



# DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

FEBRUARY 2002  
GARDEN RENTAL AGREEMENT

## newsletter

### *Welcome Back to the Dowling Community Garden!*

We want to welcome back returning gardeners and extend a warm welcome to new gardeners. We hope everyone has a successful gardening season!

### *Your Commitment to COMMUNITY Gardening*

Dowling Garden is a community effort and depends on everyone's participation to be successful. Please give serious consideration to the level of your involvement in the activities that keep Dowling going.

Dowling is a large community garden – about 160 plots – and a great deal of effort goes into making the garden run each season. There is much work to be performed throughout the season, yet only a few hours of time is required from each gardener. *We need each and every one of you to follow through on your commitments to volunteer your time and talents.* It takes all of us to make Dowling an attractive, productive and safe place to garden.

The garden is run by volunteers (a Garden Manager and the Garden Planning Committee) who meet on the third Tuesday every month. We invite you to join the Committee; please contact Garden Manager Joan Krey at 651/255-6607 if you have questions or would like more information. If you have an issue you'd like to bring to the committee's attention, please call two weeks before the upcoming meeting to be placed on the agenda.

### **GARDEN RENT is Due March 20th!**

To keep your garden plot this year, please send \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and the signed agreement form on page 3 by March 20, 2002. *If your money is not received by this date, you forfeit your plot and it will be given to someone on the waiting list.*

Please call or write immediately if you don't want a garden space this year; there is a waiting list of eager gardeners. Make your check payable to **Dowling Community Garden.**

### **Increase in Garden Plot RENTAL FEES**

It's been necessary to raise garden plot rental fees to cover higher administrative costs. Water quality testing, phone service, PO box rental, website hosting, as well as garden improvements added to our expenses last year. Garden rental fees in the Twin Cities average \$15-20; Dowling Community Garden is still a very good value.

### *Spring 2002 Planting Date: JUNE 2*

→ *Your garden must be planted by Sunday, June 2*

Let us know if you do not want your garden space. Unplanted plots will be assumed to be abandoned and will be given to a person on the waiting list.

### *About FENCES . . . .*

The school has requested that nothing be grown on the perimeter fence, and that we maintain a 12" buffer space between garden plants and the fenceline. This includes plants that grow up to or through the fence. This rule will be strictly enforced! Use landscape fabric and/or wood-chips to control weeds. 46th Avenue gardeners are also responsible for keeping the area outside of the fence, up to the sidewalk, free from weeds.

### *...and PATHWAYS*

Please 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.

### **Dowling Garden WEBSITE**

Visit [www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org](http://www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org) for seasonal gardening information. We anticipate having gardening tips, seed starting ideas, recipes and food preserving techniques and other web resources. You can also find more information on the Minnesota state pesticide/herbicide regulations, and ideas for chemical-free gardening.



### **Garden Clean-up Day is May 4, 10 AM - Noon**

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, remove graffiti and complete other seasonal chores.

Bring garden tools (rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, pruners), weed trimmers, lawn mowers, trash bags, scrub brushes to clean graffiti, garden gloves.

This is a great opportunity to fulfill your volunteer requirement, get to know other gardeners, have fun!

# DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES

*In the spirit of community and to clarify everyone's part in this Garden, these basic rules have been developed by the Garden Planning Committee. Some of these rules have been requested by the school, others are Minneapolis ordinance or Minnesota law; some exist to ensure that we fulfill our obligations to neighboring residents and other gardeners at Dowling. When you rent a plot, you agree to follow these rules and actively participate in garden activities. Gardeners who violate these rules will be contacted and may forfeit their garden plot if problems are not resolved.*

- 1. Pay the rent** for your plot by the time designated in the spring newsletter.
- 2. Plant your plot** by the time designated. Unplanted plots will be assumed abandoned and forfeited.
- 3. Clean up your garden plot** at the end of the season.
- Each gardener is required to **volunteer** their time for the garden (*see list of volunteer opportunities on page 3*).
- 5. Your plot is not transferable.** You may not permanently give your plot to another person. A one-season temporary transfer is possible, however. If you seasonally sublet your plot to someone else, let Garden Manager Joan Krey know.
- 6. Weeds:** Weeds that spread into neighboring plots can become a source of tension and frustration among gardeners. Weeds must not be allowed to become taller than 8 inches according to City Code. If your weeds get out of control, consider hiring someone to cut them down.
- 7. No trees are allowed** in garden plots; if any grow up, please cut them down.
- 8. Paths:** 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.
- 9. Rocks:** If removing rocks from your garden, do not place on paths or grassy areas; place within the confined rock area on school lawn (near path at east end of garden). Do not place rocks on the school compost pile!
- 10. Compost:** There is a large compost area on the east side of the orchard along the fence. Keep sticks separate from other plant debris. Use this area or compost on your plot; compost piles must appear neat. Do not place garden debris anywhere else on the property, especially garden pathways and common areas. Do not place non-compostable items or trash in school compost area.
- 11. note rule change: Fences** surrounding the Garden are school property and must not be tampered with. Do not grow plants on or through the perimeter fence! Per school requirement, we must maintain a 1' buffer between garden plants and the fence. Use landscape fabric and/or woodchips to create a buffer area. 46th Avenue ploholders are responsible for keeping the fence area clear of plants/weeds outside the fence up to the sidewalk.

**12.** In order to make the garden more attractive for neighboring residents, please keep **bags of leaves** on your plot, not next to the main fences or in the paths. Bags must be kept neat – some neighbors have complained. Use wood or white fencing; no orange plastic snow fences, please.

**13. new rule:** MN state law prohibits the **use of pesticides and herbicides** on school property (*visit the Dowling website – [www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org](http://www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org) – for more information*).

**14. Respect the school property.** Don't dump anything in the woods, and do not bring motorized vehicles on school property.

**15. Do not pick fruit or vegetables** from another plot unless you have been given permission. Many gardeners will happily share their excess produce if asked.

**16.** Gardeners are responsible for giving the Garden Manager any **change of address** or telephone.

**17. Pets:** Keep your pets out of other gardens; clean up after your pets on school property.

## *Procedure for Rules Violations*

The Garden Planning Committee has established these procedures when Garden rules have been violated:

**First rule violation:** The Garden Planning Committee phones the gardener to explain the problem. The gardener has one week to resolve the problem.

If the problem has not been taken care of at the end of the week, the Committee sends the gardener a letter. This letter will re-state the problem and give the gardener one additional week to resolve the problem. It will also let the gardener know that if the problem is not corrected, the plot will be forfeited.

If the problem is still unresolved one week after the gardener receives the letter, the gardener receives written notice that the plot has been forfeited and the rental fee will not be refunded.

For a **second rule violation** (within a two year period), the gardener will receive a letter and have one week to resolve the problem. The gardener will be considered on probation; an additional violation means plot forfeiture.

For a **third rule violation** (within a two year period), the gardener will receive a letter stating the plot has been forfeited and the rental fee will not be returned.

*Questions about rules? Call the Dowling phone line, 651/255-6607.*

## Helping Your Garden Grow: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Dowling Community Garden is, first and foremost, a community of people who donate their time and energy to maintain this land as a pleasant place to garden. In order to build that community and share responsibilities fairly, the Garden Planning Committee requires each gardener to commit to one or more of the following responsibilities each season.

This is a chance for you to meet other gardeners and help your community garden grow! Please read through this list of activities and select those that fit your personality, interests and schedule. Fill in your choice(s) on the Agreement Form below.

### Volunteer Coordinators

Help organize and monitor volunteer activities

### Garden Planning Committee

Meet monthly (on the third Tuesday, 7-9 PM) to oversee all garden activities, plan for future projects, make and enforce garden rules

### Water

Work with the Water Coordinator as part of a team to keep water barrels filled. *We are especially in need of an Assistant to help the Water Coordinator, as well as volunteers to fill water barrels (weekday and weekend volunteers are needed)*

### Phoning

Help spread the word about announcements, clean-ups, special activities

### Shed Maintenance

Clean up tools, repair shed or gutters, weed around shed

### Weed Monitoring

Check plots for overgrown weeds, phone gardeners to discuss weed problem, follow-up monitoring

### Spring & Fall Clean-up Days/Ongoing Debris Clean-up

Pick up litter, perform seasonal chores (weeding, raking, hauling debris, water barrels) and maintenance as needed

### Landscaping/Construction for Special Projects

Path preparation, garden bed preparation and planting, improvements construction, etc.

### Hauling/Delivery

Pick up tools and equipment, get wood chips or compost, run other errands

### Fence Repair and Maintenance

Arrange for repairs to fence, remove weeds or overgrown plants along sidewalk

### Pathway and Garden Plot Borders Maintenance

Re-stake pathways and garden plots, clear paths of weeds and garden materials, mow paths

### Flower Garden Weeding/Maintenance

### Resource Person for Gardening Questions

Answer other gardeners' questions or provide referrals

### Potluck Dinner Organizer

Arrange for location, materials

### Newsletter and Website Contributors

Write articles, provide resource materials, supply photos or artwork

## DOWNLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

## RENTAL AGREEMENT 2002

Please complete this form and send it, with your rent check, by March 20, 2002 to:

Dowling Community Garden  
PO Box 6757  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ (signatures) agree to follow The Dowling Community Garden rules (page 2).

I/We have enclosed a check, made payable to *Dowling Community Garden*, for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I/We volunteer for the following garden responsibilities (required – see above):

Complete name/address/telephone information must be provided for each plot holder, or your application will be returned. Please print.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## SEED SAVERS at Kelley Farm March 3

Learn about saving seeds and preserving garden vegetable varieties and hear a program on Midwestern garden history and the seed savers exchange. Manager Jim Mattson will preview the farm's living-history programs and special events for 2002.

Presentations will be followed by a seed swap. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own favorite varieties to share. 2-4 p.m., Oliver H. Kelley Farm, Hwy 10 (2.5 miles southeast of Elk River), 763-441-6896. There is no admission charge for this event.

## ORGANIC GARDENING Workshops

Saturdays 11 - 12 noon, February 16 - March 23  
Brackett Park, 2728 39th Avenue South, Minneapolis

Attending these workshops on organic gardening (building soil, selecting the right plants, using the resources of the natural world as the basic building blocks of a healthy garden without chemical fertilizers or pesticides) will give you information to comply with our new state law and still have a productive garden.

February 16	Organic Gardening ABC's
February 23	Composting and Mulching
March 2	Building and Amending Soil
March 16	Beneficial Insects, Bee Basics
March 23	Companion Planting

**Fees and Registration** The Organic Gardening Series is \$5 per workshop or \$25 for all five workshops. A minimum of five registrants is required to hold the class. Call Corrie Zoll at 612/278-7119.

*These workshops are sponsored by: Farm in the City, Green Space Partners, Urban Lands Program, MSHS' MN Green, and U of M Extension Service—Master Gardeners*

## GARDEN RESOURCES

**Rototilling** Contact these fellow gardeners for garden rototilling at a reasonable cost (*call for prices*):

Clarence Day	612/724-4973
Jeff Wagner	612/722-8920
Steve Dosch	612/729-1865

**Soil Testing** Call the Minnesota Extension Service Yard & Garden Line, 612/624.4771, for directions on sending soil samples to the University's Soil Testing Laboratory. You can also listen to dozens of tapes about Spring lawn and garden activities.

**Woodchips** are available for pickup at the following south Minneapolis locations: East 54th Street and Hiawatha on frontage road; East 50th Street between 28th and 31st Aves; north side of Lake Nokomis between East 50th St and 22nd Ave South; Wabun Park in the lower lot on west side of road; and Matthews Park parking lot at 28th Ave South and East 24th Street.

**Compost** is available for pickup (*for Minneapolis residents*) at SKB Environmental, 630 Malcolm Avenue SE, 612/331-4610. Please call before you go.



**Longfellow Garden Club** meets on the second Wednesday each month, 7 PM at Longfellow Park. Meetings are free and open to the public, and cover a wide range of gardening and landscaping topics.

*Have gardening information you'd like to contribute to this newsletter? Call the Dowling Community Garden phone line, 651/255-6607.*



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