



Update on the Future of the Dowling Community Garden Site

The Minneapolis School Board proposed building a new school on the Dowling Garden site in mid-August. These proposals were removed from the formal plans presented to the community in September after School Board members, Minneapolis City Council members, and the mayor received many comments from residents and gardeners expressing support for the Garden and the surrounding green space.

SCHOOL BOARD PLANS Community meetings were held on September 10 & 15 to discuss plans to consolidate schools in the Longfellow area. Current plans call for constructing a new school on the Hiawatha School site, and closing Sanford and Howe. Parents and neighborhood residents want more time to study the options, and some are calling for renovation of existing schools instead of new construction. The School Board is scheduled to make a final decision by November 30.

GARDEN PERMANENCE It is important that we work toward securing a commitment from the School Board and the city that the Dowling site will be preserved, as currently exists. (There was talk about removing the garden to another location, or leveling it during construction, then reconstructing it in a smaller area.)

School Board members, City Council members who represent this area, and Mayor Rybak have heard from their constituents about the value of green space at the Dowling site, and the historical significance of the Garden. We will continue to work toward getting their commitments to preserve the Dowling space, while the issue is still current. If you are interested in working to help gain garden permanence, call the garden phone line, 651/255-6607, and leave a message.

A HUGE THANK YOU Many thanks to everyone who has been working intensively on this issue for the past 6 weeks. To those who wrote letters, sent emails and made phone calls to the Minneapolis School Board, City Council and the Mayor: it is through your efforts that this important community resource has been recognized.

Dowling Celebration Marks Garden's 60TH ANNIVERSARY

More than 100 people gathered to celebrate the Garden's 60th birthday on July 12. Morning activities featured organic gardening demonstrations on growing cover crops, and growing and saving seeds of heirloom tomatoes. A Master Gardener was on hand to answer questions about plants and insects. At noon, we cut the birthday cake and served lemonade. Garden items donated by area merchants, and a grand prize gift basket filled with just-picked produce, were given away in early afternoon. During the day, people toured the gardens, looked

at photos and a history of the Dowling Garden, and took home gardening information.

Paul Olsen and his wife attended, with photos of Paul and his family in a World War II Dowling garden plot! Robert Page, who has lived across the street for nearly 50 years, also had information to share. This additional history will be documented and added to our history book and web site.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED make this Anniversary celebration a success. Many gardeners volunteered time and skills by preparing publicity, planting and maintaining demonstration plots, setting up/cleaning up for the event, securing door prizes, preparing and serving refreshments, baking the cake.

Thank you also to merchants contributing to our success:

Mother Earth Gardens, Falls Hardware, Lunds, Minnehaha Falls Nursery, Seward Coop.



Door prize winners at Anniversary celebration

Fall Clean-up and HARVEST DINNER

Join your fellow gardeners for a day of seasonal activities! In the morning, we'll prepare the gardens for winter (*see notice below*). In the evening, we'll gather for a potluck dinner and share stories and photos. Please RSVP to the Dowling voice-mail, 651/255.6607 by October 16 if you will attend. We can use your help; call if you can set up before or clean up after the event. Hope to see you there!

When: October 18, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Location: Hiawatha School Park, 4301 East 43rd Street

Bring a dish to share and serving utensils. Beverages will be provided. We encourage you to bring plates and utensils to reduce waste, but paper plates will be available if you forget.

Fall Garden Clean-up Day:

OCTOBER 18, 10AM - NOON



Come and help clean up the garden areas before winter. We will be raking leaves, cleaning up along the fence, storing water barrels, organizing the shed, path maintenance and other seasonal chores. Bring rakes, pruners, lawn mowers, trash bags, work gloves.

If you haven't fulfilled your volunteer requirement this year, you should plan to attend. You'll get to know other gardeners, and it's fun! Meet at the shed rain or shine.



FALL GARDENING TIP

Prepare for Winter Water your perennials well this Fall, before the ground freezes, especially evergreens. Mulch with hay, leaves or evergreen branches after the ground has frozen to protect plants through to Spring.

Questions about WATERING

During this dry summer, many gardeners have been using hoses to water their plots. This has prompted questions from other gardeners regarding whether this is OK. So here is the watering policy:

It's OK to water your garden with a hose, if you bring the hose. People who need to fill the barrels or water trees have first priority, and you must stop watering if they are waiting. Water usage is limited to 30 minutes if others are waiting for a turn at the spigot.

Be careful to avoid damaging plants when navigating hoses through the garden!

Reminder: Clean up Your Garden by NOVEMBER 2

Your garden must be cleaned up by this date. Remove dead plants to compost pile (located east of the orchard; take to back of the pile) and take down seasonal plant supports. Arrange leaf bags neatly on your plot.

SEED/TOOLS GIVEAWAY October 18

Vegetable and flower seeds from Minnesota Green (*a program of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society*) and Sustainable Resources Center, and garden tools donated by Minnehaha Falls Nursery, will be available to Dowling gardeners at the morning Clean-up and the evening Harvest Potluck.

Garden CIVILITY

A few Dowling gardeners have shown rude behavior when called by volunteers. This is a *community* garden, and we need to behave kindly toward one another. Rude behavior has no place at the Dowling Garden. It is expected that all gardeners will be treated respectfully.

Please Report Your SERVICE HOURS

Thanks for the patience you've shown with our new service hours requirement for reporting.

All service hours must be reported by November 30. Gardeners are required to work four hours of time each season, per plot. Call the garden phone line, 651/255-6607, if you haven't reported your hours this season. Let us know your name, activity performed and when, and time spent.

Dowling Garden NEEDS YOUR HELP

A small group of volunteers makes decisions regarding the Garden. These decisions include yearly management issues, to long-range plans and improvements.

Do you have practical ideas about how things could run more smoothly? Dreams about improving the garden space? We really need committed individuals to help with garden management on a regular basis.

If you'd like to join the Dowling Garden Committee, please call the garden phone line, 651/255-6607, and let us know. Meetings are the third Tuesday each month.

Chard Cheese Pie

6 cups lightly cook chard, well drained
2 cups low-fat cottage cheese
2 eggs, beaten
juice of 1 lemon
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup bread crumbs
paprika

Beat together the cottage cheese, eggs, lemon juice and salt. Stir a cup of this mixture into the chard. Press chard mixture into a well-greased 8" x 8" pan. Spread the remaining cottage cheese mixture evenly over the top. Sprinkle on the bread crumbs and paprika. Bake at 350F for 30 minutes or until set. Allow to stand for several minutes before cutting into squares.

Variations:

Add 3/4 cup Swiss cheese to the chard mixture. Omit lemon juice. Substitute spinach or kale for the chard. Add a chopped, sauteed onion.

(excerpted from *New Laurel's Kitchen: A handbook for vegetarian cookery and nutrition* by Laurel Robertson, Carol Flinders, and Brian Ruppenthal. Berkeley, CA, Ten Speed Press, 1986)

GO TO WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDEN.ORG FOR GARDEN NEWS UPDATES, HISTORY, GARDENING TIPS, RECIPES AND WEBSITE LINKS!

Dowling Community Garden

PO Box 6757

Minneapolis, MN 55406

Forward and Address Correction Requested

Calendar of Events

- OCT 18** Fall Clean-up Day, 10 AM – Noon
Harvest Potluck Dinner, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Hiawatha School Park, 4301 E 43rd Street
- NOV 2** Have your garden cleaned up by this date
- NOV 30** Report your 2003 service hours