's Network of 35 Community Gardens  
Price: \$75, \$30  
Size: 400 square feet, 200 square feet  
Duration: January through December

Forest Grove Community Gardens  
Price: \$30  
Size: 250 square feet  
Duration: Opening days change but are during spring. Gardens close November 1.

Kennedy Community Gardens  
Price: \$50  
Size: 400 square feet  
Duration: Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

but as time went on and the changes were able to settle in, it became apparent that not all was bad.  
Pam Garten, a master gardener and current user of the community gardens, explained that the changes didn't make for a worse experience; it just meant the space was transforming.  
"There are some advantages and disadvantages to change," Garten said.  
Garten told of a time when the former president of Green Spaces Club Kathy Von Striver's husband used to till plots and when volunteers would come out to water everyone's plots. The free services were helpful to some but to others it had become an invasion of space.  
"Some people were upset; I was personally glad," Garten said, adding that previously there was an overhead irrigation system watering the plants, which she says most plants don't like.  
"The way it was before was unheard of elsewhere," Garten said

referring to the services that used to be offered as well as the old price.  
Regardless of the changes that were instituted last year, the community gardens still grew from having 65 users to 73. The garden was also expanded from 95 plots total to the current 111.  
When it comes to the reasons for the growth, Michelle Baker, student leadership adviser and the current garden manager, says there may be a few reasons, among which she cites societal change and personal referrals.  
Currently \$40 will rent a 20 ft. by 20 ft. plot, for one calendar year starting January 1. The end date for a rental will always be on December 31 whether the space was purchased that month or in January.  
Plot assignment is generally random but, according to Baker, if someone has a spot they want the college will usually be accommodating.  
For information regarding renting a plot contact Baker at 503-594-3040.

## PROTEST: Rally for rights



Michael Bonn, Clackamas Print

...line up along the streets of downtown Portland ready to order during the May Day March.

...ed from PROTEST, Page 1  
...from the overwhelming presence keeping order, there are a couple of volunteer groups that can be seen, deployed to service in various ways.  
...Lana of the Peace Keepers in orange vest and stood on the keeping close watch as the walked past.  
...keep everyone safe," said  
...Peace Keepers is a group of whose goal is to keep the happy and work as mediators in fighting. They're not trained in interaction and don't carry items, instead their job is to the people and calm them things get heated.  
...presence there was a of people called the "Black The Black Cross is an organi- trained individual volunteers into the crowd to help those race, tear gas or any other actions if and when things control. Carrying backpacks water and other materials, Cross were seen as ordinary wearing black street clothes type crosses found on easy to

see spots on their person such as their legs, arms or chest.  
Just as the police where there to make sure everything went peacefully, the "Cop Watchers," a group created to police the police, were also there armed with video cameras, ready to catch the police doing anything they shouldn't be doing.  
"I think the cops were relatively docile," said Dan Handelman of the Portland Cop Watchers.  
Handelman explains that there were some police officers that either had tape over their name tags or no tags at all which upset him a little bit but when they started to complain those officers quickly got their name tags visible.  
"The reason they do that is so they can't be sued for doing something wrong," Handelman mentioned.  
When all was said and done and the march came to an end the anarchists began to take off their masks and dark clothing. The protesters began to roll up their signs and the crowd started to dissipate. The once electric atmosphere slowly calmed leaving nothing but pamphlet littered streets and sidewalks. A stillness in the air lingered as May Day finally came to an end.

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