

Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>

What a gorgeous day!

Adrienne, Lorraine, Melissa and Audrey got to the garden at 9:30 to start laying the path cover. The soil is still pretty soft and quite wet in places.

We tamped down the 4' central path area as best we could and lay the cover over and secured the edges with the "staples". The staples don't stay in very well right now because of the softness of the soil so we may have to re-secure those edges when the garden firms up a bit.

There is a double layer of path cover. The under layer is a thinner fabric and the top is professional grade and should be reusable. Although the top was a 100' roll (enough for ten 10' plots?) it didn't go all the way to the end; our plots must be over 10' wide? Audrey added what she had left of a 3' wide roll at the west end, but still some path is not covered. So Nadine & Colin, I'll look at getting more 4' cover for that end.

Hoses are installed and we all need to give Steve a big thank you for all the hours he's spent working on getting those ready. Apparently, even though we had removed hoses last fall, there was still water in the connectors on the posts and at the building. They must have frozen up and damaged the seals, because they were all leaking and needed to be replaced.

Mike and his lady came to check out the conditions - they had a bit of discussion between them about whether it was firm enough to do a bit of planting on their plots - not sure what they decided in the end.

The garden has two plots on the northeast corner (11 & 12) that were not taken. I think my sister Melissa and I will take the outside one (11) to plant squashes and potatoes so they will have some room to sprawl a bit. Is anyone interested in maintaining or helping with plot 12 - we could plant some things to be harvested strictly for the local food bank? Or something kids could help with? Any ideas?

As we were finishing up the path, Jim and his daughter came in to start their planting. He used a small gas rototiller to loosen up the surface to rake out.

One of the photos shows Jim in the foreground raking out his plots for planting. Lorraine and Adrienne are in the background putting a narrow path cover between their plots. (They do plots 16, 17, & 18 together and divide them in half the long way.)

So conditions are still not ideal for planting but a sunny day today and tomorrow should help quite a bit.

Come and take a peek - see what you think. Crops that like nice warm conditions - tomatoes, peppers, squashes, cukes - may think the soil is still too cool yet. The crops that don't mind some cool weather - broccoli, cauliflower, lettuces, kale, cabbage, onions, carrots - could probably go in anytime you feel you can get on your plot to work.

Everything is ready to go at this point - time to cue the warmth and sunshine to enter!

---Audrey---