

# Labyrinth Community Garden

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a Community Garden?

A community garden is a place where people of many different backgrounds come together with a shared goal of gardening. Individuals or groups rent plots where they can plant, tend, and harvest garden plants according to the bylaws and garden site rules.

### How is a Community Garden different from gardening at home?

A community garden is a shared space, so we all need to be considerate of other people and their plants. You will need to make time to come to the garden—it won't be as easy as stepping into your back yard. You will also need to commit to following the site rules and bylaws—there are a few things you are required to do and a few things that are prohibited.

### Do I have to live in the neighborhood to join the Labyrinth Community Garden?

No, you do not have to live in the immediate neighborhood. The garden is open to everyone. However, keep in mind that we all have many demands on our time. The closer you live to the garden, the more likely you are to make the regular trips necessary to keep your plot healthy and thriving.

Based on data from other community gardens, if you live within 3 miles of the garden, you are more likely to have a positive garden experience. If you are highly dedicated to gardening, a greater distance may not be a problem.

### What kind of time commitment should I expect?

As with anything else in life, the more time you invest in gardening, the better and more productive your garden plot will be. The chart below shows a general estimate of the required time commitment. However, please expect the time required to vary a lot by season.

The time commitment includes three types of tasks: 1) care and maintenance of your plot, 2) care and maintenance of the community pathways surrounding your plot, and 3) participation in Volunteer Days at the LCG once per 6-month growing season. The care and maintenance of the LCG is a collective responsibility of the LCG community gardeners.

<b>Garden Task</b>	<b>Time Required per Week (Varies by Season)</b>
Weeding and Tending the Plot	0-1 Hour (more at change of season)
Watering the Plot	1-2 hours (double this when temps are 100+)
Preparing and Planting the Plot	0-1 hour (more at the change of season)
Harvesting	0.5 hour
Maintenance of Community Areas	0.5 hour
One Volunteer Day per Growing Season	2 hours per plot
<b>Total</b>	<b>2-5 hours/week + 2 volunteer hours per growing season</b>

### How does the LCG give back to the broader community?

LCG gardeners are required to donate at least 10% of their harvest to the Austin Food Bank. A collection box is kept at the garden and a volunteer will make the deliveries. The process for estimating 10% of the harvest is explained during orientation.

### What do I need to get started?

You don't need much! The LCG will have some community tools, stored in the tool shed on-site. LCG also provides hoses and nozzles for watering. Individual members provide the following items:

- Seeds, seedlings, and/or plants.
- Enough mulch to cover the surface of the plot
- Support structures for specific types of plants, such as cages for tomatoes

### Should I do it? Should I make the commitment?

Community gardens are wonderful! If you've never gardened in a community garden before, you can look forward to more than fresh veggies. Some of the benefits:

- Cultural exchanges sprout and new friendships grow among diverse groups of people
- Community gardens are common ground for growing plants that feed, heal, and give aesthetic pleasure.
- Community gardens are civic spaces where people work and recreate to nourish themselves, their families and their friends
- The gardeners' shared labor strengthens the sense of belonging in their physical environment and strengthens connections with other gardeners
- Community gardens are the collective effort of people with the patience and determination to make things grow