

Garden Service Hours at THPRD Community Gardens

At THPRD, we believe that a thriving garden is a shared effort. All community gardeners contribute to the care and upkeep of shared spaces by completing garden service hours each season. These hours help maintain the beauty, safety, and sustainability of our community gardens.

Your Service Hour Commitment

- Gardeners are required to complete **2 service hours** per season

Who Can Complete Hours

- The registered gardener or immediate family members may complete service hours
- Friends or outside volunteers may help, but must be approved in advance by the community garden staff

How to Earn Service Hours

- Participate in scheduled work parties or complete pre-approved special projects in common areas (preferred)
- Donate surplus produce from your plot – approximately 2-3 donations count toward your hours (harvesting, cleaning, packaging, and delivery)
- Working in your own plot or personal pathways does not count toward service hours

Flexible Ways to Complete Your Service Hours

We understand that everyone has different schedules and strengths. That's why there are multiple ways to fulfill your garden service hours beyond attending work parties.

For example:

- Take on a special project like organizing food bank donations
- Help water plots for fellow gardeners who are away on vacation
- Support seasonal needs in the garden at times that work best for you
- Sign up for a THPRD event, unrelated to community garden tasks

These flexible options allow you to contribute meaningfully on your own schedule, while still meeting your seasonal service hour commitment. Just be sure to coordinate with community garden staff in advance to get your project approved and hours recorded.

Tracking Your Garden Service Hours

To ensure everyone gets credit for their contributions, it's important to report your service hours via Volgistics. If you participate in a scheduled work party, your hours will be entered for you. All independent hours must be entered by the gardener (select "Independent Work Hours: name of garden site").

Tips for Tracking Your Hours

- Keep your own record of hours worked, just in case. While we do our best to track everything, occasional errors can happen.
- You can request your current hour total at any time – connect with community garden staff for more info
- Stay connected! You'll receive email updates about:
 - Upcoming work parties
 - Other service opportunities
 - Reminders about completing your hours

We're committed to keeping you informed, but it's your responsibility to take advantage of these opportunities and complete your seasonal service hours.

Important Guidelines

- If you can't attend scheduled events, it's still your responsibility to coordinate with the community garden staff for alternative service opportunities.
- Gardeners are encouraged to lead work parties or propose special projects to fulfill their hours.
- Service hours must be completed by October 31.
- Service hours do not carry over to the next season.

By contributing your time, you help create a welcoming and productive space for all gardeners. Thank you for being an active part of our garden community!