

Name of Project: Discovery Park Community Garden (2024)**Project Coordinator: TBD (discovery@gocomga.com)**

The Discovery Park Community Garden (DPCG) is located south of Discovery Park just off NW Crossing Drive next to the off-leash dog park. There are 51 raised beds equipped with automatically controlled micro sprayers. OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ volunteers manage the garden, which is located on Bend Park and Recreation District land, and was established in 2010. Each spring, available garden beds are allocated to interested gardeners using a lottery system.

Gardeners: DPCG provides a gardening opportunity for people who want a garden space to grow vegetables. Due to the short growing season and weather affected by the proximity of the mountains, DPCG presents some unique challenges for gardeners. Frosts can occur any day of the growing season. A garden cloche, (frame with covering material) is highly recommended to buffer temperature variations. Gardening at DPCG can be very rewarding but requires careful attention to sound gardening practices tailored to this unique environment. Many gardeners at DPCG are new to gardening and very much appreciate the advice and guidance offered by our Master Gardener volunteers.

Volunteers: Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Trainees comprise the 6 to 8 volunteers needed. MG's will mentor Trainees and both will help gardeners have a successful gardening experience by providing research-based advice relevant to Central Oregon and the DPCG site and by helping them with their raised beds.

MG's and their Trainee assistants are assigned to a section of approximately 12 to 15 beds where they monitor the condition and maintenance level of their area's beds, and keep in good communication with those gardeners. Beyond mentoring, other activities include irrigation systems, weather monitoring, weed ID and management, soil amendments and fertility, pest management, garden waste and composting, raised bed and cloche construction, special garden improvement projects, and general garden upkeep and maintenance. There will be a hands-on educational work session on functional parts of the garden like the irrigation system, cloche maintenance, and gardening tips, pre-opening day for DPCG volunteers.

Time commitment: To help meet the challenges of creating a successful community garden, MG volunteers assist in educating gardeners by regularly passing along gardening information, answering questions and in general by acting as a trusted source of advice. Various workdays and meetings will be offered during the season in addition to scheduled events like gardening classes. MG Volunteers and Trainees can help with these garden events throughout the season. Time commitment can be quite variable depending on the preference of the volunteer with the busiest time of year being mid-April into June, and at the end of the season in October. DPCG is a nice place to spend time, gardeners always showing keen interest and appreciation in learning and making their garden bed a truly successful one. And it is a great way for we garden volunteers to become knowledgeable about the ins and outs of successful gardening in our challenging CO environment.