

August 2010 Dowling Community Garden Newsletter

The "dog days" of summer are here. It is hot and humid, but we recently had some much-needed rain. These conditions promote rapid growth of crops, but also of weeds. Harvest your produce. Weed your plot. Keep your plants off the paths. Stay on top of your garden, don't let it get away from you!

Saturday, August 21 Parade of Community Gardens 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

This is an opportunity to see what is going on in some other community gardens around the Twin Cities. For more information, see <http://gardeningmatters.org/events/parade.html> .

September 11 Seed Giveaway and Meet-and-Greet 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Join us for a small seed give away, coffee and some breakfast treats. This would be a good time to meet some of your fellow gardeners, swap garden woes and successes. If you have any seeds to give away, please bring them the morning of the event. This event will be held in conjunction with the already-scheduled September 11 clean-up day (see below). If you are assigned to clean-up and you signed up for the day, drink your coffee, collect your seeds, and get to work! Otherwise, socialize for a while and then take care of your own plot.

Service Hours

As the summer begins to wind down, it is very important to complete your required garden service hours. Each garden is required to contribute 4 hours of service per season. These can be done by the primary gardener, garden partner, relative or friend. The key is to get your assignment from your task coordinator, perform the service, and submit a Service Reporting slip documenting the work. Gardens which did not provide all 4 hours of service last year had the remaining service time added to this year's requirement. This information was printed at the top of your registration form. Note that the rules provide that if a garden has "carry-over" hours and does not fulfill them, in addition to this year's 4 hours of service, that garden will not be renewed next year. We have a long waiting list, and 4 hours of service per year is not much to ask.

September Clean-Up Day

The next clean-up day will be held on September 11, from 10 a.m. to noon. If you are assigned to clean-up duty, a sign-up sheet will be on the inside of the tool shed door starting on or about August 21. **Only** those gardeners assigned to clean-up should use the sign-up sheet. This clean-up will be limited to 15 gardeners assigned to clean-up, so sign up early. Note that signing up allows you to work on the specified day. To get credit for your service time, you must submit a Service Reporting slip after you complete your service. Remaining clean-up days are October 2, and October 30. Time is running out. Complete your service hours and avoid the last-minute rush!

Food Donation

With hot days and recent rain, vegetables are ripening rapidly. There are way too many vegetables going to waste around the Garden. Please harvest your produce. If you can't use it yourself, please contribute it to the DCG food collection program. Check the pickup schedule in the kiosk on the shed door and get your produce to the coolers and buckets as close as possible to the pickup time.

Lost and Found Box

There is now a small red plastic Lost and Found bin in the shed. You will find it on the floor of the shed, next to the west wall under the water bayonets. Linda S. one of our gardeners provided the bin for us for us. Thank you Linda!