

## Friendship Evergreen Community Garden at Ehrhardt Park

So, what has to happen next, and when should our gardeners be able to get access to their plots?

Upon completion of the planter plots, irrigation lines will be run to each planter plot. The irrigation of each will be controlled from both a master controller, and a manually operated water valve mounted on the end of each plot. This system should not only ensure that the plants will get water, but that the amount can be controlled by the plot user.

Next will be the installation of our composting station. Again, the purpose is to be able to do our part, as joint community, in reducing the amount of reusable waste that now ends up in our Tempe land fill. Initially, the station will serve as our soil reception/distribution area for the two types of soil (mulch and humus) we are in the process of purchasing soil from Gro-Well Brands. These soils, for the most part, are ready for use and will be distributed to the planter boxes upon receipt. A ratio of 1/3 mulch first, followed by 2/3 humus will be used to fill the planters. Next the composter station will be used to initiate our own humus producing operation. The ingredients that typically can be used include: raw mulch, say, from Tempe recycle, shredded newspaper, tree chippings and small branches, coffee grounds, kitchen organic waste, grass clippings, etc. The composting process can take from 1 to 3 months, depending on the type of composting one uses.

Once all the infrastructure and leveling is complete, the final steps will be to complete the walkways with a crushed and compacted granite material. There will be a continuous main walkway the full length of the garden, immediately adjacent to the FVT wall. The other walkway will snake its way through the garden plots, in order to provide easy access to them. At this point the large trucks accessing the garden should rapidly diminish, so the entry roadway and storm drain can be repaired and the east garden gate access to the canal restored.

Ryan's timetable for substantial completion was May 13<sup>th</sup>. However, we are already witnessing summer temperatures, and some type of plot shade system remains to be worked out. Needless to say, the ubiquitous virus is still a serious impediment to group activities, so one should probably think in terms of late September or early October for our first major planting.