

## WORK PARTIES 2023

### CYPRESS COMMUNITY GARDEN SECTION WORK PARTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES 2023

- A major task of each Section Work Party and the Spring and Fall Work Party, is **to pick up garbage and to trim/cut grass on either side of the Garden Fences. Please remember that grass grows fast each week and the next work party is often weeks away.** If there is a Section gardener experienced at using the weed whacker or lawnmower, the curb grass and grass on the north (or Greenway) side need trimming regularly through the spring and summer and fall. As Cypress has adopted the block between Cypress and Burrard between the curb and the Pedestrian Path on the Greenway, keeping this area clean and trim is important.
- **Note that the Perennial Garden and the Burrard end are tended by a designated coordinator and specific gardeners. Therefore please work on other common and public areas unless invited by the designated Coordinator. A common area that always needs work is the Bird Garden area. The two Section 5 Reps, Tom and Norma are in charge of the Bird Garden area and there is lots to do there: weeding, trimming, and in the fall, raking leaves.**
- **DO NOT PULL OUT ANY PLANT UNLESS YOU PLANTED IT OR IT IS A VERIFIABLE WEED (buttercup or bindweed).** We lost several Pollinator Plants for Bees and Butterflies in 2022 as over-eager gardeners cleared out what they thought were Weeds from the Borders. Please Ask when in doubt!
- Section flower borders of each section outside the north fence along the Greenway and along the curb side between the Burrard and Perennial ends of the garden do require grooming and weeding. **However, each Section looks after its own border and curb areas. Please do not step in and weed or trim plants belonging to another Section unless invited to do so by the Section Rep or a Coordinator who has consulted with the Section Rep.**
- As the task of the Work Parties is to ensure that the *entire* community garden area is kept attractive for neighbours and the public, members are not permitted to work on individual plots during a Work Party.
- **Normally, Work parties take place RAIN or SHINE except in real downpour/storms and they last a minimum of 2 hours. While the pandemic initially required gardeners to avoid groups and to stagger the time period when they came out, work parties with some 50 people are now allowed to work outside in groups.**
- **Section members: Be careful when weeding on the north and south side of your Section Fences that you do not dig up plants that have been cut down, or perennials and bulbs that have been lovingly placed there and which will sprout new green or flowers later in the season.** The garden has lost gorgeous poppies, specimen flowers, perennials, and bulbs that were ‘weeded’ or dug out without gardeners checking with the Section Rep first.
- **If you are not sure what is a weed, consult with your Section Rep or a Coordinator. Avoid the Pollinator garden in Section 3 for weeding and trimming although ‘admiring’ is okay: Pollinators**

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live in the soil and turning the soil at the wrong time of year can be destructive. We have designated Pollinator Garden volunteers from Section 3.

- Gardeners should notify their Section Reps **prior** to the Work Party on their ability to attend. Gardeners **must** arrange alternate work, weeding or grass cutting to make up for a missed event in order to participate in or make up for 4 Work Parties of 2 hours each through the growing season.
- Bring an environmentally responsible bag or receptacle for picking up litter such as cans, Styrofoam cups, bottles, etc. **Wear or bring long pants and closed-toed shoes** for weeding, edging, and grass cutting or weed-whacking. Bring **rain gear** if necessary, **gloves**, and your garden tools.
- Tools used in the garden at the beginning of the Party must be **cleaned and returned** at the end of the Party. Note: There is a shovel in each section, but clippers, hand trowels and other tools are the responsibility of individual gardeners. **Note: the gas weed-eater and accessories bag, and the lawnmower are returned to the designated areas at the condo on 6<sup>th</sup>.**
- Cuttings and Trimmings that do not fit in the new cuttings bins at the Burrard end go in brown recyclable bags to be placed at the Burrard end for city pick up. **Make sure bags are not too heavy or they won't be picked up by the city workers. Place the bags on the pavers not the grass. And...—NO garbage or non-green stuff in them. Fold the brown bags over so that they don't fill with water if it rains.**