

Safety in the Garden

Harvest Pierce County

As we invite people to share and enjoy community garden space, it is possible that community gardens may receive unwanted behavior. There are ways of protecting yourself and community gardens from unwanted behavior.

www.harvestpiercecouny.org (253)278-6215 info@harvestpiercecouny.org

personal safety

It is important to be aware and prepared. The following is a list of suggestions:

- Know the address of your garden

- Interact with strangers in and around the garden in a positive, inviting and friendly manner. Follow your personal instincts in interacting with people if you do not feel safe.
- Carry your cell phone with you IN the garden
- Get off the pathway, allow a quick exit if someone is in the garden that is doing illegal activities
- Keep your car locked at all times
- Find a garden buddy to be in the garden with you if your personal comfort level is challenged. Seek buddies within the garden community as well as invite your personal friends to visit with you in the garden.
- Walk through the garden when you arrive to make your presence known

If you encounter homelessness in your garden, please call **Positive Interactions (253)382-2677**

general crime prevention

- Know the address of your garden
- Know your garden's neighbors. Encourage the neighbors to keep an eye on the garden

- Use signage to let people know what you can and can't do at the site
 - Meet with Neighborhood Block Watch or other safety groups
 - Meet often as a group to discourage unwanted behavior
 - Create a presence in the garden throughout the day
 - [Know your Community Liaison Officer](#)
 - Make the police aware of incidents in the garden. **Call Tacoma Police Department 911 in the event of an emergency.**
 - For non-emergencies, please call (253)798-4722 and visit tacomasaferg.org to file a police report
 - Report the incident to Harvest PC [HPC's Incident Report Form](#)
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theft

- **Signage** is especially effective - include ways to get involved
- **Community beds**, consider an area for community picking
- **Involve your neighbors** in the garden with an event and make a point of involving youth

- **Keep things tidy and promptly harvest produce**
- **Make it hard to pick produce:**
 - limit paths from inside plots
 - wrap chicken wire around valuable plants
 - Tie Reemay fabric around and over plants to hide them
 - Cover pumpkins w/ burlap as they ripen orange

REPORT THEFT TO POLICE at TacomaSafe.org AND TO HARVEST PIERCE COUNTY

[HPC's Incident Report Form](#)
(253) 278-6215

unwanted items

These tips for removing unwanted items are meant to help navigate. If you encounter a complicated situation, please call Harvest Pierce County or Tacoma's 311 hotline.

Garbage/Illegal Dumping

If you cannot remove the garbage yourself, please call TacomaFIRST at 311 or fill out their [service request](#)

Graffiti

- Graffiti Removal, call (253) 591-5000
- To report graffiti, call (253) 798-4721

Feces Removal

- Step 1: Pour water:bleach (10:1) on feces to kill germs. Leave on for few minutes
- Step 2: Shovel feces and double bag and place in trash
- Step 3: Clean shovel with bleach and water formula

Syringe/Needle Disposal

Always watch where you are putting your hands
Use gloves and tongs, shovel, or some other devise to pick it up
Put used needle in a plastic bottle
Seal the lid with tape
Label the container "BIOHAZARD"
Dispose of at a transfer station

[TPCHD Sharps Disposal Guide](#)