

Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation

Luscher Farm Community Gardens Survey Fall 2021

This report covers survey responses received between December 23, 2021 and January 16, 2022. A total of 129 emails with survey links were sent to participant (payers). A total of 44 responses were received (34% response rate.) The summarized question results and all individual responses are shared in this report.

The results report for the survey can be found at:

P:\SURVEYS_INDICATORS\CUST EXC SURVEYS\Survey Response Reports\Results FY21-22 in the LR Community Gardens folder.

Of the 44 respondents, 41 indicated a Lake Oswego zip code (97034=26 and 97035=15), 2 from West Linn and 1 from Tigard.

For Lake Oswego participants, the neighborhood association breakdown is below:

Blue Heron – 2, Bryant – 3, Evergreen – 2, First Addition – 3, Forest Hills – 1, Hallinan – 3, Kruse Way – 1, Lake Forest – 1, Lake Grove – 1, Lakeview Summit – 1, McVey South Shore – 1, Mountain Park – 5, Mtn Park – 1, North Shore – 1, Old Town – 1, Palisades – 7, Uplands – 4, Waluga – 1, and Westlake – 1.

The overwhelming majority of respondents participate in the Community Gardens program for Recreational Enjoyment and Health and Wellness, and about 23% learn about our offerings through the Activities Guide, while 52% of respondents indicated they are returning customers (about 41% have participated for 6+ years.)

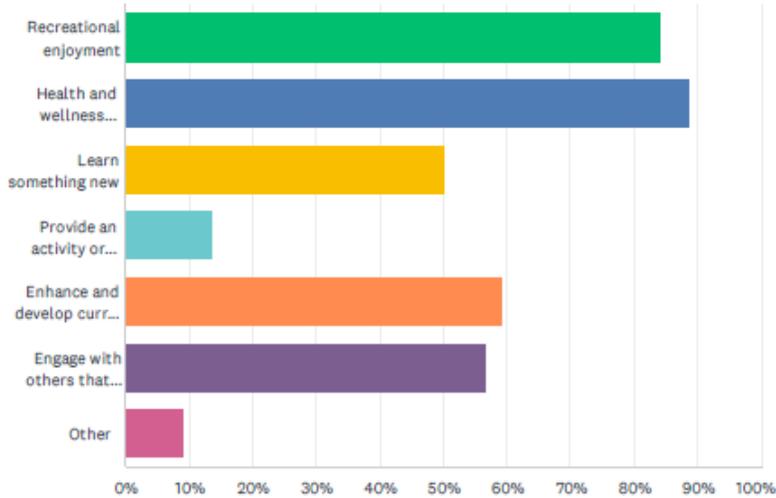
The first pages of this report reflect the survey responses broken down by questions asked on the Customer Satisfaction survey. Survey questions that ask for personal data are not included in this report.

The key questions and results measured for effectiveness are:

| Survey Question | Performance Target | 2021 Results |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Met Expectations | 80% Yes | 97.73% |
| Value Received | 80% Very Satisfied | 72.73% |
| Would Recommend | 80% Yes | 95.45% |

Q4 What are your reasons for participation in the activity? Please check ALL that apply.

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



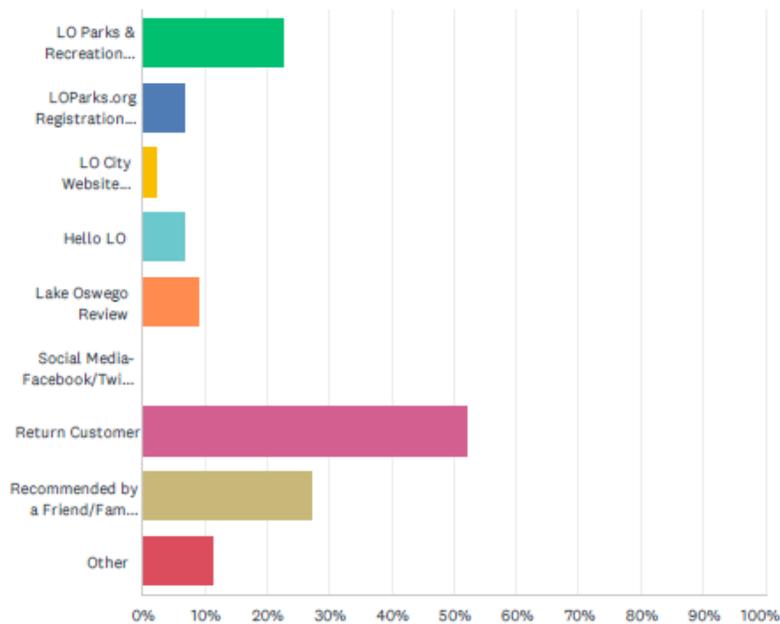
| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Recreational enjoyment | 84.09% | 37 |
| Health and wellness purpose | 88.64% | 39 |
| Learn something new | 50.00% | 22 |
| Provide an activity or care for child/children | 13.64% | 6 |
| Enhance and develop current skills or knowledge | 59.09% | 26 |
| Engage with others that have similar interests | 56.82% | 25 |
| Other | 9.09% | 4 |
| Total Respondents: 44 | | |

Comments about reasons for participating in the activity

Heirloom Cherokee Purple tomatoes and Sun Gold cherry tomatoes.
 LOVE gardening
 Fresh vegetables and flowers
 Grow delicious food
 Grow my own produce and flowers
 Community and food
 Being with the soil, the new growth, the birds and wildlife grounds me.
 grow food duh!
 To actually GARDEN. That is the primary purpose of the facility right? Did that get lost along the way of Parks and Rec's circus of activity up there? Seems to have.
 grow fresh produce for my family to eat
 Learn what it takes to grow our food, including amount of water.
 I love to dig in the dirt..and create beauty and bounty
 Grow organic food at a cost much lower than buying in store.

Q5 How did you learn about this activity? Please check ALL that apply.

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| LO Parks & Recreation Activities Guide | 22.73% | 10 |
| LOParks.org Registration Website | 6.82% | 3 |
| LO City Website www.ci.oswego.or.us/parksrec | 2.27% | 1 |
| Hello LO | 6.82% | 3 |
| Lake Oswego Review | 9.09% | 4 |
| Social Media- Facebook/Twitter/Instagram | 0.00% | 0 |
| Return Customer | 52.27% | 23 |
| Recommended by a Friend/Family Member | 27.27% | 12 |
| Other | 11.36% | 5 |
| Total Respondents: 44 | | |

Comments about how the activity was learned about

Researched when I moved to Oregon. I knew that community gardens existed up here
I have had the plot since the plots were first available in 2001. I believe the announcement was in the paper.

I've been gardening up at Luscher for over 10 years. The state of the garden and what is provided has decreased over the years. It is not kept up or managed well at all at this point.

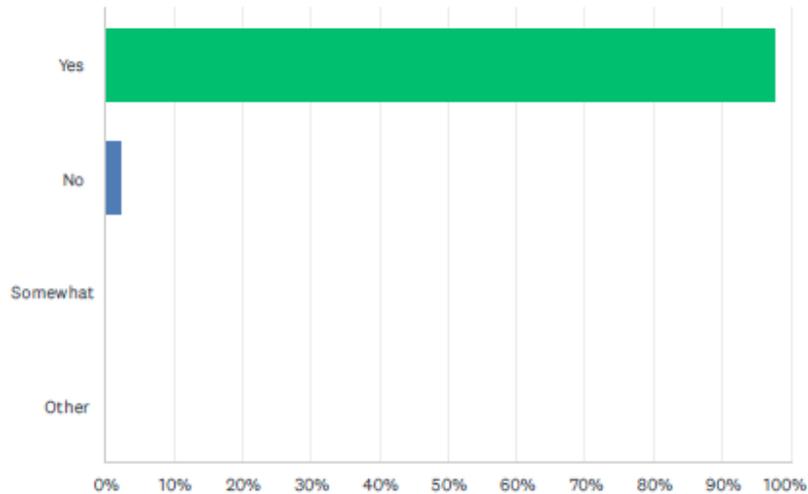
Had known about it

I drive by it every day

Real Estate agent pointed out Luscher 16 years ago when buying a house.

Q6 Did participation in the activity meet your expectations?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Yes | 97.73% | 43 |
| No | 2.27% | 1 |
| Somewhat | 0.00% | 0 |
| Other | 0.00% | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 44 |

Comments about how the activity meeting expectations

However, I would like to see better enforcement of the "no dogs in the garden" rule. Gardeners who violate the rule more than once should forfeit their plots.

I love meeting the other gardeners and hearing about their successes and travails with their organic gardens. I love that all of the neighboring gardens are organic, which enhances the integrity of my organic practices.

Would love to get involved in propagation, starting seeds in one of your greenhouses, we need more classes like straw bale gardening to beat the pests in the farm, start our own mason bees, learn grafting techniques.....

My plot keeps me healthy. I welcome each new season and its unique challenges.

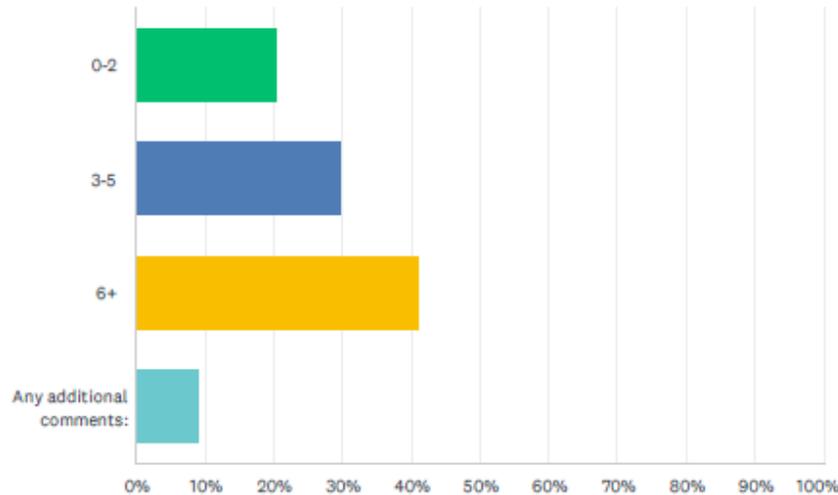
The gardens are in full sun at Luscher!

The focus of the garden has digressed from gardening and maintaining the hoses, pathways, tools etc. to providing activities that have nothing to do with gardening which actually on occasion prevent gardeners to even enter the property. The condition of the plot areas reflects a lack of interest by the city to maintain a safe and comfortable garden area. The hired garden directors are not getting the job done because of other demands on them.

My farm plot kept me sane during the pandemic. Something to do, and a safe way to socialize out of doors with like-minded people in adjacent plots.

Q7 How many years have you participated in the Community Gardens program?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--------------------------|-----------|----|
| 0-2 | 20.45% | 9 |
| 3-5 | 29.55% | 13 |
| 6+ | 40.91% | 18 |
| Any additional comments: | 9.09% | 4 |
| TOTAL | | 44 |

Comments about years of participation

Once Karen retired the garden program changed to benefit social events, children's programs, and storing city vehicles that were no longer in use or brand new in spaces that typically have been designated for gardeners.

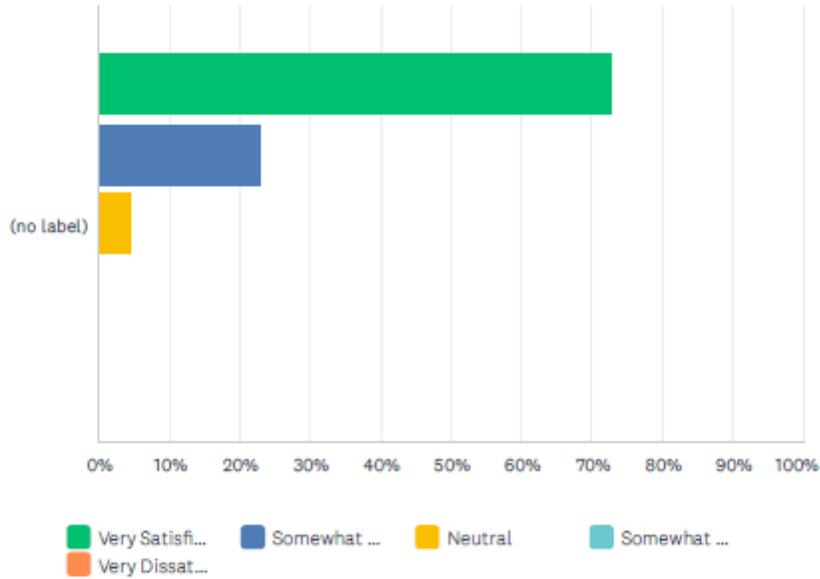
I'm one of the original gardeners!

From the get go

I have had a plot for over 20 years and will keep it as long as I can stand up. It is one of the best things in LO!

Q8 How do you rate the value received for your activity fee?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



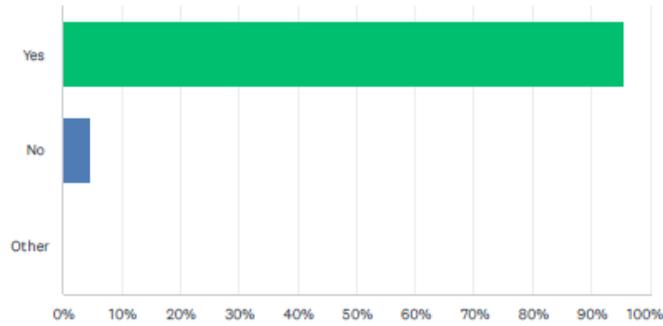
| VERY SATISFIED | SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | NEUTRAL | SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED | VERY DISSATISFIED | TOTAL |
|----------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 72.73% | 22.73% | 4.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% | |
| 32 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 44 |

Comments about value received

I understand there is a waiting list and I would discourage anyone waiting.
It is a lot of work so people need to be advised

Q9 Would you recommend the activity to a friend or family member?

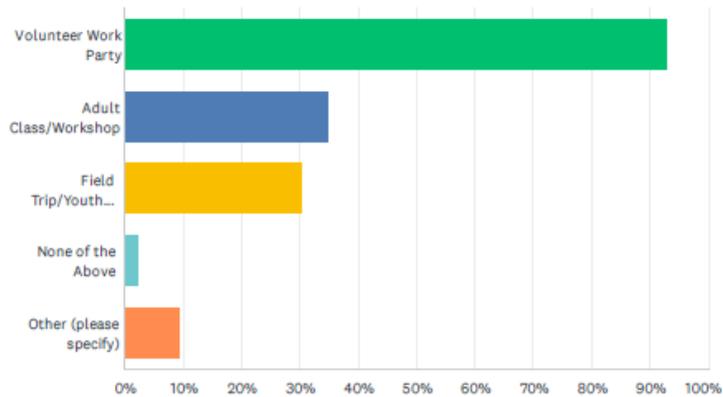
Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Yes | 95.45% | 42 |
| No | 4.55% | 2 |
| Other | 0.00% | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 44 |

Q11 As a community gardener, have you participated in any other offerings at Luscher Farm? Check all that apply.

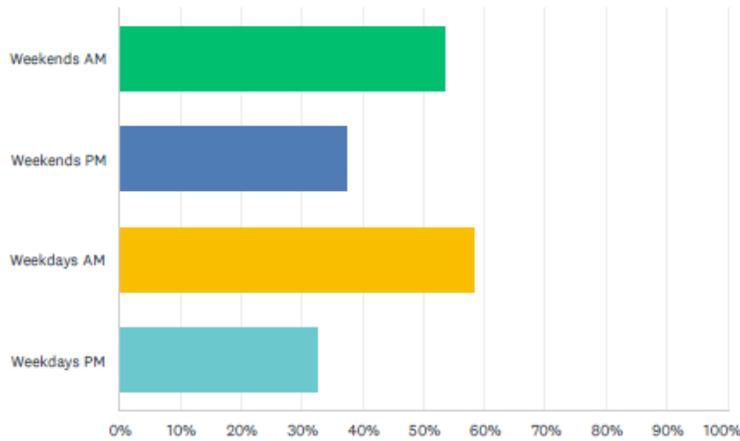
Answered: 43 Skipped: 1



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Volunteer Work Party | 93.02% | 40 |
| Adult Class/Workshop | 34.88% | 15 |
| Field Trip/Youth Program | 30.23% | 13 |
| None of the Above | 2.33% | 1 |
| Other (please specify) | 9.30% | 4 |
| Total Respondents: 43 | | |

Q12 What is your preferred time for activities at Luscher Farm (i.e., work parties, classes) Check all that apply.

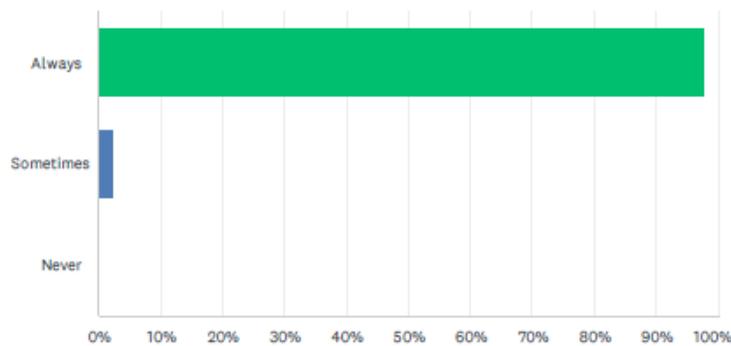
Answered: 43 Skipped: 1



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Weekends AM | 53.49% 23 |
| Weekends PM | 37.21% 16 |
| Weekdays AM | 58.14% 25 |
| Weekdays PM | 32.56% 14 |
| Total Respondents: 43 | |

Q14 As a community gardener, how often do you read/reference the monthly farm newsletter?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 1



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|----------------|-----------|
| Always | 97.67% 42 |
| Sometimes | 2.33% 1 |
| Never | 0.00% 0 |
| TOTAL | 43 |

OTHER INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS:

Q10 - What recommendations do you suggest to make the Community Gardens program more successful?

- Having a small gas tiller available could help with pathway maintenance as that seems to be a challenge. Also would love to have a "community gardener greenhouse" for starting plants - that would be amazing!
- Get togethers that aren't work related. Maybe something with sharing food
- As noted earlier, enforce the no dogs rule and provide cardboard. Also just general pick-up of the garden. When Karen was coordinator it was much cleaner than it is today. Once she retired it quickly went downhill in that regard.
- More monitoring of weeds in pathways. Work parties on Sundays too.
- Require plots be maintained.
- Totally happy with the program currently
- Penalize garden area owners that do not maintain their garden areas and allow their vegetation, grass, and weeds to invade pathways and other garden areas.
- To maximize space, designate each gardener to grow one or two things. Have a "starts" exchange where we can bring stuff we start at home and share. Let non-LO folks participate so they can have a plot in exchange for so many hours of work, and pay for it of course, but the list is so long to get in. :(
- Stop catering to individuals who don't take care of their plot and give them the boot! Assign plots early without waiting for them to get "cleaned up". NO ONE cares ... gardeners just want to start planting!
- Gently enforce the rules. The original gardens are falling into disrepair and unattractiveness. Fold need to keep their commitment to make aisles weed free and walkable. Kill the bind weed and other weeds with 30% cleaning vinegar from Home. Just don't use it in your plot nor apply it on a windy day. Be respectful of your neighbors.
- None. It's great as is.

- I would like to see some sort of communication between gardeners. Shared knowledge.
- Published rules and procedures which are then enforced. Last year was marred by damaged tools and wheelbarrows, and people not returning them to the tool barn, which was often a mess.
- We might look into the plots that have been somewhat neglected, albeit understandably given the pandemic, and offer them to those on a waitlist.
- The gardens are not used to their true and best purpose of growing vegetables. Many gardens turn into plots of weeds, many are mostly flowers and some are perennial flowers and plants that do not require regular visits to the garden. When there are so many people who could use or want a plot why are we underutilizing the community garden resource. It seems the reason is because they are grandfathered in. What a waste!!!
- Difficult times right now for the employees/staff. The pandemic has been a challenge and we will see how 2022 turns out.
- Take a harsher approach on weeds, both on the peripheral areas of plots and in individual plots. Outside weeds flower and spread seed. The City could and should do more. Make suggestions to gardeners on how to get rid of runner grasses. Keep chip pile consistently full. Keep compost pile empty. Make sure plot owners comply on weed removal and working their plot.
- Keep the tools in working order, especially the wheel barrows.
- Hire a director that is committed to the garden and facility and not the programs. Hire a program manager to work with the director. Pay more attention to the management of the garden plots. Make sure that all plot users are emailed all the procedural information and dates of work parties.
- Put more seeds out for us to use.
- Better consistent communication. After Dawn left I never received any communication
- I know it bugs the staff when people just dump off old garden stuff or throw things in the garbage area--but the reality is that they're not going to stop. Is there a way to rethink the messaging--or to create new recycling opportunities?
- Possibly creating a roster of gardeners so if something goes wrong in a plot the gardener can be notified

- Stricter rules for errant gardeners
- More stringent plot over site by Parks team leaders. We have had a number of plots in our area with significant issues over the past 2 seasons (planters extending past borders, abandoned, weedy, dangerous rotting raised beds, garbage in pathways) and calls result in varying plot owner action. Sometimes it's too far gone and people just give up - but that just makes it hard on those of us trying to abide by the guidelines. The LF leadership team has always been very responsive to calls/emails and follow up but think the calls and emails could be avoided by going back to the red flag system every 2 weeks so things don't reach the point where plot neighbors are making calls
- More classes re: different gardening techniques
- I hear from other gardeners that they don't like the volunteer hours. I personally am happy to give hours where I can garden. It is starting to get expensive though.
- Pest management. Water management (automated waterer... But people continue to turn on and off the spigots)
- More opportunities to get to know other gardeners.
- It would be great to have compost available, and for the tools to be kept in better shape.
- Better hoses

Q13 – Is there an activity or class not currently offered at Luscher Farm that you would like to see offered in the future?

- Soil health and science
- Maybe a workshop to get your seeds started indoors, the best varieties for our region, soil testing on our plots, straw bale gardening, best way to grow potatoes, etc, tomato pruning 101.
- No
- How about some water saving tips. given the climate changing, we could use some tips and talks on watering and irrigation for our plots.
- Not at this time.
- No. There are plenty. AS there is no option to comment on #14 I will put it here: For the last 4 years I have not received a newsletter. I worked with Dawn for two years on getting one and it has never worked. I look up info on the web but it has been increasingly a pain

so my answer below should be always but is sometimes. Again, poor management. *(no name or contact info provided.)*

- native pollinators/ how to host and care for mason bees or honey bees/ the importance of providing food sources throughout the season/ the importance of providing overwintering habitat by not cutting down weeds or raking leaves and leaving brush piles
- Rules for new Gardner's and expectations
- Master gardener mentorship?
- The Zoom gardening classes are great!
- Container and small space vegetable gardening Herb gardening
- Canning party.
- Soil information

Q15 – Do you have a suggestion for an activity you would like to see offered through LO Parks & Recreation?

- Disk golf
- Wine tasting in the garden, more Covid sensitive evening get togethers in the summer with gardeners for plant exchange, wine work group "work first then share a glass of wine". Truffles where to find them, can we inoculate the trees around Luscher? Can we train our dogs to find them :)
- Too many ambitious activities offered now.
- Tap dancing.
- Fly fishing lessons.
- Not at this time.
- More gardening focused classes.
- Intro to Backyard Habitat Program. You could probably do this by simply posting existing videos online, from Audubon or EMSWD, and encouraging residents to reduce their lawns, reduce their water and pesticide use, and plant more native plants.
- I would love a connection with the OR Master Gardener program. That seems to be a logical fit--and it would benefit both Luscher Farm and the MG program.
- Wine tasting, art classes other than painting
- No....you are fabulous