

Dowling Community Garden

Happy New Year fellow gardeners!

As the snow seems to get ever higher, 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 67 years!

In 2010, the Garden provided the neighborhood/community

- 178 plots that were tended by 296 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 children at Dowling Elementary School
- Maintained a garden plot where all the produce went to the food shelves (Sabathani, Keystone, Aliveness Project)
- Gardeners donated over 4,000 pounds of produce to the same food shelves
- 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 and herb garden at the Stevens House at Minnehaha Falls Park
- Maintained 4 flower beds at key points in the garden
- Gave 6 tours of the garden, including one for a group from Japan!

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

- 18 yards of compost (8 were free and another 10 were at reduced cost thanks to the City of Minneapolis)
- 14 loads of composted manure
- A large truckload of premium wood chips
- More than 450 packages of seeds and garlic bulbs were distributed to gardeners
- Installed pavers at the entrance of the tool shed – no more mud hole!

In building our garden community we:

- Held two 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 2011 sale, reply to this message.)
- Started 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.
- Food Shelf Plot Coordinator: Susan R
- Flower Garden Coordinator: Shelley S and Maryann M
- Bratt Landscaping (local business) for providing an entire load of premium wood chips free of charge (THANKS!)
- Website maintenance by Charlie B
- All those who contributed to the seed giveaways
- All those who gave to the surplus produce program (thanks!)
- Garry G, Perry D, and Bill N for fixing the shed lock and putting in the shed pavers
- Orientation leaders Karen V.W. and Kim W
- Meet and Greet Coordinators, Linda S who procured small prizes for the spring event, and Susan P who graciously helped out at the last minute when we had no one to get food for the fall event.
- Gardening Matters for providing liability insurance to the garden this season

Gardeners should watch for your 2011 renewal information in your mail sometime in the last week of January or the first week of February. A message to all primary gardeners will be sent when the renewal forms are mailed. 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