

Dowling Community Garden

2023 Gardening Rules

- 1 Agreement and fee.** Submit your completed, signed Agreement and all required fees and forms by the due date on the Agreement form. If these are not postmarked by the final due date, your plot will be reassigned. By signing and returning the agreement, you agree to these rules.
 - 2 Use of chemicals.** You agree never to use unapproved pesticides or herbicides in the garden. Pesticide-free chemical fertilizer may be applied within your plot.
 - 3 Service commitment.** Perform 4 hours minimum in service to the garden during the gardening season.
 - Complete tasks as assigned by your service coordinator and report your service time within two weeks of performing it by completing a form and placing it in the drop box on the shed door.
 - Coordinators make initial contact and outline tasks. You are responsible for ensuring that your minimum service hours are completed and reported by November 13, 2023. Reported service times will be published online, and you are responsible for checking their accuracy.
- Only verified hours reported within two weeks will be credited.** Service at the end of the season must be reported by the deadline for completing service. **Failure to perform and REPORT the minimum service in a year is a rule violation and results in consequences outlined under “Consequences of rule violations.”**
- Note:** lack of assignment does **not** excuse failure to meet this requirement. Contact your coordinator, send a message to info@dowlingcommunitygarden.org by September 1 if you need alternative assignments.
- 4 Contact information.** All official communication is through the listed primary plothead. Make sure the Dowling Garden Committee always has your **current address, phone number, and email address.** (Send a message to info@dowlingcommunitygarden.org to provide updates.)
 - 5 Transferability.** You may not transfer or sublet your plot. If it is discovered that you have done so, the plot will be forfeited without refund. The Dowling Garden Committee may, at its discretion, choose to approve a one-year leave of absence, upon formal written or e-mail request.
 - 6 License requirements.** You agree to be bound by any requirement not named here that the Minneapolis School District imposes as a condition for continued use of the Garden space, including but not limited to undergoing a criminal background check.
 - 7 Planting/cleanup deadlines.** Clean up and plant your plot by the following deadlines. Your plot must be clean, fully prepared, and at least half planted by June 1. Any plot failing to meet these conditions is considered abandoned and will be reassigned immediately, with no refund provided. If your plot is not fully planted by June 15, the unplanted portion may be used by the Garden, and you may be assigned to a smaller plot the following year. Remove dead plants and temporary structures by the November 13 fall cleanup deadline. Compost all plant material on your plot or transport it to your home for municipal pickup. Unauthorized dumping on school grounds is a rule violation.
 - 8 Expected conduct.** To retain your gardening privileges and assigned plot, you agree to:
 - a** Act in a manner considerate of the rights, needs, and safety of other gardeners and the community at large and with courtesy toward others. Violence, threats of violence, harassment or acts of vandalism will result in immediate termination of gardening privileges.
 - b Actively garden, maintain, and use your entire plot.** Remove weeds promptly (including those in perennial plantings, such as raspberries) and harvest produce in a timely manner. Keep all plants within your plot boundaries. Maintain in-plot composting in a neat and odor-free bin. Compost bins must have enclosed vertical sides and comply with Minneapolis ordinance 244.770. http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@regservices/documents/webcontent/convert_260638.pdf, page 22. A rule violation may be given if a plot is excessively weedy, containing numerous 8" weeds, or is filled with debris or overripe produce. Any plot with numerous 2' or taller weeds or that remains unharvested or is obviously untended for 3 weeks will be presumed abandoned and is subject to immediate forfeiture without refund.
 - c** Maintain the plot borders and your half of the path around your plot regularly. Paths must be kept free of rocks, weeds, and all obstacles, including encroaching or overhanging plants (e.g., raspberries). **The Garden reserves the right to remove materials obstructing any public path at any time.** Approved methods of maintaining public paths are (1) regular mowing

and (2) mulching with wood chips. Placement of carpeting, roofing materials or other inorganic materials (except landscaping fabric beneath wood chips) in paths is prohibited.

- d** Keep your plot free of trees. If an adjacent plot's gardener complains of excessive shading by anything on your plot, you must come to an agreement or remove it.
- e** Keep your plot free of toxic or noxious plants, including but not limited to castor beans, deadly nightshade and similar plants.
- f** Hoop houses and similar structures may not exceed 6 feet, 6 inches in height. They may not be erected before March 15, and they must be removed by December 1.
- g** If your plot borders the school's chainlink fence around the garden, maintain a one-foot plant-free buffer next to it.
- h** Respect school property. Keep rocks inside your plot's border or remove them from the grounds. **Never** dump debris or garden materials anywhere on school property that is not specifically designated. Do not use motorized vehicles in the garden area.
- i** Respect the Garden's property and assets. Use equipment and tools owned in common responsibly and treat them as you would your own. Return them to the shed promptly and store them neatly and securely for the safety and convenience of fellow gardeners.
- j** Do not enter another's plot except with permission or on Garden business, or allow your pets or children to do so.
- k** Keep pets leashed and under your control at all times, and always clean up after them.

Consequences of rule violations

The cooperation of **all** gardeners is needed to ensure that Dowling Community Garden runs smoothly and that we can maintain our obligations under our rent agreement (license) with Minneapolis Public Schools and with our neighbors. If a gardener violates the agreed-upon rules, the Committee will address the violation as follows.

Immediate plot forfeiture

You will be notified, without prior warning, that you have forfeited your plot without refund if you:

- Fail to comply with Rule 1 (pay your rent), or Rule 6 (school license requirements)
- Commit or threaten to commit violence or harassment against any gardener, guest, or visitor, or vandalize school or Garden facilities or property or plot(s) of others. (Rule 8a)
- Abandon your plot (Rules 7 and Rule 8b)
- Transfer or sublet your plot (Rule 5)
- Exhibit a pattern of behavior that shows disregard for the Garden's rules, such as chronic or repeated rule violations: e.g., 3 violations in 2 years, even if remedied. (Rule 8a)

Conduct violation procedures

For rule violations other than those listed above, the following procedures will be followed:

- 1** The Enforcement Coordinator may send a postcard warning of a pending violation, purely as a courtesy. There is no obligation to provide such a warning prior to a rule violation notice. However, if one warning is issued, no other warning for any other violation during the current season will be issued prior to the issuance of a rule violation notice.
- 2** If a violation is noted, the Committee will send the plotholder a **first rule violation notice** by mail, indicating the problem and the deadline for correction. If the problem is not fully corrected by the first deadline, the Committee may issue a **second and final violation notice**, or at its sole discretion, **declare the plot abandoned** per Rules 7 and Rule 8b.

Rule 3, service requirement violation procedures

- After the November reporting deadline, the Committee will mail a rule violation notice to any plotholder whose plot has not fulfilled and REPORTED the required service hours by the reporting deadline.
- Any service shortfall will be added to that plot's service requirement for the following year. **If the second-year requirement is not met in full**, the Committee will notify the plotholder that the plot will not be renewed.
- If a plot has not performed and reported **any** (zero) service time during the year, the Committee will notify the plotholder that the plot will not be renewed.