




Welcome Back to Another Year of Gardening!

Hello to returning Dowling gardeners, and to those who are just joining us. We hope you will have a successful and rewarding season. Please review the rules and service commitment information, fully complete the Rental Agreement form, and return it with your payment by March 1.

GARDEN RENT is Due March 1!

For garden plot rental, please send \$_____ and the signed agreement form by March 1, 2005.

 Plot rentals postmarked March 2-March 15 will be charged a \$5.00 late fee, so get yours in on time!

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

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

About INCREASES in Plot Fees and LEASE with the School District

LEASE. For many years, Dowling Community Garden paid the school district a token amount of \$300 for rent per year, plus water use (which in past years has been about \$100). During the 2004 season, school officials required that we negotiate for a higher rental amount and a formal lease. After long negotiation, we have entered into a five-year lease with the Minneapolis Public Schools for the garden site, effective in 2005. This lease gradually increases the amount we owe each year until the lease fee is \$2000/year in 2009.

PLOT FEES have increased to cover the additional rent for this season, and higher costs for liability insurance. Expect your plot fee to increase each year as our lease amount increases and insurance costs continue to rise.

RULES. We need to maintain higher standards for garden appearance and rules compliance, due to lease and insurance requirements. Please read the rules carefully. When you rent your plot you agree to follow these rules. Also review the procedures for rules violations. We know you find your garden plot a valuable resource; please be mindful of Dowling rules so you don't risk losing your plot.


Spring Planting Date: JUNE 5

 Gardens must be planted by Sunday, June 5, 2005

You will be contacted and may forfeit your plot if your garden is not planted in a timely manner.

Reminder: SERVICE COMMITMENT of 4 Hours for Each Plot

Each Dowling gardener is expected to assist with the chores that keep this garden running. From seasonal clean-ups to water barrel filling, flower bed maintenance, shed repair, surplus produce donation to food shelves, phoning, helping with events, mowing or special projects – there's a job for every gardener!

 Gardeners are required to work 4 hours 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/first-served basis.

You will be notified of your service assignment and project coordinator's name and contact information in the April newsletter. Keep track of your service hours and report them promptly to your project coordinator. All service hours must be completed by November 30, 2005.

What's NEW for 2005?

- **Raised Beds** for seniors or those with limited mobility will be installed near the north water barrels by early June. Beds will be 36" high, approximately 12' x 5'. Existing Dowling gardeners will receive first priority, and can request one or two beds for their garden plot. Call the Dowling voice mail at 651/255-6607 if you would like more information or to request a raised bed. (If you request a bed for this season, you will need to give up your existing plot.) One of the wheelchair-accessible raised beds is also available this season.
- Garden "Swap Day" continues at Spring and Fall Cleanups. This is your only opportunity at the garden to recycle usable gardening items that you no longer need. Your unclaimed items must be removed from the garden by end of day.
- The **water line** will be extended to the north water barrels.



SPRING GARDEN CLEAN-UP May 7, 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, and complete other seasonal chores.

Bring garden tools (rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, pruners), weed trimmers, lawn mowers, trash bags, garden gloves.

Free seeds will be available for pick up. Also bring usable garden items that you no longer need for Swap Day (but you must take home with you any items not claimed by others!)

DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES

In the spirit of community and to clarify everyone's part in this Garden, the following rules have been developed by the Dowling Garden Committee. Some rules have been requested by the school, others are Minneapolis ordinance or Minnesota law, others are a requirement of our lease and insurance, and some exist to ensure that we are good neighbors to nearby 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 and 2 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 commit three 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. **Use of pesticides and herbicides is prohibited** in the garden (Minnesota law; visit the Dowling web site for more information – www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org).

3. Gardeners must **perform 4 hours of service** to the garden each season, per plot. Report completed hours promptly to your project coordinator. (see *Service Commitment* for more information).

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 Dowling Garden Committee, 651/255-6607.

7. Keep your garden **neatly weeded** on a regular basis. Weeds may not become taller than 8 inches (*city ordinance*). Weeds are a major complaint of neighbors and other gardeners.

8. **No trees are allowed** in garden plots; if any grow up, please remove them.

9. You are responsible for your 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 can pass through. There is a push lawn mower in the shed you may use. Do not use carpeting, roofing materials or other non-organic materials on common pathways.

10. Do not place **rocks** on paths or grassy areas, or on the school compost pile. Put rocks within the confined rock area on school lawn (near path at east end of garden). (*school request*)

11. There is a large **compost** area on the east side of the orchard along the fence. Follow school's posted instructions for use. Do not place trash in school compost area. Keep plot compost piles neat and properly made to prevent odors. Do not place garden debris in garden pathways or common areas.

12. **Fences** surrounding the Garden are school property and must not be tampered with. Do not place any signs on the fences. Plants must not grow on or through the perimeter fence; maintain a 1 foot buffer between garden plants and the fence. 46th Avenue plottolders must remove plants/weeds outside the fence up to the sidewalk. (*lease requirement/school request*)

13. **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.

14. **Respect school property.** Don't dump debris or garden materials in the woods, and no motorized vehicles on school property.

15. **Do not pick fruit or vegetables** from another plot without permission. Many gardeners will share excess produce if asked.

16. Report any **change of address** or telephone to the Dowling voice mail, 651/255-6607.

17. Keep **pets** out of other gardens; keep dogs under your control or leashed at all times, clean up after pets on school property. (*city ordinance*)

18. **Power equipment** may only be operated by those older than 16, who own or lease the equipment. All use is at your own risk. Store garden tools securely in the shed when not in use; no power tools may be left in shed. (*insurance requirement*)

19. Don't store chemical fertilizers on your plot or in the shed. (*insurance requirement*)

Procedures for Rules Violations

Violation of rules 1 and 2 is grounds for immediate plot forfeiture. The Dowling Garden 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 10 days to resolve the problem.

If the problem has not been resolved in 10 days, the Garden Committee sends the gardener a letter. This letter will re-state the problem and give 10 additional days 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 10 days 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 above procedures will be followed, and the gardener receives a letter stating they are 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 voice mail, 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 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. 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. All service commitment requests will be filled in the order in which rental agreements are returned; get yours in early to get the job you request.

New for 2005: Each area below has a project coordinator; you will be notified of your service assignment, coordinator's name and contact information in the April newsletter. Keep track of your service hours and report them to your project coordinator after task is completed. All service hours must be completed by November 30, 2005.

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

Surplus Produce Distributors (15)

Collect extra produce from the Garden on a regular basis and deliver to area food shelves. Must be available between 9:30 AM-3:30 PM Monday-Friday

Water - Assistant Coordinator (2)

Work with the Water Coordinator to schedule barrel filling, record service hours

Water - Filling Barrels (55)

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

Plot Monitoring - Assistant Coordinator (2)

Work with the Weed/Plot Coordinator to schedule garden reviews, record service hours

Plot Monitoring (14)

Check plots for overgrown weeds/trees, problems with paths, and phone gardeners to discuss problems

Spring & Fall Clean-up Days/Ongoing Debris Clean-up (25)

Pick up litter, perform seasonal chores (weeding, raking, hauling debris, moving water barrels) and maintenance as needed. Must be available May 7 and October 15

Pathway Maintenance (8)

Clear paths of weeds and garden materials, mow paths and common areas, weed paved pathways, place woodchips at entrances and keep woodchips tidy, mow weeds from abandoned plots with power equipment

Plot and Path Surveying (8)

Measure plots, pound durable garden stakes

Flower Garden Maintenance (6)

Weed, water, plant flowers and bulbs in existing gardens, deadhead spent flowers, take down dead annuals in fall

Shed Maintenance (4)

Repair shed or gutters as needed, mow and weed around shed

Tool Maintenance (1)

Sharpen mowers, make sure community tools are in good repair, keep tools organized in shed

Hauling/Delivery (3)

You will need a truck or larger vehicle. Get wood chips or compost, run other errands as needed

Gardening Assistance (1)

Provide weeding, watering to other gardeners' plots in cases of family emergency or illness

Wildlife Habitat Improvement (4)

Build and install bird houses

Accessible Beds Maintenance (4)

Keep pathways in good repair, weeded for wheelchair access

Special Projects: New Raised Beds (8)

Prepare site, gather materials from suppliers, help with construction, fill beds with soil and compost

Special Projects: Construct Sign (1)

Construct and help install sign for Stevens House garden from supplied design

Special Events: Heirloom Fest (4)

Help set up tables and displays, provide assistance during event, help clean up. Must be available August 13

Special Events: Fall Potluck (1)

Help set up tables, help clean up. Must be available October 15

Phoning (1)

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

Dowling Community Garden RENTAL AGREEMENT 2005

Please complete this form and send it, with your rental payment, by March 1, 2005. Registrations postmarked March 2-March 15, add \$5.00 for late registration. Registrations postmarked after March 15 will not be accepted.

remit to: **Dowling Community Garden, PO Box 6757, Minneapolis, MN 55406**

(Changes to the following agreement are not allowed. Registrations with changes to the agreement will be rejected and payment will be returned.)

I/We have read the Dowling Community Garden rules and responsibilities and understand that failure to meet these guidelines will result in loss of gardening privileges. (See page 2 for complete list of garden rules). I/We further understand that neither the Dowling Garden Committee, nor Minneapolis Public Schools (owner of the land), nor The Green Institute (insurer) are responsible for my actions. I/We therefore agree to hold harmless the Dowling Garden Committee, Minneapolis Public Schools and The Green Institute for any liability, damage, loss, injury or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me/us or any guests.

_____ (signature/s)

2005 Plot Rental fee enclosed \$ _____ Late fee enclosed \$ _____

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

I/We commit to the following garden responsibilities (minimum 4 hours per plot each season.) Requests for service activities will be honored on a first-come/first-served basis; get your rental agreement in early to ensure you get the activities you select!

Gardener Name _____

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 replacement key cost is \$2.00

Water volunteers:

Where is your garden? north side south side

Need training for filling water barrels? yes no

Dates you are unavailable this season _____

Are you willing to be on a group email list? yes no

Complete contact information (* items must be provided for each plot holder, or your application will be returned.) Please print.

Gardener Name* _____

Address* _____

City* _____

Zip* _____

Home Telephone* _____

Work Telephone _____

Email _____

Check to receive communications in PDF format via email *instead* of postal delivery. Your email address will not be shared with others.

Gardener Name* _____

Address* _____

City* _____

Zip* _____

Home Telephone* _____

Work Telephone _____

Email _____

Check to receive communications in PDF format via email *instead* of postal delivery. Your email address will not be shared with others.

Dowling Garden SPECIAL EVENTS

HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES FEST / TOMATO TASTING. Building on our successful 2004 event, Dowling will host an August 13 festival dedicated to heirloom varieties of tomatoes and other vegetables. We'll offer samples of many tomatoes to taste, and see how they compare with last season's winners (*which were, by the way, Marianna's Peace, Indian Stripe, Watermelon Beefsteak and Provenzano*). Information on saving seeds, seed sources and a display of heirloom produce will be featured. This event will be part of the ACGA convention (*see below*).

We encourage you to plant heirloom tomatoes or other vegetables this year, and show them off on August 13th. Seeds and seedlings of tomatoes are available on a first-come basis. Contact Charlie for more information: 612/724-5430 or cbowler@mn.rr.com.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY GARDENING ASSOCIATION. The Twin Cities hosts this national convention August 12-14, 2005. Dowling is one of the stops on a bus tour of community gardens. This is a unique opportunity to meet other gardeners from around the US and Canada, and show off one of the oldest community gardens in the country. (*Comment received from a gardener in New York City: "Your garden is quite famous around here, having celebrated its 60th birthday! We think we're old at 26!"*)

Help to FEED THE HUNGRY

Dowling gardeners are asked to plant extra this season, and share your produce with a local food shelf. Excess produce will be collected several times per week and brought to Keystone Community Services, a food shelf in Merriam Park.

In 2004, Keystone distributed over 500,000 lbs. of food, and about 500 visits are made to this food shelf each month. Dowling gardeners can make a difference in a family's life by donating fresh and healthy vegetables on a regular basis.

More information on produce pickup days and procedures will be available in the April newsletter, and will be posted on the bulletin board. Gardeners who have an extra cooler to donate to this project should call the phone line, 651/255-6607.

IMPORTANT Reminders

NO PESTICIDES OR HERBICIDES MAY BE USED. Pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides are prohibited at the Dowling Community Garden, per state law and school policy.

Most common commercial products (and most "organics") are not allowed. To determine which products are acceptable or prohibited, go to www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org, click on "Garden Rules", then click the "Pesticide Information" link. All products in toxicity categories 1-2-3 are prohibited at Dowling. (*Don't have internet access? Call the garden voice mail, 651/255.6607, and leave a message with your name and number, the products you'd like checked; someone will call you back.*) Violation of this rule is grounds for garden forfeiture! More information is available in newsletters from August 2001 and July 2002; see the web site or call for copies.

FENCES. Keep all plants off the perimeter fence, and keep 12 inches between your plants and the fenceline. 46th Avenue gardeners need to weed outside the fence to the sidewalk.

2005 IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 8

Seed swap and placing a group order for seeds by mail. Look for a postcard in late December with information.

MARCH 1

Completed and signed Rental Agreements are due. Make sure you have indicated your service area(s) and included your plot rental payment.

MARCH 15

Final deadline for Rental Agreements

MAY 7

Spring Clean-up and Swap Day, 10 AM-Noon

JUNE 5

Your garden must be planted by this date. You will be contacted and may forfeit your plot if your garden is not planted in a timely manner.

AUGUST 13

Heirloom Festival and Tomato Tasting, 10 AM-1 PM

OCTOBER 15

Fall Clean-up and Swap Day, 10 AM-Noon

OCTOBER 15

Harvest Potluck Dinner, 6:30-8:30 PM

NOVEMBER 6

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.

PATHS. Keep rocks, weeds and garden debris out of the path; keep the path mowed; and make sure it's accessible for carts and lawn mowers. Don't use carpeting in your path. Keep garden plants out of paths or they will be removed. Vining plants and raspberries are common problems.

PLOTS. Gardens are in the process of being re-staked. Don't remove plot stakes, or expand your garden into the path.

PETS. If you bring your pet to the garden, it must be under your control at all times. Minneapolis leash law will be enforced: Call Animal Control to report problem animals (*telephone number is posted on the shed*). Keep your dog out of other gardens. Clean up after your dog.

WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDEN.ORG Dowling Garden's web site is a valuable resource for gardening information: how-to's recipes, gardener of the month, garden history, special projects, favorite links, newsletters and more. Contributions of articles, photos, graphics, recipes or ideas, are welcome; please email Charlie at cbowler@mn.rr.com.

DON'T LEAVE ITEMS BY THE SHED! If you have usable garden materials you no longer need, call the Dowling voice mail, 651/255-6607, and we will post a notice in the bulletin board on the shed. Or bring them to Swap Day, at the Spring and Fall cleanups (unclaimed items must be removed from the garden by end of day).

Spring GARDENING EVENTS

SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE AT KELLEY FARM. Learn about saving seeds, heirlooms and preserving garden vegetable varieties, followed by a seed exchange. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own favorite varieties to share.



March 13, 2-4 PM, Oliver H. Kelley Farm, Hwy 10 (2.5 miles southeast of Elk River), 763/441-6896, on the web at www.mnhs.org/kelleyfarm. Free admission.

COMMUNITY GARDENING RESOURCE FAIR. The Twin Cities Greening Coalition is hosting a Community Garden Resource Fair. Greening programs and gardens will be invited to present information for half-hour educational sessions. Free and open to everyone.

March 12, 9 AM-3 PM, Center for Northern Gardeners, 1755 Prior Avenue North, Falcon Heights. Call 651-643-3601, ext 211 for more information.

GARDENING CLASSES. The Center for Northern Gardening is sponsoring gardening classes. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required.

1755 Prior Avenue North, Falcon Heights. To register, or for cost information, call 651/643-3601, ext 211.

March 1 *Seed Starting*

March 15 *Ornamental Grasses: Great Plants for your Garden!*

April 12 *Designing the Home Landscape - session 1*

April 19 *Designing the Home Landscape - session 2*

April 26 *Designing the Home Landscape - session 3*

LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB PLANT SWAP. Bring perennial plants, extra flower or vegetable seedlings to trade with other neighborhood gardeners.

May 11, 7 PM, Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Avenue South.

Garden Management

Dowling Community Garden is run by a small group of volunteers who meet monthly to plan activities and improvements, tackle ongoing management issues, and serve as liaisons to the community. You are encouraged to join us; call the Dowling voice mail at 651/255-6607 if you have questions or want more information.

GARDEN RESOURCES

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

Clarence Day 612/724-4973

Jeff Wagner 612/722-8920

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.

Woodchips are available in the woods south of the prairie, or for pickup at these locations: 36th Street and West River Parkway; Wabun Park in the lower lot on west side of road; Bossen Field on East 58th Street between 28th-31st Avenues; north side of Lake Nokomis between East 50th Street and 22nd Avenue South; and west of Cedar Avenue adjacent to 29th Street between 17th-18th Avenues.

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, and for current prices.

Horse Manure is periodically available in the woods south of the prairie. Dowling gardener Steve Dosch will deliver manure to a spot near your garden. Contact him directly to discuss quantity and cost: 612/729-1865.

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. Call 612/722-8022 and leave your email address to receive a PDF schedule of meetings.

Informational Web Sites

•Gardening information and specific plant forums:

<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/>

<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/plants.html>

•U of M Extension Service, plant culture information:

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/topics.html?topic=5>

•U of M Extension Service, insect and disease information:

<http://vegedge.umn.edu/>

•Information about heirloom varieties, preservation:

<http://www.seedsavers.org>

<http://www.seeds.ca/>

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

Dowling Community Garden

PO Box 6757

Minneapolis, MN 55406

651/255-6607

Forward and Address Correction Requested

**2005 GARDEN RENTAL
AGREEMENT**