MSVU Community Garden Work to Be Done List, Summer 2010

**This must happen:**

Change email signature on [garden@msvu.ca](mailto:garden@msvu.ca) account

Set hours – should Coordinator work one night a week (e.g. Wednesday work 4-9pm) so community can come to events?

Hold an orientation session for individual/group plot owners as early as possible.

Evergreen Grant Management- follow instructions as given outlined in the Green Grant Program’s 2010 Grant Recipient Contract. This includes keeping and submitting recipes, submitting a brief final report, and taking before and after photos of the garden. For full details see 2010 Grant Recipient Contract.

Keep a budget- keep track of what is spent where. Follow the budget as outlined in the Student Experience grant/Evergreen grant to make sure that money spent is going towards what it was planned for , and for use of future coordinators.

Plan the construction of new raised beds and repairs of the old ones. How this is to be is up to you. Starting small is a good idea, especially for new gardeners. My idea is that the plots will be 4 x 8 ft, but that having more than one plot is possible for more experienced gardeners.

Garden clean-up

Plant seasonally appropriate seeds/seedlings/transplants (purchased or found)

Plant the fruit shrubs as specified in the Evergreen Grant application

Choose vegetables to be planted for the food bank plot, plant and maintain, and contact Feed NS about donation pick-up when vegetables have been harvested.

CREAT E SIGNAGE! Create outdoor signage – maybe a huge flower pot? Sign on the apple tree? Sign at entrance to Meadows

Signs for what’s in the plots! Herb labels, plot for food bank, etc.

Landscape maintenance

* Mowing around raised beds and fruit trees and general garden area
* Weed whipping around raised beds
* Potentially digging up soil to start new beds

**Follow-up from Spring 2010:**

Rockingham Community Centre Senior’s gardening club- Contact Programming coordinator (name, info). When originally contacted was receptive to idea of gardening club,

Rockingham Elementary- no response to email inquiring about interest for afterschool groups, classes to visit garden, included offer to organize programming around classroom curricula.

Summer MSVU Athletics & Recreation day camps- partnership to include gardening in the camps. Contacted Tara Nickerson …. (position) about the idea. Counselors are to be hired for the camps in\_\_\_\_, schedule to be finalized \_\_\_\_. The themes include “The Great Outdoors” from July 12-16, which will feature MSVU gardens. Contact Tara and/or counselors to promote the use of the garden in the camps, discuss how gardening could best fit with the themes, what is required of the coordinator to participate in these camps, etc.

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| **NICKERSON, Tara** | 457-6152 |
| Member Services Officer & Recreation Programmer, Student Services - Athletics and Recreation | |

Rosaria 127C  
[tara.nickerson@msvu.ca](mailto:tara.nickerson@msvu.ca)

Feed NS- Contacted about inclusion in their addition to list of affiliated organizations

Day Care?

|  |  |
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| **ARMSTRONG, Debbie** | 457-6287 |
| Director , Child Care Centre | |

[debbie.armstrong@msvu.ca](mailto:debbie.armstrong@msvu.ca)

Sisters of Charity, Caristus Residence : Jessica-Rae Linzel, Recreation Programmer [jlinzel@shannex.com](mailto:jlinzel@shannex.com) 406-8113 Note: Jessica-Rae is hoping to get raised beds at the Residence, possible role for Garden Coordinator to assist.

Contact Foods Lab instructor about which vegetables or herbs they would like to use in the fall labs

**Things that should happen- use personal judgment + participant/expert/supervisor feedback about when/where/how:**

**Ideas for things that could happen:**

Advocacy-

Link-up with fellow gardeners/researchers/experts on issues important to the Haligonian gardening community.

Ex. The concern of soil contamination among urban gardeners versus the lack of resources for gardeners about this issue. Takuya \_\_\_, who wrote his honour’s thesis on the Benefits of Gardening, focusing on community found that while many urban gardeners were concerned about soil contamination, the soil testing process is costly and difficult for people without knowledge of safe levels of metals to interpret. Leslie \_\_\_ did a project on soil contamination in Halifax, using funding from Dalhousie to cover the costs of soil testing for areas around Halifax to “map-out” problem areas.

Current testing facilities are in Burnside, NS, and cost ~ $30 per test (for 1 contaminant). Is this something the city should cover? Can a guide be made about how to interpret test results? See EAC website for a report on soil testing!

Fundraising Idea: Plant Sale. Pot and sell herb transplants from the garden to raise money. Would this work better in early fall as students come back to school? Decorate your rez room!

Garden Parties! Get (student) musicians to play and ppl can come enjoy the area, eat an apple

**Potential Challenges/Conflicts**

All tools to be used by the Community Garden Coordinator and participants are owned by the Grounds Department, and used by the Grounds Department. This means coordinating when the tools will be used.

Allotment-style community gardens tend to function in a flexible

Plot owners tend to their plots as their schedules allow, which means that plot users will come and go at different days and times throughout the week. The tool shed has one set of keys, hung on the edge of the roof, accessible to anyone. Security concern. Water access: there is a key next to the tap for access.

Creating more structures/trees + bushes for the Grounds Department to mow around.