



DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

Newsletter

MARCH 2001/GARDEN RENTAL AGREEMENT

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!

Dowling Garden is a community effort and depends on everyone's participation to be successful. 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.

Spring 2001 Planting Date: June 3rd

→ Your garden must be planted by Sunday, June 3
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.

Increase in Garden Plot Rental Fee

Garden plot rental fees have been raised to cover higher administrative costs, such as phone service, postage and mailing, water and insurance. The average garden rental fee in the Twin Cities is \$15-20, so Dowling Community Garden is still a very good value.

It's Time to Renew your Commitment to Dowling Community Garden

Please give serious consideration to the degree of your participation in the activities that keep Dowling going. 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.

Now Available! Wheelchair Accessible Raised Bed Gardens

Please contact the Garden Manager, 651/255-6607, if you or anyone you know is interested in a raised bed garden. Plots will be distributed on a first come/first served basis, with priority given to Longfellow Neighborhood residents.

→ ***Please Help! We need volunteers to help complete the pathways for these gardens in April. Contact Peter Schmidt at 612/722-8022 for more information.***

Garden Rent is Due March 31st!

To keep your garden plot this year, please send \$_____ and the signed agreement form below by March 31, 2001. ***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.**

Attention 46th Street Gardeners!

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 (such as raspberries). This new rule will be strictly enforced! 25' lengths of heavy-duty landscape fabric will be marked with gardeners' names and available in the shed by April 15. Help in installing the fabric will be available if you participate in the clean-up day on May 5; call the garden voicemail at 651/255-6607 if you require other assistance.

Main Pathways between Gardens

Please help maintain the pathway next to your garden. 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.



Garden Clean-up Day is May 5, 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 the pathways for the new raised bed garden.

Bring garden tools (rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, pruners), weed trimmers, lawnmowers, 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 city ordinances; 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 participate in garden activities. Gardeners who violate these rules will be contacted and may forfeit their garden plot if problems are not resolved.

Rules

1. Pay the rent for your plot by the time designated in the spring newsletter.
2. Plant your plot by the time designated. Unplanted gardens will be assumed to be abandoned and given to a person on the waiting list.
3. Clean up your garden plot at the end of the season.
4. 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. *note rule change:* You are responsible for half of the path next to your plot. Paths must be kept clear of weeds, rocks and 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. *note rule change:* 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:* Do not grow plants on or through the perimeter fence! Per school requirement, we must maintain a 1 foot buffer between garden plants and the fence. Landscape fabric and woodchips are available to create buffer area.

12. 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.
13. In order to make the garden less obtrusive for neighboring residents, please use wood or white fences. 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 unless you have been given permission. Many gardeners will happily share their excess produce if asked.
16. Fences surrounding the Garden are school property and must not be tampered with.
17. Gardeners are responsible for giving the Garden Manager any change of address.
18. 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 the following procedures when Garden rules have been violated:

1. First the Garden Planning Committee will phone the gardener to explain the problem. The gardener has one week to resolve the problem.
2. If the problem has not been taken care of at the end of the week, the Committee will send 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 gardener will have to forfeit the plot.
3. If the problem is still unresolved one week after the gardener receives the letter, the gardener will receive written notice that the plot has been forfeited and the rental fee will not be refunded.

For more information or questions about rules, call the Dowling Community Garden 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 to oversee garden activities, plan for future projects

•Water

Work with the Water Coordinator as part of a team to fill water barrels. *We are especially in need of volunteers to work on keeping the water barrels filled on a regular basis. Weekday and weekend volunteers are needed to place water in the barrels*

•Phoning

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

•Shed Maintenance

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

•Grant Writing/Grant Research

•Garden Debris Clean-up

Haul unauthorized weed piles in wooded areas to compost pile

•Weed Monitoring

Check plots for overgrown weeds, phone gardeners

•Spring/Fall Clean-up Organizers

Organize work groups, supervise activities, arrange for tools and refreshments

•Landscaping/Construction for Special Projects

Path preparation, improvements construction, wood chip hauling, etc.

•Hauling/Delivery

Pick up tools and equipment, get wood chips or compost

•Fence Repair and Maintenance

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

•Re-establish Pathways/Pathway Maintenance

•Re-measure Garden Plots/Mark with Stakes

•Flower Garden Weeding/Maintenance

•Resource Person for Gardening Questions

Answer other gardeners' questions or provide referrals

•Plant/Seed Swap Organizer

Organize day activity for Spring and Fall

•Potluck Dinner Organizer

Arrange for location, materials

•Newsletter Contributors

Write articles, input text onto disk

•Other

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DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN *Rental Agreement Form 2001*

Please complete this form and send it, along with your rent check, by March 31, 2001 to: **Dowling Community Garden**
PO Box 6757
Minneapolis, MN 55406

1. I/We _____ (signature/s) agree to follow The Dowling Community Garden rules (page 2).
2. I/We have enclosed a check, made payable to **Dowling Community Garden**, for \$ _____.
3. I/We volunteer for the following garden responsibilities (required - see above):

Name(s) please print _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Dowling Community Garden News

Garden Improvements We are nearing completion on landscape design plans for the main entrance on 46th Street. Look for more information later this year.

A Dowling Garden Website is in the Works! The site will be linked to the Longfellow Community



Council web page, and will feature garden history, helpful hints and seasonal information, our current newsletter, garden rules, the water barrel filling schedule and recipes. The site will be

ready later this Spring; look for it through the Environment and Transportation link on the LLC home page: <http://tcfreenet.org/org/lcc/>

A Dowling Garden History Monika Bauerlein and Emily Green have completed an oral history of the Dowling Community Garden based on interviews with several of the original gardeners. This history will be posted to the website when it is available.

Here is an gardening tip excerpt from the interview with Rose Pearson:

"Cutworms: Just take a little piece of paper and wrap it around [the stem] tight as you can. Then put dirt right up to it...You have to wrap it really tight...one time I put tomato plants out there, and the cutworms came up right inside the paper."



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

Check Out These 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 two south Minneapolis locations: East 29th Street, between 17th and 18th Avenues; and East 50th Street at 2nd Avenue South.

Compost is available for pickup (*for Minneapolis residents*) at SKB Environmental, 630 Malcolm Avenue SE, 612/331-4601.

Some Interesting Gardening Websites

www.northerngardener.org

Website of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

www.organicgardening.com

This site also offers a monthly web newsletter specifically for your gardening zone

<http://garden-gate.prairienet.org/>

A well-organized collection of links to horticulture information from around the world

www.garden.org

Website of the National Gardening Association

www.win.bright.net/~tlyockey

Northern Gardening, written by a Minnesota Master Gardener

Dowling Community Garden

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