



DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2000

Thank You to the Volunteers who Helped to Make this Garden Season a Success!

We would like to thank the many volunteers who put in hours of time this summer: Kathy Hollander and her crew of gardeners who kept the water barrels filled, the folks who cleaned and maintained the shed, accessible raised-bed garden builders, phone callers, Eric Hart for helping with NRP proposals.

Update on Neighborhood Revitalization Process (NRP) Improvements

NRP funds, administered through the Longfellow Community Council, have been made available for several Dowling Community Garden projects now in process.

Wheelchair accessible raised-bed gardens are being installed in the north end of the garden. Frames for the beds have been built, compost and soil are being added, and the ground surface will be prepared for pathways. NRP funding has entirely paid for the

materials to create this garden; all labor has been provided by Dowling gardeners. This new space will be available next spring.



A local **landscape designer** has been contacted to devise an overall plan for the garden areas. This plan will incorporate suggestions that came from Dowling gardeners at meetings held last spring. Some of the ideas discussed were flower beds to beautify area, bike racks, kiosk for neighborhood information, benches, a new shed. We are hoping to complete the design phase of the process by next spring and determine which items to implement. NRP funding has been provided for the design plan, and additional improvements; other financial resources will need to be identified.

Other Garden Improvements

A **fundraising group** is working on securing money for garden improvements through foundation grants and donations.

Many gardeners identified a new **water system** as the most important improvement in the planning meetings last spring. Creating a new water system (with more spigots closer to the garden areas and separate from the school water supply) is very expensive, and beyond the scope of what is possible to achieve at this time. We will continue to look for ways to make the existing water system easier to use.

We encourage gardeners to become part of the planning process to help determine what a future Dowling Community Garden will look like. The Dowling Community Garden Planning Committee meets monthly to discuss garden improvements, problems that need attention, and the overall management of the garden. Call the Dowling Community Garden phone line at 651/255-6607 and leave your name and number if you would like information about upcoming meetings.

Garden Vandalism

We have had problems this season with garden plants and structures being damaged or destroyed, and with groups of youth throwing water balloons at gardeners.

We want Dowling to be a pleasant and safe place to garden. If you notice any damage to your garden, or see inappropriate behavior, please take the following steps:

1. Call the Dowling Community Garden phone line at 651/255-6607. Tell us about the problem, and the date and time it occurred. We will be compiling a record of the reports to help us determine when the garden is most at risk, and the appropriate steps to take. Call about each incident you notice.
2. Call the Minneapolis Police Department non-emergency number at 612/673-3383. Let them know when the incident happened, and if you had a financial loss. Call about each incident you notice.

Join your Gardening Neighbors for the Fall Clean-up and Potluck Dinner



Garden Clean-up is October 14, 10 - Noon

Come help tidy up the garden areas for the winter. We'll be putting away the water barrels, cleaning up debris, weed trimming, repairing the shed, removing graffiti and working on completing the raised bed garden.

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

If you haven't volunteered in the garden this year, this is a good opportunity!

Dowling Community Garden
PO Box 6757
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Garden Potluck Dinner is October 14, 6 - 9 PM

After working in the morning, bring your family for a harvest celebration of another successful gardening season! We'll be joined by other community garden members in the Longfellow area..

Longfellow Community Center

35th Street at 36th Avenue South

Set-up 6:00 - 6:30

Dinner 6:30 - 8:30

Clean-up 8:30 - 9:00

Bring food to share, and your garden stories from the past season. Beverages will be provided; utensils are available (we encourage you to bring your own to reduce waste). Volunteers are needed to come early to help set up, or stay for clean-up. Neighborhood storyteller Kari Tauring will entertain young and old after the meal.

RSVP

Call the Dowling Community Garden phone line at 651/255-6607 if you plan to attend (by October 12th).