

Greetings fellow Dowling Community Gardeners!

As the winter slowly progresses toward spring, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on the warmth of summer in the garden among the plants and our fellow gardeners! Our hats off to everyone for another great season at Dowling Community Garden – made possible through everyone's efforts! We had so many compliments on how nice the garden looked!

We have a lot to be proud of as members of this incredible community garden, as we keep the tradition alive and well from year to year for lo' these 69 years!

In 2011, the Garden provided the neighborhood/community

- 185 plots were tended by 285 registered gardeners. This does not include all of the unregistered family members and friends who also tend most plots.
- A place of interest and beauty for neighbors and visitors to the garden
- Three free plots for school classes at Dowling Elementary School
- Gardeners donated over 3,800 pounds of produce to foodshelves such as Sabathani, Keystone, and the Aliveness Project
- Maintained an herb demonstration garden
- Maintained a seed saving and demo plot that provided seeds and garlic to *Seed Savers* and *Seeds of Canada*
- Held a spring plant sale that included a large variety of heirloom tomatoes and other vegetables
- Maintained the heirloom vegetable, herb and wildflower gardens at the Stevens House at Minnehaha Falls Park
- Maintained 4 flower beds at key points in the garden
- Gave a presentation at the Minneapolis Home Grown event about DCG today and its history, starting as a Victory Garden
- Gave 4 tours of the garden to interested groups
- Provided interviews and support for two television stories about the Garden
- Responded to continent-wide inquiries about raised bed construction, starting a community garden, and DCG history

In working together, we were able to support each other and our community with

- 25 loads of composted manure
- 3 summer classes on topics of interest to gardeners: Polinators, Seed-saving, and Integrated Pest Control
- Two large truckloads of premium woodchips delivered by the Minneapolis Park Board
- More than 400 packages of seeds and garlic bulbs were distributed to gardeners
- Installed pavers around the wheelchair accessible raised beds

In building our garden community we:

- Held 3 meet and greets, providing an opportunity for gardeners to meet one another, pick up free seeds and take home prizes from local merchants. Also enjoyed some coffee and breakfast treats!
- Provided an opportunity for gardeners to earn some dollars in growing seedlings for the Spring Plant Sale. (If you are interested in growing plants for the 2012 sale, please reply to this message.)
- Maintained a Dowling Community Garden facebook page so that member gardeners and supporters can share and have some dialogue

But none of this would have been possible if people had not stepped forward to take on the many jobs! Thank you!!

- Water Coordinators: Steve S and Diane D
- Monthly Clean-up coordinators: Henri M, Laura H, Kathy and Brent S, Beverly G, Craig H, Sarah H, and Matt T. Special thanks to Ginny Z for overall organization.
- Flower Garden Coordinator: Jim C and Mary Ann M
- Minneapolis Parks Department for providing two large loads of premium woodchips free of charge, and to gardener Philip V for his persistence in arranging for the deliveries
- Website maintenance by Charlie B
- All those who contributed to the seed giveaways
- All those who gave to the surplus produce food shelf program (THANKS!)
- Garry G, Bill N, John H, Perry D. and other gardener-volunteers for putting in the raised-bed pavers
- Orientation leaders Karen V.W. and Kim W
- Nancy M for facilitating our midsummer teaching events and to Jim C for his pollinator presentation, Charlie B for his seed-saving presentation and Neil C for his presentation on integrated pest management
- Gardening Matters for providing liability insurance to the garden this season
- Meet & Greet Coordinator: Linda S. for securing prizes for the events

The 2012 plot renewal registration forms were mailed on January 21 to all primary plot-holders. As usual, forms must be returned by March 1 to avoid the late fee. It may feel early, but time flies and lately it seems that spring is coming sooner.

Please be sure to send any changes to your contact information to info@dowlingcommunitygarden.org -- help us be able to keep you informed about your community garden by the river!

Warmest wishes!

Dowling Community Garden Steering Committee