



Dowling Garden Spring Cleanup is Saturday, May 3

Come meet your gardening neighbors and help prepare the common garden areas for a new season. We will clean up debris, get out the water barrels, repair the shed, install a new picnic table, prepare accessible raised beds and complete other seasonal chores. Meet at the shed; 10 AM-12 noon.

Bring garden tools (rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, pruners), weed trimmers, lawn mowers, trash bags, garden gloves.

This is a great opportunity to contribute hours toward your service requirement. You'll also get to know other gardeners and have fun!

WATER BARREL *Filling Demonstration on Cleanup Day*

Have you volunteered to fill water barrels this season? A demonstration will be given at 11 AM on Cleanup Day showing how to access water spigots, flush the system and fill barrels.

FREE SEEDS *Available for Dowling Gardeners*

Attend Spring Cleanup and select from vegetable and flower seeds donated by Minnesota State Horticultural Society's Minnesota Green program and the Urban Lands program of the Sustainable Resources Center.

How to Report Your SERVICE HOURS

Here's a reminder that gardeners are required to work four hours of time each season, per plot. You selected activities and agreed to help at the garden when you rented a plot this season.

Gardeners are responsible for keeping track of their service hours. Call the Dowling phone line within a week of your activity and let us know your name, activity performed and date it was completed, and time spent. All service hours must be completed by November 30, 2003. The Dowling phone line number is 651/255-6607.



SPRING GARDENING TIP

Row Covers work for plants that do not require pollination to set fruit (or cover plants until flowers begin to form, then remove). Use row covers to control leaf miners, flea beetles, cabbage moth caterpillars and other flying insects or their larva. You must use the covers when you plant your crop, before you have a problem with insects.

SPRING
CLEANUP IS
SATURDAY
MAY 3
10:00-Noon

Spring Planting Date: JUNE 1

Make sure your garden is planted by June 1st. Unplanted plots will be assumed to be abandoned, and you may forfeit your plot if your garden is not planted in a timely manner.

Keep Your PATHWAYS CLEAR!

Help maintain the pathway next to your garden, so gardeners can easily pass by. Keep rocks, weeds and garden debris out of this area; make sure garden plants remain in your plot; mow grass or put in wood chips; and make sure the pathway is accessible for carts and lawn mowers.

Please note the regulation about common pathways in the garden:

"You are responsible for half of the path next to your plot. Paths must be kept clear of weeds, rocks, garden plants, and be level so that a cart or person can pass through. There is a community garden push lawn mower in the shed you may use. Please do not use carpeting, roofing materials or other non-organic materials on common pathways."

Also keep raspberry bushes and plants that have a tendency to creep within your own plot. Respect other gardeners' plot boundaries, and don't remove the stakes that define your garden edges.

A Call for SURPLUS PRODUCE

Fresh Food for Those Who Are Unable to Grow Their Own We would like to encourage Dowling gardeners to share the bounty a garden provides with members of our community who are unable to easily procure fresh produce. This can be done by planting a few extra vegetables in your plot or by designating part of your regular harvest to be shared with those in need.

As the season progresses, we will select days of the week for "shared harvests." Garden volunteers will pick up donated produce from a central garden location and deliver it to several food distribution sites in South Minneapolis.

According to coordinators at the food pantries and the food preparation kitchens, the most requested vegetables are tomatoes, peas, green beans, corn, salad and cooking greens, and cucumbers. However all vegetables are welcome and will be happily eaten!

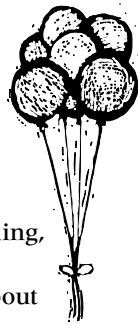
Look for a postcard in late spring outlining the specifics regarding the time and place for vegetable donations. If you would like more information about this program, contact the surplus food coordinator, Emilie Liepa, at 612/724-9065.



60th Anniversary CELEBRATION July 12

This year, the Dowling Garden celebrates its 60th anniversary. The garden began in the spring of 1943 as a Victory Garden during World War II. (An oral history of the garden may be found at the Dowling Garden website, www.dowlingcommunitygarden.org.)

Dowling is a very special place for those who garden here, for neighbors and for those who find us and wander through. A birthday celebration is being planned for July 12; we will have a cake and invite the community to join us! Activities for this day include tours of the gardens and demonstration plots, a display of foods and flowers grown at Dowling, cover crop information and seed giveaway, garden items raffle. There will be informational displays about the garden's history and place in the community. A Master Gardener will be available to answer questions.



We are interested in hearing your ideas, and need gardeners to help out with this event. You may staff an information table, help serve cake and lemonade, give garden tours, help to set up and take down tables and chairs, publicize the event: we need all kinds of skills. Please contact the garden phone line, 651/255-6607, and let us know how you'd like to participate.

This is a great opportunity for us to show the city that the Dowling Community Garden is a wonderful asset to the community. Take pride in your garden! Plant flowers, keep it tidy (and especially weed before the 12th).

DEMONSTRATION PLOTS

Dowling Community Garden will have two demonstration plots this season, showing use of cover crops and growing and saving seed from heirloom tomatoes. The Minnesota State Horticultural Society made grant money available to community garden groups to demonstrate principles of organic gardening. Dowling gardener Charles Bowler proposed ideas for the plot at Dowling, we applied for the grant, and recently learned that Dowling was selected as a demonstration site. Our plots will include three sections that demonstrate the use of different cover crops to reduce weeding, supply nutrients and save water. We will also be growing heirloom tomatoes and showing how to save seeds.

The demonstration plots are located near the main pathway and north water barrels where gardeners and neighbors frequently pass. There will be signs explaining the techniques. Public tours of the plot will be given from 10:30-12 noon on July 12, at the 60th Anniversary celebration. Refreshments will be served. Handouts about seed saving and cover crops, and a limited number of free cover crop seeds will be available for gardeners at the Anniversary celebration to plant their own cover crops.

Field Trip to HERITAGE FARM

Dowling gardeners are talking about a trip to Decorah, Iowa for the annual convention at Seed Savers Exchange Heritage Farm. Dates are July 19-20. Activities planned for the weekend include tours of the demonstration gardens, workshops, seed swaps and a barn dance. Keynote speaker is William Woys Weaver, garden and food writer. If you are interested in carpooling, call the garden phone line, 651/255-6607, and leave a message. Someone will get back to you with more information.

The Seed Savers Exchange is a non-profit organization that is saving heirloom garden seeds from extinction. SSE's main focus is on heirloom varieties that gardeners and farmers brought to North America when their families immigrated, and traditional varieties grown by Native Americans, Mennonites and Amish. For information: www.seedsavers.org.

HAVE A GREAT GARDENING SEASON!

Dowling Community Gardeners:

**10% OFF A ONE-TIME
PURCHASE OF PLANTS AT
MOTHER EARTH GARDENS**

Valid for 2003; please present this coupon

GO TO WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDENING.ORG FOR SEED-STARTING INFORMATION, GARDENING TIPS, RECIPES AND WEBSITE LINKS!

Dowling Community Garden

PO Box 6757
Minneapolis, MN 55406
651/255-6607

Forward and Address Correction Requested