

Rossmoor Garden Club

Membership Information

The Garden Club is very popular in Rossmoor for very good reasons!

We get fresh air and exercise, we get to socialize with like-minded people, and we get to grow our own vegetables, fruit, and flowers. Because the club is so popular, applicants for membership are placed on a waitlist.

Following is some general information you might find helpful in making your decision whether to become a Garden Club member. If you do decide it's for you, our Membership Director will be able to tell you how many people are on the list ahead of you and about how long you may have to wait.

What is the process for getting a garden lot?

Some members stay in the garden Club for many years. Available lots depend on how many people terminate their membership and how many lots have become available during the year.

Each February, approximately 10-15 people at the top of the waitlist are notified that they have the opportunity to tour the garden and choose a lot. Applicants gather in the garden to tour the lots with board members, find out the value of each lot, and ask questions.

The waitlist is created based on the date the waitlist application was received. So, when it comes time to make a choice, a person's rank on the waitlist will determine the order in which they are able to choose a lot. Once the tour is over, applicants are given some time to go back through the garden so they can make a choice that's right for them.

Then, everyone gathers on the deck under the old oak tree where decisions are revealed and lot assignments are made. Once the membership fee, lot fee, and annual dues are paid and the Acknowledgement of Garden Club rules is signed, the gate code is given and the applicant is now a Garden Club member.

What is the cost?

You will pay a one-time membership fee, a one-time lot fee, and annual dues. The costs are broken down as follows:

- 1) One-time initiation fee: \$100.
- 2) One-time lot fee. The lot you choose will determine how much you will pay. For example, if you choose a half lot that has no improvements (raised beds, gopher wire), you might pay as little as \$200. At the other end of the spectrum, if you choose a full lot with four redwood raised beds, gopher wire, irrigation system, and a structure or a storage unit, you could pay as much as \$2000.

3) Annual dues: half lot \$30; full lot \$55.

What are the sizes of the lots?

There are no uniform, standardized lot sizes, but generally speaking, a full lot will run approximately 300 – 350 square feet and half lots range from 200 - 300 square feet. These sizes may vary a little depending on the configuration of the lot.

What is included in my membership?

You will need to supply your own plants, amendments, hoses, hand tools, buckets, and drip system components (if you chose to install a drip system).

The Garden Club supplies endless amounts of horse manure that we use for mulching; wood chips to layer in pathways to keep the weeds down; annual deliveries of compost; a greens dumpster for your garden waste; a water faucet in each lot; shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows; and, invitations to Garden Club functions such as bi-annual membership breakfasts, deck parties, and the annual picnic.

What if I need help in my garden?

Some gardeners may find that they need occasional help to maintain their lot the way they want it. For example, if you go on vacation in the summer time you will need someone to water and tend to your garden if you don't have a drip system. You may want to install a drip irrigation system, but you don't know how to do it. Heavy lifting is sometimes needed, but you may not be able to do it. Weeds are out of control and you are unable to pull them.

There are two ways to get help. The Garden Club has an Assistant program available to help members in their lots. We can provide you with names of people on the waitlist who are willing to be assistants while they wait their turn for membership. You do the interviewing to find someone suitable for your needs. Or, you may already know someone who is willing to help you.

You will find an Assistant Application form on this website and in the Club's mailbox at Gateway. Once you have chosen an assistant, completed the form, and had it approved, your assistant may begin to help you in the garden.

You may also choose to hire some help or ask a friend for occasional help. If you do hire someone or ask a friend in to help you, you must not leave the helper unattended in the garden. There is one exception. The Garden Club has a longtime friend and occasional worker in the garden who will be happy to help you for a fee. This person is free to work in the garden unattended. When you become a member, more information will be given to you.

Are there volunteer opportunities?

Yes! The Club depends on its volunteers to help in the following ways:

- Weeding.

Weeding is needed in all the garden's common areas. Our Volunteer Coordinator organizes weeding parties each spring and members are expected to participate.

- Spreading wood chips.

The tree service companies that cut up trees in Rossmoor provide the garden with free wood chips. We use them to line our pathways and to keep the weeds down throughout the garden.

- Maintaining common area plantings.

We have several areas planted with herbs, flowers, and tomatoes for the annual Tomato Festival. These areas need weeding, watering and fertilizing.

- Painting fences.

The wooden fences need frequent new applications of paint. Volunteers are supplied with everything they need to give the fences a fresh look.

- Helping at social events.

We have several social events each year – the Tomato Festival in August is the largest. None of our social gatherings could happen without the support of our volunteers.

If you become a Garden Club member, you can expect to have a lot of fun, share growing tips with fellow gardeners, volunteer, and grow amazing crops. The Garden Club Board welcomes you!

If you have questions now, you may send an email to rossmoorgardenclub@gmail.com.

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