

## DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

**DOWLING** 

COMMUNITY

GARDEN

Celebrating 60

Years

1943 - 2003

FEBRUARY 2003 GARDEN RENTAL AGREEMENT

# newsletter

# Dowling Community Garden has a Birthday!

This year, the Dowling Garden celebrates its 60th anniversary. In the spring of 1943, Rose Pearson and her husband, who

lived near Dowling School, started a Victory Garden at Dowling. World War II was at its height and there were food shortages and rationing. An oral history of the garden may be found at the Dowling Garden website (www.Dowling CommunityGarden.org). Dowling and a Boston Victory Garden are in competition for being the oldest continuously cultivated community gardens in the U.S.

This is a very special place for those who garden here, for neighbors and for those who find us and wander through. Let's take this opportunity to celebrate our history by taking pride in our garden! We are planning a

community celebration for mid-to-late summer, including food, music, and classes. We are interested in hearing your ideas, and need volunteers to help out with this event.

## New Policy: SERVICE COMMITMENT of 4 Hours for Each Plot

Dowling is a large community garden – about 160 plots – and takes a great deal of effort to be successful each season. From scheduled clean-ups to water barrel filling, plot monitoring to flower bed maintenance, shed repair, phoning, mowing – there is a job suitable for every gardener!

Dowling Garden is a community effort and depends on everyone's participation. For the past three years, we've required that you volunteer to help maintain the garden, and many of you have shared your skills and time. Unfortunately, many of you have not honored the service agreements made when you rented your plot.

Gardeners are now required to work 4 hours of time each season, per plot. Please select the activities that best suit you (from the list on page 3) and indicate your choices on the Rental Agreement. In the event that many gardeners sign up for the same activity, requests will be filled on a first come basis.

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

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; call the Dowling phone line at 651/255-6607 if you have questions or want more information. To bring an issue to the committee's attention, please call two weeks before the meeting to be placed on the agenda.

## GARDEN RENT is Due March 1!

For garden plot rental, please send \$\_\_\_\_\_ and the signed agreement form by March 1, 2003.

Plot rentals received after March 1 and before March 15 will be charged an additional \$5.00, so get yours in on time!.

Registrations will not be accepted after March 15; your garden will be forfeited and given to the next person on the waiting list.

Please call 651/255-6607 immediately if you don't want a garden space this year; we have a waiting list of gardeners. Make your check payable to **Dowling Community Garden**.

## Spring Planting Date: JUNE 1

Gardens must be planted by Sunday, June 1 Unplanted plots will be assumed to be abandoned. You will be contacted and may forfeit your plot if your garden is not planted

in a timely manner.

#### DOWLING NEWS!

- Look for a *picnic table* near the sign this spring. The table will be installed at the clean-up May 3. Eat lunch in the garden!
- Dowling Garden institutes the "Gardener of the Month" award! Do you have an interesting gardening style? Plant unique varieties? Grow lots of flowers? Have a tidy plot? We'd like to recognize gardeners and their hard work. The Garden Planning Committee will select a garden for special attention in July, August and September. (If yours is selected, we'll call and ask for permission.) Look for the colored banner in the award-winning plot.
- Consider planting flowers among your vegetables. It will encourage beneficial insects and pollinators, give you lots of continued on page 5



## SPRING GARDEN CLEAN-UP May 3, 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, install a new picnic table 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 service 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.

Rules 1, 2 and 3 require strict compliance. Gardeners who violate these rules will be contacted and will immediately forfeit their garden plot. Gardeners who violate other rules will be contacted, and may forfeit their garden plot if problems are not resolved (see "Procedures" below). If you receive 3 violations in a two-year period, you will be contacted and your plot forfeited. Rental fees will not be returned to those whose plots have been forfeited due to rules violations.

- 1. *Pay the rent* for your plot by the time designated in the spring newsletter.
- **2.** Gardeners must *perform 4 hours of service* to the garden each season, per plot. Report to the Dowling phone line when service time has been given (see Service Agreement for more information).
- **3.** Use of pesticides and herbicides is prohibited in the garden (per Minnesota law; visit the Dowling website for more information—www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org).
- **4.** *Plant your plot* by the time designated. Unplanted plots will be assumed abandoned and forfeited.
- **5.** *Clean up your garden plot* by the time designated. Remove dead plants, take down seasonal plant supports, store items neatly on your plot.
- **6.** *Your plot is not transferable.* You may not permanently give your plot to another person. A one-season temporary transfer is possible, notify the Garden Planning Committee, 651/255-6607.
- 7. Keep your garden *neatly weeded* on a regular basis. Weeds may not become taller than 8 inches (*according to City Code.*) Weeds are a major complaint of neighbors and other gardeners.
- **8.** *No trees are allowed* in garden plots; if any grow up, please cut them down.
- 9. 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 nonorganic materials on common pathways.
- **10.** Do not place *rocks* on paths or grassy areas, or the school compost pile. Put rocks within the confined rock area on school lawn (near path at east end of garden).
- 11. There is a large *compost* area on the east side of the orchard along the fence. Keep sticks separate from other plant debris. If you compost on your plot, keep pile neat and properly made to prevent odors. Do not place garden debris anywhere else on the property, in garden pathways or common areas. Do not place non-compostable items or trash in school compost area.
- **12.** *Fences* surrounding the Garden are school property and must not be tampered with. Do not remove fencing on Dowling Street entrance. Do not grow plants on or through the

- perimeter fence. Maintain a 1' buffer between garden plants and the fence. Use landscape fabric and/or woodchips to create this buffer. 46th Avenue plotholders must keep the fence area clear of plants/weeds outside the fence up to the sidewalk.
- **12.** *Keep the garden attractive* for neighboring residents. Place bags of leaves on your plot, not next to the main fences or in the paths. Bags must be kept neatly stacked. Use wood or white fencing; no orange plastic snow fences, please.
- **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 without permission. Many gardeners will happily share their excess produce if asked.
- **16.** Report any *change of address* or telephone to the Dowling phone line, 651/255-6607.
- 17. Keep your *pets* out of other gardens; clean up after your pets on school property.

#### Procedures for Rules Violations

Violation of rules 1, 2 or 3 is grounds for immediate plot forfeiture. The Garden Planning Committee has established these procedures when other Garden rules have been violated:

*First rule violation:* The gardener receives a phone call to explain the problem, and has one week to resolve the problem.

If the problem has not been resolved at the end of the week, the Garden Planning Committee sends the gardener a letter. This letter will re-state the problem and give one additional week to resolve the problem, and lets 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 receives a letter and has 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 receives a letter stating the plot has been forfeited.

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

## Dowling Community Garden SERVICE COMMITMENT

Dowling Garden is a community of people who donate time and energy to maintain this land as a pleasant place to garden. In order to build that community and share responsibilities fairly, each gardener is required to commit 4 hours of time to garden activities each season, per plot. When you renew your garden plot, you agree to this commitment. This is a chance for you to meet other gardeners and help your community garden grow! Review the activities below and select those that fit your personality, interests and schedule. Fill in your first and second choices on the Rental Agreement form.

It is the responsibility of each gardener to keep track of service hours and report to the Dowling phone line after completing service commitments. Call 651/255-6607 and leave your name, work performed and the date it was completed, and number of hours worked. All service hours must be completed by November 30, 2003.

#### Work Coordinators (4)

Help organize and monitor gardener work activities

#### Surplus Produce Coordinator (2)

Design and implement a plan to collect extra produce from gardeners on a regular basis and donate to area food shelves, senior programs or others

#### Garden Planning Committee (2)

Meet monthly (on the third Tuesday, 7:30-9:30 PM) to oversee all garden activities, plan for future projects, make and enforce garden rules

#### Water - Assistant Coordinator (1-2)

Work with the Water Coordinator

#### Water - Filling Barrels (45)

Fill water barrels at least once per month for the gardening season

#### Outreach Coordinator (1)

Work with media and local organizations to keep them informed about Dowling Garden activities

#### Weed Coordinator (1)

Organize workers to check plots for overgrown weeds

#### Weed Monitoring (12)

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

#### School Liaison (1)

Be the contact person for the garden with Dowling School, work with educators to devise learning opportunities for students

#### Phoning (2)

Help spread the word about announcements, clean-ups, special activities. Contact gardeners about rules violations

#### Accessible Beds Maintenance (2)

Keep pathways in good repair and weeded for wheelchair access

# Spring *↔* Fall Clean-up Days/Ongoing Debris Clean-up (30) Pick up litter, perform seasonal chores (weeding, raking, hauling debris, water barrels) and maintenance as needed

#### Shed Maintenance (4)

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

#### Garden Plot Inspection (8)

Check gardens in spring to make sure they've been planted, and in fall to make sure they've been cleaned up

Landscaping/Construction for Special Projects (10)
Path preparation, garden bed preparation and planting, improvements construction, etc.

#### Hauling/Delivery (2-3)

Get wood chips or compost, run other errands as needed

#### Fence Repair and Maintenance (2)

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

#### Pathway and Garden Plot Borders Maintenance (6)

Re-stake pathways and garden plots, clear paths of weeds and garden materials, mow paths and common areas, place woodchips at entrances several times per season and keep woodchips tidy

#### Flower Garden Maintenance (6)

Weeding, watering, planting flowers (spring) and bulbs (fall)

#### Gardening Assistance (2)

Provide weeding, watering to other gardeners' plots when they are ill or on vacation

#### Newsletter and Website Contributors (2)

Write articles, provide resource materials, supply photos or artwork

### Wildlife Habitat Improvement (1)

Build and install birdhouses, bathouses to attract beneficial wildlife

Numbers in parentheses refer to the number of persons needed for this activity

## Dowling Community Garden RENTAL AGREEMENT 2003

Please complete this form and send it, with your rental payment, by March 1, 2003. After March 1 and before March 15, add \$5.00 for late registration. Registrations will not be accepted after March 15.

remit to: Dowling Community Garden

PO Box 6757

Minneapolis, MN 55406

I/We have read the Dowling Community lines will result in loss of gardening p		•			
stand that neither the Garden Planning			-		
my actions. I/We therefore agree to ho					nools for any
liability, damage, loss or claim that occ	curs in connecti	on with use of the garder	i by me/us or ar	ny guests.	
					_ (signature/s)
I/We have enclosed a check, made payal	ble to <i>Dowling</i> (	Community Garden, for \$	·		
I/We commit to the following garden res	enoncihilitias (m	inimum A haure per plat each	a caacam \ Dagues	te for carvice acti	vities will be
honored on a first come basis; get your					vities will be
Gardener Name					
		1.1.*			
first choice		second choice			
Gardener Name					
first choice		second choice			
Are you available	□ weekdays day(s) preferred for activities			□ weekends	□ holidays
Do you have a key to the shed?	□ yes	□ no			
Water volunteers:					
Where is your garden?	$\square$ north side	□ south side			
Need training for filling water barrels?	□ yes	□ no			
Dates you are unavailable this season					
Are you willing to be on group email list?	□ yes	□ no			
Complete contact information (* items) must	be provided for	each plot holder, or your a	ipplication will b	oe returned. Please	print.
, , ,	•		• •		•
Gardener Name*					
Address*					
City*		Zip*			
Home Telephone*	Work Telephon	e	Email		
$\ \square$ Are you willing to accept newsletters and	other garden corre	espondence in PDF format via	email?		
Gardener Name*					
Address*					
City*		Zip*			
Home Telephone*	Work Telephon	e	Email		
☐ Are you willing to accept newsletters and	other garden corre	espondence in PDF format via	email?		

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fresh bouquets, and make your garden colorful and attractive.

• We'd like to start a program to *collect excess produce* and distribute it to area food shelves and agencies on a regular basis. Stay tuned for more information.

## Reminder: NO PESTICIDE/HERBICIDE Use at Dowling

Since June 29, 2001 the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides have been prohibited at the Dowling Community Garden. The Janet B. Johnson Parents' Right-to-Know Act of 2000 (Article 7, Chapter 121A.30 Minnesota Statute) requires schools to notify parents every time pesticides are applied on school grounds. Since it is impossible for the school to notify parents every time a gardener applies these products, we have been told that gardeners will not be able to use them.

This law restricts the use of most common commercial products, including organic controls. To determine which products are acceptable or prohibited, go to our website, click on "Garden Rules", then click the "Pesticide Information" link which takes you to the MN Pesticide Information page. All products in toxicity categories 1-2-3 are prohibited at Dowling. Web address is www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org. (Don't have internet access? Call the Garden phone line, 651/255.6607, and leave a message with your name and number, and the specific products you'd like checked; someone will call you back.) Most, if not all, pesticides sold at local garden centers are prohibited from use. If you have any doubt about what to use, contact us; violation of this rule is grounds for garden forfeiture!

There are many actions you can take to prevent damage from insects or diseases. Know your bugs! Some are harmless, and others are easily controlled. Use gardening methods that discourage insect and disease problems. Practice crop rotation

and plant resistant varieties; use row covers and other barriers; mulch with black plastic or organic materials. Hand remove insects, use sticky traps, spray with water or home-made concoctions to control pests (make an all-purpose insect spray from 1 head garlic, 1 small onion, 1 tsp. powdered cayenne pepper, 1

quart water, 1 tb. liquid dish soap. Grind garlic and onion in blender or food processor until finely chopped. Add cayenne and water. Let steep for one hour, then strain through layers of cheesecloth or a fine-mesh strainer. Add dish soap and mix well. Put in pump sprayer; keep refrigerated when not in use. Lasts about a week.) Use companion planting and add flowers to your garden to attract beneficial insects.

Keep your soil healthy for robust plants that can withstand stress. Fertilize properly. Remove diseased plants from your garden. Ask your gardening neighbors for advice!

More information is available in newsletters from August 2001 and July 2002; see the website or call for copies.

## Please Report VANDALISM and THEFT

There were numerous instances of theft from gardens last summer, and vandalism of garden structures last fall. To help reduce problems, get to know other gardeners, especially near your plot; observe the garden for suspicious activity; grow items that are especially valued toward the center of your plot,

#### 2003 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### **JANUARY 11**

An enthusiastic group of gardeners gathered for snacks and warm beverages, and to swap seeds and place seed orders. We shared information on recommended varieties, seed starting and growing methods. Look for this to be a yearly event.

#### MARCH 1

Garden Rental Agreements and plot payments are due.

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Garden Spring Clean-up, 10 AM-Noon

#### JUNE '

Your garden must be planted by this date.

#### MID-SUMMER

Dowling Community Garden 60th Anniversary celebration.

#### OCTOBER 18

Garden Fall Clean-up, 10 AM-Noon.

#### **NOVEMBER 2**

Your garden must be cleaned up by this date. Remove dead plants to compost pile and take down seasonal plant supports. Arrange leaf bags neatly on your plot.

#### **NOVEMBER 30**

Service hours must be completed by this date.

where they are harder to reach. *Be on the lookout for vandalism and theft.* If you see someone unfamiliar picking from gardens, ask them to leave the garden unless they can explain why they are there. Alert your garden neighbors. Report what you notice to the Dowling phone line, 651/255-6607. Give a description of the incident, date and time of day it happened, what was damaged or stolen, where in garden this occurred. Also call 911 to make a report.

#### More About Your GARDEN....

**FENCES.** Nothing may be grown on the perimeter fence, and a 12" buffer space between garden plants and the fence line must be maintained. *This rule will be strictly enforced!* Use landscape fabric and/or woodchips to control weeds. 46th Avenue gardeners are responsible for weeding outside the fence to the sidewalk.

**PATHWAYS.** 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.

**PLOTS**. Plots are staked; please stay within your boundaries.

## Dowling Garden WEBSITE

Visit www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org for gardening tips, seed starting ideas, recipes and food preserving techniques, and other web resources. Also find information on MN pesticide/herbicide regulations, and ideas for chemical-free gardening.

## SEED SAVERS Exchange at Kelley Farm

MARCH 9. Learn about saving seeds and preserving garden vegetable varieties. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own favorite varieties to share. 2-4 PM, Oliver H. Kelley Farm, Hwy 10 (2.5 miles southeast of Elk River), 763/441-6896, on the web at http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/ohkf/. There is no admission charge for this event.

## Longfellow Garden Club PLANT SWAP

**MAY 14.** Bring perennial plants, extra flower or vegetable seedlings to trade with other neighborhood gardeners. 7 PM, Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Avenue South. Donation to the garden club suggested if you don't bring plants to trade.

## ORGANIC Gardening Classes

Wednesdays 6:30-8 PM, at the Center for Northern Gardening, 1755 Prior Avenue North, Falcon Heights

Minnesota State Horticultural Society is sponsoring a series of classes on Organic Gardening, designed to educate and inspire both the home and community gardener on utilizing an organic approach. Classes are still available this spring on the following organic gardening topics:

- Feb 19 Composting: making and using compost, compost bins
- Mar 12 Seed-starting, transplanting, direct seeding, germination, growth
- Apr 2 Controlling Pests and Weeds organically
- Apr 23 Harvest/Maintenance: deadheading, seed-saving, harvest, preparation for next year

Classes are \$5 per class. For more information contact the Minnesota State Horticultural Society at 651/643-3601, 1-800-676-6747, or Minnesota Green at www.northerngardener.org.

#### Local Gardening ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHECK THE WEBSITE!** Other classes and local events may be found at www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org.

#### GARDEN RESOURCES

**Rototilling** Contact these Dowling 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

Weeding If you need weeding assistance, contact this

Dowling gardener for help (call for price): Madeline Clive 612/721-8854

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 tapes about lawn and garden care.

Woodchips are available for pickup at the following south Minneapolis locations: Bossen Field on East 58th Street between 28th-31st Avenues; north side of Lake Nokomis between East 50th St and 22nd Ave South; Wabun Park in the lower lot on west side of road; west of Cedar Avenue adjacent to 29th Street between 17th-18th Avenues; and Matthews Park lot at 28th Ave South and East 24th Street.

*Compost* may be picked up (after April 1) at NRG, 630 Malcolm Avenue SE, 612/331-4610. Call before you go to be sure compost is available. Cost is \$8.00/cubic yard.

*Manure* is available at NRG, 915 N. Albert (corner of Albert and Pierce Butler), St. Paul, 651/641-1939. Cost is \$10.00/cubic yard (*prices subject to change*). Composted manure is available after April 1.

Longfellow Garden Club meets on the second Wednesday each month, 7 PM at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Avenue South. 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.

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

**Dowling Community Garden** PO Box 6757

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

Forward and Address Correction Requested