

Duluth Community Garden Program

Expectations of Gardeners

1. Work in community
 - a. All gardeners will participate in community with other gardeners at their garden sites to maintain and improve the overall conditions to standards mutually agreed to by site gardeners. This includes areas such as:
 - i. Maintaining garden sites and grounds adjacent to gardens so they are trash free
 - ii. Keeping grass and brush under control
 - iii. Addressing problems, such as vandalism, deer, and water (with help of DCGP program coordinator)
 - iv. Improving soil quality (with help of Land Stewardship Committee)
 - b. Each gardener is expected to contribute at least 3 hours/year to program activities (coordinated by DCGP) such as:
 - i. Garden site coordination
 - ii. Participation in DCGP committee, such as Events, Operations, etc.
 - iii. Provide garden education/mentoring
 - iv. Help with seed/transplant sale
2. Registration for Plot
 - a. Gardeners will sign and honor plot rental contract
 - b. Multiple Plot Policy. In the interest of providing plots to as many gardeners as possible, we will only lease 1 plot per person/family. Exception: Gardeners leasing multiple plots prior to this policy change (2009 season or earlier) will be grandfathered in, provided all plots have been properly maintained. Gardeners desiring additional space may request to be put on a waiting list for multiple plots. If there are still plots available after the spring registration deadline, gardeners in good standing may lease additional plots *for that season only*. They will only have right of first refusal to their primary plot for the following season, as the additional plots will be opened up to potential new gardeners.
 - c. Top preference for plot assignments is given to gardeners for getting the same plot as previous year if and only if the plot was maintained (see item #3 below).
 - d. Gardeners pay for plot, tilling, and seeds/transplants.
 - e. **Attendance at the Spring Fling is expected.** The Spring Fling is the season's first opportunity to participate in community; it provides a place for gardeners to register for their plots, sign up for volunteering, receive garden program announcements, and meet other gardeners.
3. Properly planted and maintained gardens meet the following criteria:
 - a. Gardens are planted by June 16th
 - b. Gardens are planted principally with annual vegetables. Perennials may be planted in gardens that have been maintained for two or more years and are gardened by individuals who intend to continue gardening at the plot
 - c. Weeds are kept under control throughout the growing season
 - d. Garden plots are free of trash and unused fence
 - e. Food is harvested when it is ripe
 - f. Fall cleanup is completed no later than November 1st.

- g. Certificates of completion are given to each gardener who has met these conditions by the end of the growing season.

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Expectations of DCGP Program

1. The DCGP provides the following services:
 - a. Events coordination, such as Spring Fling
 - b. Coordination of program volunteers
 - c. Newsletter and website are run by program committee
 - d. Program office provides information resources and limited equipment rental
 - e. Education provided for gardening and food preservation
 - f. Fundraising is overseen by DCGP board of directors
 - g. Budget and bookkeeping of DCGP financial assets
 - h. Hiring and supervision for DCGP staff
 - i. Advocacy and outreach for community gardening
2. Administration of plots:
 - a. Program coordinator manages plot assignments
 - i. Coordinates registration process for plots
 - ii. Maintains a spreadsheet of all gardens, status, and needs
 - iii. Answers questions about plot assignments
 - b. DCGP provides assistance with conflict resolution and problem-solving
3. Plantings and maintenance:
 - a. Program coordinator answers questions about planting information and problems
 - b. Site coordinator confirms plots are planted, maintained, and cleaned up
 - c. DCGP provides tilling, when needed, and advice on soil enhancements
 - d. DCGP sells seeds, transplants, and soil amendments at low cost to gardeners
 - e. LSC works with gardeners to make plot and site improvements
4. Land Stewardship:
 - a. The Land Stewardship Committee and/or Site Coordinators are charged with authority of the DCGP Board to:
 - i. Maintain signage and general site maintenance
 - ii. Make soil improvement and other gardening practices that enhance soil
 - iii. Recommend gardening practices that sustain viability of land for gardening
 - iv. Work collaboratively to provide long-term solutions to water, deer, and other problems
 - b. The entire Duluth Community Garden Program works strategically across the organization to preserve long-term community gardening in Duluth:
 - i. Negotiate land purchase and lease agreements
 - ii. Collaborate with other interested groups to preserve a strong tradition of vegetable gardening in the area