

**Neighborhood Planning  
for Community  
Revitalization**

**Twin Cities Community Garden  
Resource Guide**

A CONSORTIUM PROJECT OF: Augsburg College; College of St. Catherine; Hamline University; Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs; Macalester College; Metropolitan State University; Minneapolis Community College; Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program; University of Minnesota (Center for Urban and Regional Affairs; Children, Youth and Family Consortium; Minnesota Extension Service); University of St. Thomas; and Minneapolis community and neighborhood representatives.

**CURA RESOURCE COLLECTION**

**Center for Urban and Regional Affairs  
University of Minnesota  
330 Humphrey Center**

**Twin Cities Community Garden  
Resource Guide**

Conducted on behalf of  
Twin Cities Greening Coalition, The Green Institute

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June 2002

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Twin Cities' Community Garden Resource Guide! In this Guide, you will find a directory of resources useful to community gardeners. Compiled through surveys and interviews with 26 community garden organizers as well as help from Twin Cities' greening organizations, these are the resources that community gardeners find the most useful. The return rate for this survey (26 out of 32) attests to the dedication of Twin Cities community garden organizers, who took time away from their already hectic schedules to help create this Guide.

The Twin Cities has a long history of community gardening, dating back at least to World War II victory gardens (the Dowling Community Garden in Minneapolis actually evolved from one of these). A variety of community garden support service organizations provide infrastructure for community gardens. The Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program has been helping community gardens work their soil, obtain leases, insurance, seeds, plants, and hydrant hook-ups for almost 30 years now, and has recently been working on creating permanent community gardens through land purchases. The Green Institute GreenSpace Partners program grew out the Phillips Environment and Transportation Committee and has been helping South Minneapolis neighborhoods create and preserve community gardens since the mid-1990s. The Minnesota State Horticultural Society's MN Green Program distributes donated seeds and plants to community gardens throughout Minnesota. Farm in the City in St. Paul and Youth Farm and Market Project in Minneapolis are seminal youth gardening programs. These are the groups with whom garden organizers most often work in order to locate resources for the gardens.

Typically, garden organizers arrange to provide some resources for the entire garden, such as compost, hoses, fencing, or raised beds. Individual gardeners are often responsible for the other details of gardening. The survey results made it clear that gardeners are their own best resources. This Guide focuses on those resources that gardeners have a more difficult time obtaining on their own.

The 26 garden organizers who completed surveys represent about 1000 community gardeners. This is a powerful number, and though we are scattered throughout the neighborhoods of Minneapolis and St. Paul, with a small amount of organization community gardens could be well represented in the legislature of both cities. Until the day that the Cities provide for community gardeners, though, we will have to keep providing for ourselves. This Guide will hopefully give experienced gardeners new ideas and new gardeners a wealth of resources.

This Guide includes physical resources as well as information on some important questions that surfaced in many of the surveys about fundraising and organizing. Part I presents the basic gardening resources uncovered through the garden organizer surveys

and additional research. Part II, the Green Pages, contains organization contacts, important phone numbers, web sites and publications. Please see the table of contents to find the specific category you are seeking, or browse through to get a sense of the Guide's contents.

Finally, if you would like to add resources or if anything in this Guide is wrong, please contact the Twin Cities Greening Coalition so that the Guide can be updated as needed.



## PART I: RESOURCES

This section of the Guide is a direct result of information obtained through the 26 returned surveys. As mentioned in the Introduction, gardeners are the main resource providers in most community gardens. However, everyone needs a little extra help now and again, and these are the sources that gardeners find most helpful. Unless otherwise noted, garden organizers are the sources for the resources below.

### 1. Soil

Soil seems like the most logical starting point for a community garden resource guide. Healthy soil makes healthy plants; healthy plants make healthy people. However, most community gardens are not blessed with healthy soil. Lead contamination, building backfill and garbage often pollute the empty city lots occupied by most community gardens. This section covers the basics: compost, topsoil, mulch, woodchips, and lead testing.

#### A. Compost

Composting is difficult for many community gardens. Although it is a simple process, it requires individual and group responsibility to care for turning the compost and adding the right ingredients in the correct manner. Fortunately, there are many sources of compost to supplement what a garden can make on its own.

*Botany Bob, Arch-Tech Landscaping*  
1785 96<sup>th</sup> St E  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
651-450-9178  
[botanybob@hotmail.com](mailto:botanybob@hotmail.com)

Call Botany Bob for all your compost and topsoil needs! He is happy to deliver large quantities of compost or topsoil to your community garden for prevailing hauling rates. The compost is free and the topsoil is generally \$6.00 per cubic yard (cy). The prevailing rate is \$50/hr for a 12 cy capacity dump truck and \$35/hr for a 3 cy capacity dump truck. Plan on delivery taking 2-3 hours.

Bob can also deliver the University of Minnesota's "farmpost," although there is now a limited supply (see below). In addition, he has a brand new Bobcat that he rents out for \$75/hr, minimum two hours, plus one-way transportation (generally half an hour), with a union driver.

Botany Bob is familiar with many Twin Cities community gardens and is more than happy to be of service however he can be. He will not haul unfinished compost or low-quality topsoil.

### *Farms*

Some gardens have relationships with local farmers who can provide composted manure for free or cheap. If picking it up means spending a day at a local farm, all the better! If you don't know any farmers, call a local community supported agriculture farm (CSA) (contact Brian DeVore at the Land Stewardship Project ((612) 729-6294) for a list of Minnesota CSAs or check their web site: [http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/pr/2002/newsr\\_020308.htm](http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/pr/2002/newsr_020308.htm)). Also check out the Minnesota Grown catalogue (Call Paul Hugunin at (651) 297-5510; it is also available online at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/mngrown/directory.htm>. You can order a free hardcopy from this site or number as well).

### *NRG Processing Solutions*

8585 W. 78<sup>th</sup> St., Ste 240  
Bloomington, MN 55438  
(952) 946-6999

This company has 12 sites. Many gardeners will recognize the Malcolm site as the former SKB Environmental composting location. The Malcolm site provides free compost to Minneapolis residents who can pick it up. They charge \$2.00 per cubic yard (cy) to load it, which is quite a deal as it takes a bit of effort to manually load compost into a pickup. An S10 pickup holds about 1.5 cy and a regular pickup about 2.5 cy.

The St. Paul site will deliver at the following rates for \$8.00/cy:

Miles from site	Cost
0-5	\$50
5-10	\$65
10-15	\$75
15-25	\$85

Also, if your garden has a clean up day and ends up with more plant material than the garden can compost, you can dump it at an NRG site for \$7.00/cy or \$2.00/plastic bag (the St. Paul site does not allow plastic, so you must empty the bags yourself there).

Malcolm location (Minneapolis)  
630 Malcolm Ave (4 blocks west of Hwy 280 off of University Ave)  
(612) 331-4610

St. Paul  
915 N. Albert St. (at Pierce Butler and Albert St.)  
(651) 641-1939

Other locations (Shakopee, Lakeville, Cottage Grove, Anoka, Lino Lakes,  
Empire, Carver, Eagan, Burnsville, Minnetrista)  
Call (952) 946-6999 for more information

*Scotts County Nursery*  
(612) 868-7705

Scotts has 6 different kinds of compost ranging from \$12 to \$24 per yard.  
Delivery is \$80 flat in the metro area, and tax-exempt organizations receive a 33%  
discount. Marty, the owner, suggests mixing compost in a 1:3 ratio with topsoil,  
1:2 ratio with clay soils and 1:1 ratio with sandy soils.

*Ramsey County Compost Sites*

(651) 773-4455: recorded message of compost site hours and locations

Site Locations:

Mounds View, Shoreview/White Bear Twp., Arden Hills/New Brighton, Midway  
(District 11), Eastside (District 5), Summit Hill (District 16), and Battle  
Creek/Highwood (District 1).

Ramsey County has seven compost sites where residents can drop off any soft-  
bodied plant material from their homes and yards for free. Residents can also  
pick up free finished compost and woodchips when available, but there is no help  
for loading materials. These sites do not deliver, but often have a Master  
Gardener on hand during peak hours to field compost and gardening questions.

*Eureka Recycling*

624 Selby Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
(651) 222-7678

This organization can answer questions about the Ramsey County Compost sites  
and also has a composting demonstration site and offers free workshops on  
backyard composting and worm composting.

Workshop information: (651) 222-SORT (7678)

Eureka Recycling demonstration site location:  
Highland Park on the south side of Montreal Avenue between Hamline Avenue  
and W. 7<sup>th</sup> St.

## Stores

Mother Earth Gardens  
3738 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
(612) 724-2296

This store often has a self-serve bag-your-own compost pile, so although they do not offer a discount to community gardens, you can bring your own bag or tarp and save resources. It is also fun to check out their selection of native plants and organically raised vegetable transplants.

Most nurseries have and sell opened bags of compost, mulch, topsoil and other amendments at half price—just ask a salesperson if they have any open bags<sup>1</sup>.

## *University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus*

This once-free service has been contracted to NRG Processing Solutions' St. Paul site at 915 N. Albert Street (intersection of N. Albert and Pierce Butler). NRG charges \$8 to load or \$5 to self-load a pickup. Call ahead for information at (651) 641-1939.

## B. Topsoil

Topsoil is crucial to gardens with contaminated soils. Although many kinds of contamination are difficult to remove, piling uncontaminated topsoil on top of contaminated soil may be an adequate solution (contact the Extension service, the Sustainable Resources Center, or the Green Institute if you have any questions about soil contamination). This resource is also useful for mixing with compost to build up raised beds. However, finished compost from NRG can be used on its own in a garden bed with fantastic results.

## *Contractors*

Check the Yellow Pages under Topsoil or Excavating Contractors if you need large deliveries of "black dirt," top soil and compost. Also see *Botany Bob* in the compost section. Ask contractors where they get their topsoil. Some will take soil out of wetlands, which although high in organic matter is very low in nitrogen. Removal of these soils may have some environmental impacts. Some contractors get soil from contaminated urban areas, as well, so be careful<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> This information provided by Susan Zaro, Master Gardener

<sup>2</sup> This information provided by Botany Bob, Arch-Tech Landscaping

### *Farmers*

Again, some gardeners with good connections know farmers with topsoil to spare. See *Farmers* in the Compost section for more information.

### *Stores*

Neighborhood garden and hardware stores often sell bags of garden soil if only a small amount is needed. It also never hurts to ask for a discount—some neighborhood stores are very happy to support community greening efforts, especially if the store is recognized for their help with a letter or other means of conveying appreciation. Also, don't forget to ask stores if they have open bags, which they are usually happy to sell at half price.

### C. Woodchips

Woodchips from these sources are best used to line pathways and other areas of high foot traffic. Mulching plants with fresh woodchips can decrease the nitrogen availability, compromising the plants' health. If you do use fresh woodchips to mulch gardens, make sure not to mulch close to the plants.

### *City Public Works Departments<sup>3</sup>*

Wood chips are available to pick up at no cost from the following city public works departments. Please phone ahead to check availability. Some sites also offer compost.

Brooklyn Center 763-569-3380

Brooklyn Park 763-493-8007

Edina 952-927-8861

Maple Grove 763-420-4400

Minneapolis 612-370-4900 or [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)

Oakdale 651-730-2740

Plymouth 763-509-5506

Ramsey County 651-633-3279

Roseville 651-490-2310

St. Louis Park 952-924-2565

Woodbury 651-430-6655

### *Ramsey County Compost Sites*

See information in Compost section.

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<sup>3</sup> This information provided by Sustainable Resources Center; [www.src-mn.org](http://www.src-mn.org)

### *St. Paul Wood Recycling Plant*

Off Warner and Childs Rd near downtown St. Paul (call for directions)

Hours

(651) 772-7981

Will load woodchips into open bed vehicles (i.e., not the trunk of your car) for \$5/cy.

### *Tree Services*

The Yellow Pages "Tree Service" section is a great resource. Most tree services are happy to drop off a load of chips for free at a community garden because they would otherwise have to pay to dump them at a place like NRG. However, give tree services a few days to return your call, and don't expect to be able to give exact instructions. They will usually dump what they have, not what you need. Fortunately, a "free woodchips!" sign stuck in any extra piles will usually take care of excess chips.

### D. Mulch

Some gardens require a more delicate mulch than woodchips. Heavy mulching is a great way to suppress weeds and conserve water so you can spend more time basking in your beautiful garden and less time weeding and watering. Well-rotted mulches will not rob the soil of nitrogen

### *Alleys*

In the fall, bags of leaves collect in alleyways all over the cities. Take a handcart, wheelbarrow or vehicle through, and pick up as many as you want. Let them sit in bags over the winter and then use them as a spring mulch, or release them immediately into a pile to break down more thoroughly over the winter.

Bagged grass clippings in alleys are a great source of nitrogen for the compost pile if still green, or as a mulch if brown. If you suspect that clippings came from a yard that used lawn chemicals, either skip that bag or let it completely break down in a compost pile.

### *Lawn services*

Like tree companies, lawn services will also deliver yard waste to your community garden. Again, be careful not to add chemically treated yard waste directly to your garden, and if possible, avoid it altogether.

### *Stores*

Neighborhood garden and hardware stores often offer a variety of mulch. One community garden particularly likes buying mulch at Southside Farm Store in Minneapolis (1534 E 38<sup>th</sup> St, Minneapolis, MN 55407, (612) 721-2761).

### E. Lead testing

Lead contamination is a problem in many areas of the Twin Cities. Leaded gasoline and lead paint, although both banned for years, have left a toxic urban legacy. Lead is one of the heaviest metals and is not readily absorbed by most plants, but lead dust in the soil can easily cover edible plant parts and also can be tracked into homes, increasing the risk of lead poisoning. Similarly, children playing on bare soil are at risk of absorbing lead into their blood stream. Therefore, it is essential to test community gardens for lead contamination.<sup>4</sup> The Sustainable Resource Center and the Green Institute can help answer questions about gardening in contaminated soils as well as assist in obtaining lead tests (see the Organization Directory for contact information)

### *Minneapolis*

The City of Minneapolis Children's Environmental Health Department will test soil for lead for free for both homeowners and community gardens. Call or write for instructions:  
250 S 4<sup>th</sup> St., room 414  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
(612) 673-3535

### *St. Paul*

University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus  
135 Crops Research Building  
1903 Hendon Ave  
(612) 625-3101

Unfortunately, St. Paul does not have lead testing available for its residents. Call the University of Minnesota for your soil testing needs. A lead test costs \$15.

## **2. Plants**

Once the soil is prepared, it's time to plant! Many community gardeners provide their own plants, but some gardens also obtain seeds, transplants, trees and other plants collectively. One advantage of getting plants for the whole garden is that donations are readily available in most cases.

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<sup>4</sup> This information provided by Sustainable Resources Center; [www.src-mn.org](http://www.src-mn.org)

## A. Seeds

Minnesota's climate requires transplanting for a good harvest of some warm season vegetables. Some vegetables and flowers, however, can be direct seeded or started indoors for transplants. Seeds are small, inexpensive and durable. Many will keep for years and some for decades and even centuries. The best thing about seeds, though, is that they are the ultimate renewable resource—harvesting and saving seeds from one season to the next closes one more resource loop.

### *America the Beautiful*

1730 K. Street N.W., Ste 1002  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 638-1649

Provides vegetable, flower and herb seeds at the cost of shipping and handling.

### *GreenSpace Partners*

2801 21<sup>st</sup> Ave S., Ste 110  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 278-7119  
[czoll@greeninstitute.org](mailto:czoll@greeninstitute.org)  
[www.greeninstitute.org](http://www.greeninstitute.org)

GreenSpace Partners also distributes free seeds to member gardens (membership is free). Call Corrie at the number above for more information.

### *Minnesota Green*

Minnesota State Horticultural Society  
1755 Prior Ave  
Falcon Heights, MN 55113  
(651) 643-3601  
[www.northerngardener.com](http://www.northerngardener.com)

This program provides free seeds and other plant materials to member gardens. Call or visit the web site for information on membership.

### *Stores*

Many stores carry seeds, including grocery and hardware stores. Don't forget to ask for a discount for community greening projects! Some stores have specialty seeds—heirloom varieties and organically grown seeds. Some seeds are treated with fungicides, so make sure to check the seed packet if you do not want this in your garden. In the fall, ask stores if they have seeds from the previous growing season, which they are often willing to donate.



*Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program*

1916 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
(612) 872-3297  
[www.src-mn.org](http://www.src-mn.org)

Urban Lands distributes untreated vegetable and flower seeds to community gardens throughout the Twin Cities Metro area beginning each February. Call the number above for more information.

B. Starting your own seeds<sup>5</sup>

Starting garden plants from seeds indoors can be an enjoyable project for any gardener. It's a relatively inexpensive way to get a wide variety of plants. Many garden favorites are found in a greater variety of colors, sizes and growth habits as seeds than as started plants. For the price of seeds, an adventurous gardener can experiment with raising unusual plants.

Containers

Start seeds in cell packs with four or more divisions or use small peat pots. Peat pots are particularly good for raising seedlings that don't transplant well or are known to outgrow cell packs quickly. Plastic cell packs and trays are available from garden centers as well as discount and building supply stores. Cell packs from purchased plants can be re-used once they're cleaned (see Transplanting below for how to clean). It's best to use divided containers, rather than open ones such as milk cartons or ice cream pails because seedlings' roots will grow into each other and may be injured during transplanting.

Seed starting mixtures

Commercial seed-starting mixes are usually composed of vermiculite and peat, without any true soil. They're sterile, light weight and free from weed seeds, though both vermiculite and peat have associated environmental problems. Well-rotted, sieved compost is another option; although not sterile, the mix of microorganisms in healthy compost can protect seeds from seedling diseases. Add some sand and peat for a well-rounded mix.

Sowing Seeds

Sow fresh seeds individually into each cell of your plastic packs according to package directions. The rule of thumb is to plant a seed four times as deep as its diameter. Think of it as planting a seed deeply enough that three more seeds could be placed directly above it. Mark each pack with a tag. Tags can be made by

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<sup>5</sup> From the University of Minnesota Extension Service Yard and Garden Briefs: Starting Seeds Indoors, <http://www.extension.umn.edu/projects/yardandgarden/ygbriefs/H236startseeds.html>

cutting strips from plastic milk jugs and writing on them with a permanent marker.

Some seeds require light to germinate. Cover them with a thin layer of fine vermiculite, porous enough to permit light to penetrate yet keep the medium moist enough to encourage seed germination. Place cell packs containing seeds that need darkness for germination in dark plastic bags or cover them with several layers of newspaper until seeds sprout.

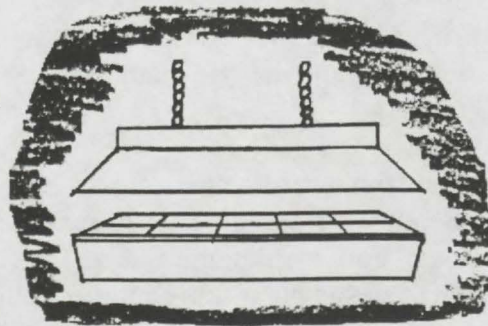
When using older seeds with lower germination rates, plant two or more seeds per cell. Once the seedlings have developed true leaves, cut all but the healthiest seedling off at the ground with scissors. If you try to separate seedlings, you're likely to damage all of them.

Most seeds can be saved from year to year. As soon as you're done planting, store seed packets in an air-tight container in a cool place. To keep the humidity low in the container, add a packet of silica gel. You may use a teaspoon of powdered milk in a piece of facial tissue or paper towel instead of silica gel.

Seeds germinate more quickly in warmer soil than cool soil. Grow mats can be used to maintain an even bottom heat of 70°F. Seed trays set on top of a refrigerator will also stay warm enough to speed germination. Once seeds sprout, move the trays to a brighter growing area. Seedlings will grow reasonably well at temperatures starting in the mid 60's; cool temperatures will help keep plants compact.

### Light

If you're starting only a few plants and have roomy window sills, a south-facing window may be all the growing space you need. But it's much better to grow seedlings under fluorescent lights. Grow lights are designed to provide light in specific ranges required by plants, but standard shop lights with two fluorescent tubes per fixture also give plants adequate light and are inexpensive. Use cool white fluorescent tubes or a combination of cool white and warm or natural daylight tubes.



Hang lights from chains to ease raising them. Keep lights no more than 4" above the tops of your seedlings as they grow; lack of light is the major cause of elongated, skinny stems.

Plants need 12-16 hours of light daily. Don't leave lights on continuously as many plants need some dark period each night to develop properly.

### Fertilizing

Seedlings draw energy for germination from food stored in the seed. They don't need fertilizer until they have several sets of true leaves. Seedlings grown in a soil-less mix need a weak fertilizer such as fish emulsion or general purpose water-soluble fertilizer mixed 1/4 strength. Fertilize only once a week. Water as needed the rest of the week with plain water. Drain excess water that accumulates in the tray, to prevent root rot.

### Transplanting

Transplant seedlings that outgrow the cell packs into larger containers. Larger peat pots or Styrofoam or plastic cups with holes punched in their bottoms are excellent (as long as you don't use new plastic or Styrofoam for this purpose!). Lift seedlings by a leaf and support the rootball from below with a spoon when transplanting. Never hold the seedling by its stem, as you may crush it. To eliminate the need for tags, write the plant's variety on masking tape stuck directly onto each cup or pot. Wash and re-use plastic and styrofoam cups as long as they last. Sterilize previously used cups and cell packs by soaking the cleaned cups in a bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts cool water) for 30 minutes, then rinse.

### Moving Outdoors

A week or two before planting outdoors, start hardening off seedlings by moving them outside for increasingly longer periods each day. An easy way to harden plants off is to place them in a coldframe and adjust the lid of the coldframe every few days. If you don't have a coldframe, find a sheltered spot where you can put the trays of plants. Remember, these plants have not been exposed to full sun or widely fluctuating temperatures. If plants are not adequately hardened off, their leaves may be scorched by sun or wind; plants might even wilt and die.

Once hardened off, seedlings can be set out in the garden. Transplant on a cloudy day or late afternoon when the sun has passed its peak. Even hardened off plants may wilt when first exposed to full sun but they generally recover within a day or so.

When transplanting seedlings grown in peat pots, trim the pots down to soil level. Peat pot collars exposed to drying air will wick water away from the root zone, To encourage roots to spread out, carefully tear holes in the bottoms of the peat pots because they usually don't break down completely in the soil.

## C. Transplants

If you don't have the time or space to start your own seeds, transplants are available from many sources.

*Friends School Plant Sale*

1365 Engelwood Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
(651) 917-0636

Mother's Day weekend is a very exciting time for fans of plant sales. The Friends School of Minnesota has a wide variety of plants, including native trees and perennials, fruit trees and bushes, many herbs and vegetable transplants. After the sale, the leftovers are donated to community gardens. Call to find out how. If you miss it this year, it is an annual event so you can catch it the next time around.

*GreenSpace Partners*

See entry in Seeds section.

*Hennepin Technical College*

9000 Brooklyn Blvd  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445  
(763) 425-3800

This college has a yearly plant sale, and gives leftovers away to community gardens. Call for more information.

*Minnesota Green*

Minnesota State Horticultural Society  
1755 Prior Ave  
Falcon Heights, MN 55113  
(651) 643-3601  
[www.northerngardener.com](http://www.northerngardener.com)

*Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program*

See entry in Seeds section.

*Stores*

For those who can't wait for the donations to come in, vegetable and herb transplants are available at local garden centers throughout the Twin Cities. Check the Retail Directory in Part II for some of community gardeners' favorites.

Also, many garden stores will donate or heavily discount both annuals and perennials towards the end of spring and again at the end of summer. The plants may not look great, but many will come back nicely with a little care. This is a particularly good strategy to build up your perennial collection with fall plantings.

D. Perennials

Many of the above sources also can provide perennials. *MN Green* is a good source, as well as the *Friends School Plant Sale* and garden centers. Friends and neighbors may

also have perennials that need thinning or dividing which they would happily trade for the labor of digging them up. A few other sources for perennials follow.

### *Garden Clubs*

Many garden clubs have plant sales and plant swaps. Also, garden clubs may informally exchange or give away divisions throughout the year. The Minnesota State Horticultural Society has a list of garden clubs in Minnesota with contact numbers and locations at their web site ([www.northerngardener.com](http://www.northerngardener.com)), or call for a hard copy: (651) 643-3601.

### *Plant swaps*

Often, these are a function of garden clubs (see above). Neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities also hold plant swaps. This is a partial list; if you don't see a plant swap near you, call your neighborhood organization. Also, check the Home and Garden section of your local newspaper as well as neighborhood papers and community calendars. Otherwise, start your own!

#### *GreenSpace Partners, Minneapolis*

(612) 278-7119

Plant Swap

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 pm at Stewart Park (12 Ave S after E 27<sup>th</sup> St)

#### *Mac-Groveland, St. Paul*

(651) 695-4000

[www.macgrove.org](http://www.macgrove.org)

Plant Swap

Saturday, May 11, various locations (call for details)

Typically the first week in May at Longfellow Park (35<sup>th</sup> St and 36<sup>th</sup> Ave S)

Swap perennials, annuals, seedlings; can donate if you have nothing to swap

#### *Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, Minneapolis*

(612) 722-4817

Typically the third weekend in May at PPNA, 3222 Bloomington Ave S, behind building by greenhouse

#### *Standish Ericson Neighborhood Association, Minneapolis*

(612) 721-1601

Plant Swap

Typically the third week in May at Sibley Park (40<sup>th</sup> St and 19<sup>th</sup> Ave S)

### *Stores*

See above.

### E. Trees and Bushes

Many community gardens are more likely to cut trees down than plant them in order to make room for annual vegetables and flowers. However, gardens with extra space or those that can work under some shade appreciate the legacy of planting trees. Fruit trees and bushes are a particularly nice addition to a community garden, adding a layer of perennial growth that also supplies food.

#### *Stores*

Local garden stores and greenhouses often have a good woody plant selection. If there is time at the end of the season, ask for discounts or donations and do a fall planting. Another good time to look for sales is the beginning of summer, when nurseries attempt to reduce stock in order to save on summer watering.

#### *Tree Trust*

2350 Wycliff Street Suite 200  
Saint Paul, MN 55114  
Phone: 651-644-5800 ~ Fax: 651-644-1469  
email: [info@treetrust.org](mailto:info@treetrust.org)  
<http://www.treetrust.org/treeprogams/community.html>

Tree Trust can help with community forestry projects. Check their web site or call them to find out if they can help meet your tree needs.

## **3. Tools**

Most hand tools are easy to come by and fairly inexpensive—you can pick up trowels and spades at yard sales for a quarter. Some tools necessary for the upkeep of community gardens, however, are needed less frequently or are prohibitively expensive for individual gardeners to buy. For these tools, renting, borrowing, or collective purchase can often satisfy the needs of the garden.

### A. Hand tools

Shovels, forks, rakes and hoes are often the only tools a community garden needs.

#### *Neighborhood Organizations*

Some gardens are blessed with neighborhood organizations willing to buy tools for the garden or keep a lending library of tools for neighbors. Call your neighborhood organization to find out if it is willing to help the garden with tools.

#### *Stores*

Garden tools can be bought new at neighborhood garden and hardware stores. The ReUse Center (2216 East Lake Street near Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis, (612) 724-2608) and other resale stores often have used garden tools as well.

*Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program*

See Organization Directory in Part II for contact information

The Urban Lands Program has a tool lending library available for community gardeners to use for garden workdays in the spring, summer, or fall. Please call to reserve.

B. Wheelbarrows

Although tarps will do in a pinch, wheelbarrows make hauling compost, woodchips, and plant materials across the garden much easier.

*Stores*

See above.

*Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program*

See Organization Directory in Part II for contact information

Urban Lands has several wheelbarrows in their tool lending library.

B. Motorized equipment

To rototill or not to rototill? If you need a rototiller, mower, or other heavy machinery for your garden, there are a few renting and borrowing options.

*Rototillers and Lawnmowers*

**Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program** has a rototiller that can be reserved for use. Call early in the season to reserve. (See Organization Directory in Part II for contact information)

**Neighbors** with gardening proclivities might be a nearby source of motor power—ask around! Otherwise, non-motorized push mowers are widely available for about \$100, and often much cheaper second hand.

**Rental Stores**

The Yellow Pages lists several pages of rental stores under "Rental Services Stores" or "Lawn & Garden Equipment & Supplies—Rental." Delivery and pick-up of rental equipment will cost extra. Average rental cost is \$40 for a half day or \$75 for a full day.

#### 4. Water.

Water is crucial for vegetable gardening and establishing perennial flower gardens. Gardens have worked out a number of strategies for obtaining water.

##### A. Water Source

###### *City Water System*

Minneapolis Water Works  
(612) 673-2404

St. Paul Regional Water Services  
(651) 266-6270 (for permits and engineering)

Some gardens have connected spigots to city water lines underlying their garden. This costs some money to install, but on-site access is worth it to some of the larger community gardens.

###### *Fire Hydrant*

Each year, the Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands program assists community gardens in securing arrangements with the water sources below for use of fire hydrants. See Organizational Directory in Part II for contact information.

###### Minneapolis:

In order to get a permit to use a fire hydrant, a garden needs a current garden lease signed by the property owner. Obtaining a hydrant permit for a garden located on Minneapolis Community Development Agency or Hennepin County land is fairly painless. If the property is located on privately owned land, the Minneapolis Water Department determines permits on a case by case basis. The hydrant needs to be on the same side of the street as the garden (a few exceptions have been worked out). The permit costs \$75 with a \$25 refundable deposit for the hose connector. The garden must supply the lock and hose. Call (612) 673-3723 or go to 250 S 4<sup>th</sup> St, room 224 for more information.

###### St. Paul:

Call St. Paul Regional Water Services meter shop at (651) 917-4790. Gardens must have a hydrant in good shape near the garden, and permits cost around \$30 for the season.



### *Neighbors*

Many gardeners have worked out deals with neighboring houses or schools to use their water source. Often, gardeners pay the water providers a flat rate for the season or waive plot fees if the neighbor is also a gardener.

### *Water Barrels*

Barrels placed around the garden can be filled with hoses if it is inconvenient to hook up the hose each time the garden needs water.

Western Container Corporation at 500 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St in Minneapolis has containers for the taking. One gardener advises to cut off the middle of the lid, not the lip, which is responsible for holding the sides together.

## **5. Garden Structures**

Community gardens are home to a range of garden structures. Tool sheds, fencing, compost bins, and raised beds are common in most gardens, and in true community garden form, these structures are typically built from scrounged materials with gardeners' ingenuity. Some community garden leases stipulate that no permanent structures can be built in the garden. Check with your lease or ask the property owner before beginning any project. The resources below helped gardeners achieve their visions.

### A. Raised beds<sup>6</sup>

Why bother to build a raised bed? For one, raised beds with clean soil allow gardeners to grow right on top of contaminated soil. Raised beds can also be constructed so as to allow disabled or elderly gardeners to work comfortably. These beds can simply be mounded-up soil or contained by wood, stone or plastic walls.

The following two plans for raised beds are good stepping stones to other, more complicated designs. The two plans provided are adequate for most gardening situations.

#### *Raised Ground Beds*



<sup>6</sup> From the University of Minnesota Extension Service Yard and Garden Briefs, <http://www.extension.umn.edu/projects/yardandgarden/ygbriefs/h233raisedbed.html>

The simplest form of raised beds are flat-topped mounds, usually 6" to 8" high, which require no materials other than additional soil. Bring in additional soil or excavate 3"-4" of soil from pathways between beds. Whether you dig out your pathways or not, be sure the access areas around the raised beds are at least 24" wide.

Decide first on the size of your raised ground bed. If you are able to reach only one side of the bed, the maximum width should be 2½ feet. If you have access from both sides, the bed can be up to 5' wide. Length and shape are entirely up to you.

To make the bed itself, add 4" to 6" of compost or enriched soil to the existing area, and thoroughly till it into the underlying soil. Enrich soil with peat moss or composted manure. Take the tilled soil into a flat mound about 8" high, with sides that taper up at a 45-degree angle. Then let the soil rest for a week or two before planting. Avoid stepping on the mound and compacting the soil or breaking the sides. As the season progresses, the soil will settle, but the mound will remain. Once created, raised ground beds need only minor reshaping with a rake at the start of each season.

#### *Supported Raised Beds*



Edging your raised bed places an important barrier between your garden and the lawn, the biggest source of perennial weeds. Some gardeners also leave a 4" border of bare or mulched soil around the bed to make mowing easier. The frame, whether wood, stone, brick or plastic, adds a neat touch.

When deciding on the shape and size for a supported raised bed, keep in mind that some edging materials only allow angular corners. Prepare the soil as before, but place the frame around the bed before raking the soil into shape. To make a wooden frame, cut pieces of 2" x 6" pressure-treated lumber. Railroad ties, unless extremely well weathered, allow creosote to escape into the soil and air where it can damage sensitive plants, and are not recommended.

Turn the long boards "heartwood in" so if they warp, they'll curve slightly outward at the middle. Secure the corners with decking screws. Remove or add soil as needed to make sure the frame is sitting level. Once the frame is in place, spread the soil even with the top. Now you can plant right to the bed's edge and have a larger growing space than in a raised ground bed of the same area.

#### B. Compost Bins

There are as many styles of compost bins as there are community gardens. This section includes plans for a few styles of compost bins. See Web Resources for

more plans and information on composting. Hennepin and Ramsey Counties supply discounted compost bins to residents that can be used in community gardens.

*Hennepin County Environmental Services*

417 North Fifth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1397  
Phone (612) 348-6509 Dept. E-mail [DES@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:DES@co.hennepin.mn.us)  
<http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental/>

Call or visit web site for information on ordering a compost bin (it may be too late for this season by the time this guide is released) and schedules for regional composting workshops.

*Ramsey County*

University of MN Extension Service  
2020 White Bear Ave  
Maplewood, MN 55109  
(651) 773-4497

Deadline for reserving a \$20 bin (\$69 retail value) was April 12, but it won't hurt to see if they have any left over. Pick up dates and locations are:

Saturday, April 27, 9-3  
City of Shoreview Public Works Maintenance Facility  
4615 N. Victoria St. off of Hwy 96

Saturday, May 4, 9-3  
State Fairgrounds parking lot, west of intersection of Snelling and Hoyt.

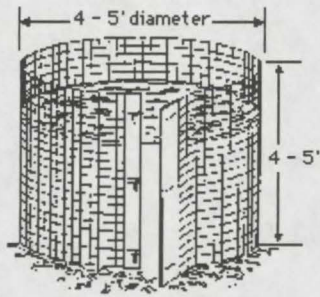
*Build your own compost bin<sup>7</sup>*

The following plans are simple ways to start composting in your garden or backyard.

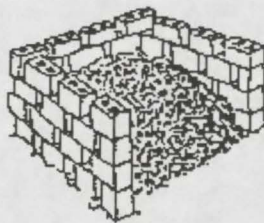
A simple structure can be made from wire fencing or snow fence. Multiply the diameter you want by 3.14 (pi) to determine the length of fence needed. Fasten with wire or 3 or 4 chain clips. When you need to turn the pile, peel the fence away and set it up nearby. Turn the compost into the structure in its new location.

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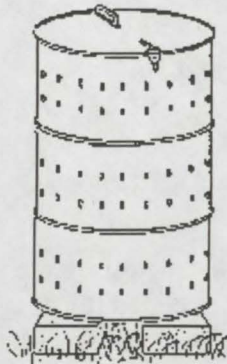
<sup>7</sup> From the University of Minnesota Extension Service,  
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG5553.html>; Illustrations taken from Minnesota Extension Service publication FO-3296 *Composting and Mulching: A Guide to Managing Organic Yard Wastes* Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources publication "How to Make Compost," and publications of the Seattle Tilth Association.



Compost bins can be made from cement blocks or bricks. Lay them without mortar, leaving spaces between blocks to permit aeration. Build a three-sided, square, or three-bin unit. The potential for instability of loosely stacked blocks or bricks may make this structure an inappropriate choice if located near areas where children play.

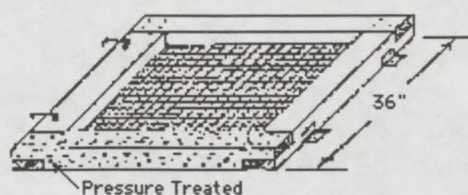


A barrel composter can be built from a 55 gallon drum. Drill 6-9 rows of 1/2" holes over the length of the barrel to let air circulate. Fill 3/4 full of material. Every few days lay it down and roll it over a few times to mix. Use a barrel that has not been used for toxic substances.

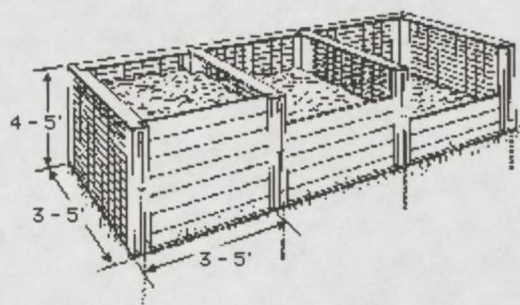


#### *Portable Wood and Wire Composting Bin*

This unit is very flexible. It works well in small spaces as a holding unit for yard wastes or as a portable turning unit for kitchen and yard wastes. The unit can be easily moved to turn piles or build a new one: Simply undo the latches, pull the sides apart and move it. To build, repeat the structure pictured below 4 times, and latch into the shape of a box.



A very efficient and durable structure for fast composting is a three-chambered bin. It holds a considerable amount of compost, and allows good air circulation. The three-chambered bin works on an assembly line idea, having three batches of compost in varying stages of decomposition. The compost material is started in the first bin and allowed to heat up for three to five weeks. Next, it is turned into the middle bin for another four to seven weeks, while a new batch of material is started in the first bin. Finally, the material in the middle bin is turned into the last bin as finished or nearly finished compost.



### C. Cold Frames<sup>8</sup>

This design holds eight standard 21"x10.5" nursery trays. Check alleys and construction sites for storm windows; otherwise, the ReUse Center has used ones (see Retail Directory).

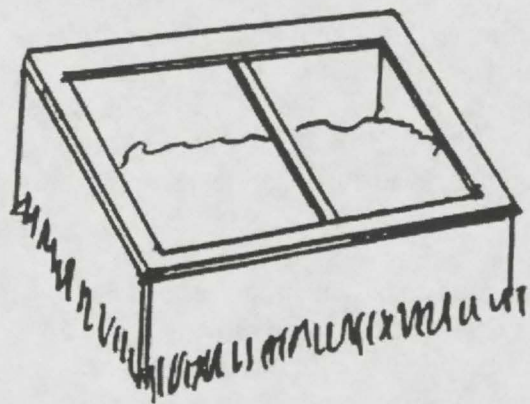
Materials:

Material	Instructions
4x8' sheet of waferboard or plywood	Cut into 4 2x4'-foot pieces
3 8' 2x2s	Cut 1 into 4 2' pieces Cut 2 into 4 4' pieces; save for cover
Nails or screws	
White, oil-based paint	
Old storm windows or 2 4' long pieces of clear, wavy fiberglass	
2 8' pieces of fiberglass molding	Cut both in half

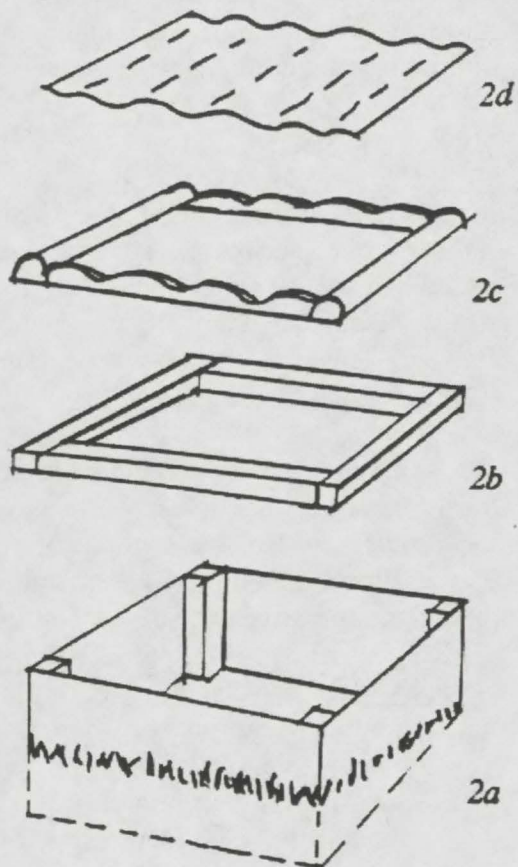
<sup>8</sup> Plans and instructions adapted from the University of Minnesota Extension Service, <http://www.extension.umn.edu/projects/yardandgarden/ygbriefs/h137seasonextenders.html>

Instructions:

1. Set the 2x4-foot pieces to form an open box with the edges of the side wall pieces flush with the edges of the front and back pieces so the box will be slightly wider than deep. Nail or screw the edges of the 2x4s into the 2x2s to reinforce and stabilize each corner. The finished product will be an open-ended box, four feet wide, four feet deep, and two feet high (figure 2a).
2. Paint the structure inside and out to prevent deterioration and reflect light inside the cold frame.
3. Place the coldframe in a site that receives direct sun at least half the day. To let the sunlight in, lower the front by digging a trench six inches deep along the front and tapering back along the sides. Secure the coldframe by packing the soil back along the sides and front of the coldframe. (Gardeners with woodworking experience could cut the side panels at an angle and shorten the front wall, instead.)
4. Build a cover or use old storm windows. To build a cover, use the two 4-foot-long pieces. (Use a power saw as a hand saw will splinter the fiberglass. If you have no power saw, the lumber yard will cut it for you.) Make the cover frame from the 4-foot lengths of 2x2s. Set the side pieces to overlap the front and back pieces so the top will fit well (figure 2b). (You can also use 1x2 lumber, but the weight of the 2x2s helps keep the cover from blowing off in a storm.)
5. Use the two 8-foot pieces of fiberglass molding cut in half. Use one piece to fill in the gaps in the front and back of the lid. The other is an arched piece for each side (figure 2c). This frame may be painted to match the coldframe.
6. Set the molding pieces on the frame and fit the fiberglass pieces over the molding (figure 2d). There will be some overlap in the middle. Drill holes for the nails to keep the fiberglass from cracking when it is nailed or screwed into place. Hinges can be used to secure the lid to the frame, but they are not necessary.



Use a coldframe to grow seedlings to a transplantable size, and to hold plants until your garden is ready.



#### D. Other Structures

Sheds, benches, and arbors have found their way into a few community gardens. For the most part, gardeners themselves supplied materials and built the structures, or salvaged the structures from another site. Please refer to the "Garden Structures: Materials" section for information about local sources of wood products and green certified wood.

##### *Sheds*

For the less handy among us, plastic garden sheds or large boxes useful for storing tools and hoses can be bought at most hardware stores. Some gardeners sacrifice garages or extra tool sheds to store equipment for the community garden; other gardens build their own sheds.

##### *Arbors*

Again, ready-made arbors are widely available, but many gardens create their own arbors to fit specific situations.

##### *Benches*

Get creative with garden seating—stumps and logs can be comfortable, or slabs of stone set on large rocks. Old church pews can often be had for cheap or free if a church is renovating. Otherwise, check stores that sell outdoor furniture.

#### E. Materials

Most often, gardeners build raised beds out of materials found on-site (concrete or lumber will do) or purchased at lumber or hardware stores. One garden built raised beds out of concrete blocks—the ones with the two holes in them. The top row of blocks faced upward and the holes were filled with soil and planted with flowers. This is a great way to beautify the garden, hide the concrete, and provide habitat for beneficial insects.

One source for wood for building raised beds or other garden structures can be local forestry cooperatives. These groups can offer custom sawn dimensions from local sources. Also, these groups offer green certified wood through the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification system. For more information about forestry cooperatives, please contact the Community Forestry Resource Center (CFRC) at 612-870-3415, [forestrycenter@iatp.org](mailto:forestrycenter@iatp.org), or <http://www.forestrycenter.org>. For more information about FSC certification, you can visit <http://www.fscus.org>

#### *Headwaters Forestry Cooperative*

Kristin Wilson, Marketing & Membership Coordinator  
PO Box 60, 124 Lake St. S.  
Long Prairie, MN 56347  
(320) 851-0816/ (877) 781-0816  
[headwatr@rea-alp.com](mailto:headwatr@rea-alp.com)  
<http://www.headwatersforestrycoop.com>

Forestry Cooperative located in Central Minnesota marketing FSC-certified wood products.

Also, check construction sites for extra brick, stone and lumber.



## 6. Information and Communication

Community gardens are hotbeds of information exchange—conversations between gardeners range from pest control to philosophy. Some gardens also arrange workshops and classes to formalize the information process, and the World Wide Web has facilitated information gathering and communication for those with computer access.

### A. Master Gardeners

A number of community gardens have invited Master Gardeners in to address specific topics from seed starting to composting. There is definitely a wide range of satisfaction with Master Gardeners' ability to educate, but some gardens truly appreciate their services. Call the hotline with specific questions, or call your county's Master Gardener program (numbers listed below) to schedule a speaker to come to your garden.

#### *Master Gardener Hotline*

(612) 624-4771, option 5 or 2

Gardeners can call this number to ask Master Gardeners a question.

#### *Hennepin County*

Master Gardener Program Coordinator: (612) 374-8450, Diana Anderson.

<http://www.hcmg.umn.edu/>

Call or visit the web site to request the services of a Master Gardener in Hennepin County, as well as a list of presentation topics.

#### *Ramsey County*

Ramsey County Extension: (651) 704-2080

Call this number for speaker requests. There is no charge for Master Gardeners to present at nonprofit organizations.

### B. Books

From private collections of avid gardeners to public libraries, these are important reference sources for identifying pests, planning gardens, and filling in other information gaps.

#### *Minnesota State Horticultural Society Library*

Minnesota State Horticultural Society

1755 Prior Ave

Falcon Heights, MN 55113

(651) 643-3601

<http://www.northerngardener.org/content/library.html>

The collection consists of about 2,200 books, both circulating and reference for in-house use. The web site above has a searchable catalogue. Members can have materials mailed to them for return postage only. Non-members are welcome to use materials in the library, which also houses seed catalogues, videos and slides.

*Minneapolis Public Libraries*

(612) 630-6000  
<http://www.mpls.lib.mn.us/>  
300 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis MN 55401-1992

*The Green Institute*

See Organization Directory in Part II for contact information.

This summer, the Green Institute is opening a volunteer-run sustainable resource library, which will include gardening and community gardening publications.

*St. Paul Public Libraries*

651-266-7000  
Room 210, City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., 55102  
<http://www.stpaul.lib.mn.us/>

*Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program*

See Organization Directory in Part II for contact information.

The Urban Lands' Library has a variety of community gardening and gardening books and periodicals available for community gardeners to borrow.

C. Classes

*GreenSpace Partners*

This organization holds hands-on gardening workshops in the Phillips neighborhood. Visit their web site for up-to-date schedules ([www.greeninstitute.org](http://www.greeninstitute.org)).

*Minnesota State Horticultural Society*

MSHS holds workshops on northern gardening throughout the year. See the Organization Directory for contact information.

*Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program*

SRC holds a workshops series on how to start a community garden, which was part of the Twin Cities Greening Coalition' 2002 workshop series. , Keep an eye on their web site to learn when this curriculum as well as other classes will be held. ([www.src-mn.org](http://www.src-mn.org)).

*Twin Cities Greening Coalition*

This group is planning a series of garden workshops. Check with Corrie Zoll at the Green Institute for updates at (612) 278-7119 or [czoll@greeninstitute.org](mailto:czoll@greeninstitute.org), or check GreenSpace Partners web page under [www.greeninstitute.org](http://www.greeninstitute.org).

*University of Minnesota Extension Service*

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/programs/index.asp?getnav=1>

The Extension Service hosts affordable (generally \$5-\$8) classes on a variety of gardening topics, mostly in suburbs of the Twin Cities. Master Gardener core courses are offered in Ramsey and Hennepin counties and online.

*Nurseries*

Area nurseries often offer weekend workshops—call ahead to find out, or check your local paper's Home and Garden section

D. World Wide Web

*E-mail*

Some gardens are able to effectively disseminate important information via e-mail lists, reducing the time organizers spend calling and saving money on mailings. However, this is not the preferred mode of communication in most gardens.

*Garden web sites*

Some gardens have developed web sites to serve a number of needs. This is a handy tool for disseminating information for computer-savvy gardens.

[www.dowlingcommunitygarden.org](http://www.dowlingcommunitygarden.org)

[www.longfellow.org/commcg.html](http://www.longfellow.org/commcg.html)

[www.greeninstitute.org](http://www.greeninstitute.org)

*Twin Cities Community Garden Directory*

The Sustainable Resources Center's community garden directory is a list of over 150 community gardens in the Twin Cities metro area.

[www.src-mn.org](http://www.src-mn.org).

**7. Labor**

Individual gardeners take care of the day-to-day (or week-to-week) upkeep of garden plots, but it takes some organization to tend to community spaces in the garden. Who will pull the weeds by the fence? Who will plant flowers by the road? Who will repaint the garden sign? Different gardens have different ways with dealing with these issues.

### A. Garden Interns

What better than a free garden helper! Garden interns are a good way to tackle special projects where both the intern and the garden will be rewarded from the work. Think about using interns for things like graphic design, landscape design, landscape architecture and other specialties. Call up applicable departments at local colleges and universities to find out about internship programs.

### B. Paid Services

Some gardens find it worthwhile (or the only option) to pay for services like lawn mowing, fence painting, or earthmoving. Neighbors can often provide these services.

### C. Community Services

Many organizations include community service in their mission, and helping in a community garden can help organizations fulfill their mission.

#### *Americorps*

[http://www.americorps.org/joining/direct/direct\\_mn.html](http://www.americorps.org/joining/direct/direct_mn.html)

Americorps has several projects in Minnesota. The following fit with community gardening goals. Check the above web site for a complete list of projects.

#### **Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (MN Serve)**

MN Serve Consortium

AmeriCorps\*State Program, Cindy Brey, Program Director

390 North Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 651-296-8755, fax: 651-297-4689, email: [cbrey@ngwmail.des.state.mn.us](mailto:cbrey@ngwmail.des.state.mn.us)

Website: [www.desstate.mn.us](http://www.desstate.mn.us)

Service Area: Environment Education

#### **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Minnesota Conservation Corps

AmeriCorps\*State Program, Larry Fonnest, Program Director

500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4044

Phone: (612)296-6195, fax: (612)296-5954, email: [larry.fonnest@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:larry.fonnest@dnr.state.mn.us)

Website: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

Service Area: Education Environment

#### *Businesses*

Some businesses like Target, Home Depot, and Whole Foods have volunteer incentives for their employees. Call local businesses to find out if they can help in the garden.

### *Local Schools*

Middle schools, high schools and colleges all have service learning programs. Call to see if any local schools would be a good match for your garden.

### *Scouts*

Boy Scouts:

<http://www.scouting.org/nav/signup.html>

Find your local scout groups—click on cub scouts or boy scouts, then on local scout locator link.

Girl Scouts:

<http://www.emf.net/~troop24/scouting/gs-mn.html>

Girl scouts of MN link

Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts have all helped in community gardens in the Twin Cities. Call local schools or check the White Pages (Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts) for local troops.

### *Sentence to Serve*

Bob Hunter, (612) 348-7137

Sentence to Serve (STS), a program of and for Hennepin County, is available to work with public or nonprofit organizations on projects too large for the organization to accomplish on its own. This is a community service program for delinquent youth, and has worked with a number of community gardens in the past. STS is often scheduled two to three weeks in advance. Call to find out if STS is appropriate for your project.

### *Urban Immersion*

Mike Manhard: (612) 721-8687, ext 568

This program focuses on issues of poverty and homelessness. Youth ages 13 and up volunteer in groups of five to eight, with one adult for every five youth. They generally work on projects for five to six hours. If your garden addresses poverty and homelessness issues, this would be a possible source of volunteers.

## **8. Money and Fundraising**

Although most community gardeners would like to just be gardeners, they must be much more than that in order to maintain their gardens. Community gardeners become lobbyists, organizers and fundraisers for the sake of survival. This section provides a list of local funders, ideas for fundraising, and resources for writing grants and becoming a nonprofit. Most foundations and grant sources require a federally approved, tax exempt, 501 (c)(3) organization to serve as the fiscal agent for small groups applying for funding. Community gardening programs such as GreenSpace Partners and Urban Lands, or neighborhood organizations, can provide this service for community garden groups.

### **A. Contributors to Community Gardens**

The following organizations have made (or at least have been asked to make) contributions to community gardens in the Twin Cities. This is by no means an exhaustive list of grantmakers in the Twin Cities. Please see the Grantseeking section for information on finding more sources of money.

#### *Anderson Corporation*

Susan Roeder, Community Relations Office  
Andersen Corporation, 100 Fourth Avenue North, Bayport, MN 55003  
<http://www.andersenwindows.com/corporate/page.asp?p=40510000>

Submit a type-written request for funding to the above address. You must have a federally approved, tax exempt, 501(c)(3) group. Allow 30 days for review.

#### *Community Crime Prevention/SAFE (CCP/SAFE)*

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/police/ccp-safe/index.html>  
Downtown Command, (612) 673-2923

This program of the Minneapolis Police Department assists block clubs in crime prevention. SAFE may not have funding for this year due to budget cut backs, but will most likely be funded next year. Call for details.

#### *Cottonwood Foundation*

Box 10803  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110 USA  
(651) 426-8797  
<http://www.cottonwoodfdn.org/>  
[cottonwood@igc.org](mailto:cottonwood@igc.org)

#### *Franklin Bank*

2100 Blaisdell Avenue So.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
Phone (612) 874-6000, Fax (612) 874-4370

This community bank is a possible grantmaker to community gardens. Call your local bank to find out about any community grant programs in your area.

*Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP)*

Crown Roller Mill, Suite 425  
105 Fifth Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
Tel: 612 673-5140  
Fax: 612 673-5138  
Email: [internet@nrp.org](mailto:internet@nrp.org)  
[www.nrp.org](http://www.nrp.org)

This program has disbursed funds to a majority of Minneapolis neighborhoods for housing, crime, environment, community building and other neighborhood issues. Contact the office to find out if your neighborhood has funds allocated to community gardens or any facet of community gardening, or visit the web site for more detailed information.

*National Gardening Association*

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp>  
Youth Garden Grant Program, National Gardening Association, 1100 Dorset Street, South Burlington, VT 05403.

The National Gardening Association awards Youth Garden Grants to schools, neighborhood groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational programs throughout the United States. Each grant consists of an assortment of quality tools, seeds, and garden products generously contributed by leading companies from the lawn and garden industry.

To be eligible, groups must plan to garden in 2003 with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. Selection of winners will be based on demonstration of a child-centered plan that emphasizes children directly learning and working in an outdoor garden. Selection criteria include leadership, need, sustainability, community support, innovation and educational, environmental and/or social programming.

*Neighborhood associations, organizations and businesses*

Your neighborhood organization may have funds for community projects. Local businesses may be willing to contribute money or in-kind donations (think of hardware stores for tools and hoses, banks for checking accounts, etc).

*Otto Bremer Foundation*

445 Minnesota Street, Suite 2000  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 227-8036 or (888) 291-1123  
[http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/bremer/  
obf@bremer.com](http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/bremer/obf@bremer.com)

*Solid Waste Reduction Management Coordinating Board Community POWER Grants*

Susan Cairn, [scairn@ties.K12.mn.us](mailto:scairn@ties.K12.mn.us) or (612) 722-5806  
Erin Bowley, [erin@erinb.org](mailto:erin@erinb.org) or (651) 646-3940  
Mailing list: email your information to [erin@erinb.org](mailto:erin@erinb.org).  
<http://www.swmcb.org/CommunityPowerMN/index.html>

The intent of the Community POWER grant program is to partner with community groups such as neighborhood organizations, churches, senior citizen groups, youth organizations, and civic groups to reach individuals who are not currently aware of waste reduction practices. Community POWER provides grants and technical assistance to communities that can work with their existing networks to reduce waste and toxicity. The 2002 grants have already been disbursed. Check in July for future granting possibilities.

*Target Foundation*

33 South Sixth Street, CC-28Y  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612-696-6098  
[http://www.targetcorp.com/targetcorp\\_group/community/foundation.jhtml](http://www.targetcorp.com/targetcorp_group/community/foundation.jhtml)

The Target Foundation welcomes applications from organizations in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area that are IRS-classified 501(c)(3). They make operating, project and capital grants, and support organizations that fulfill the food needs of individuals or families at risk.

*USDA Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program*

Dr. Elizabeth Tuckermanty and Dr. Mark Bailey, CSREES, USDA, Stop 2241,  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-2241, 202-205-0241,  
Fax 202-401-6488, e-mail: [etuckermanty@reeusda.gov](mailto:etuckermanty@reeusda.gov), [m Bailey@reeusda.gov](mailto:m Bailey@reeusda.gov)  
<http://www.reeusda.gov/crgam/cfp/community.htm>

These grants are intended to help eligible private nonprofit entities that need a one-time infusion of Federal assistance to establish and carry out multi-purpose community food projects. Projects are funded from \$10,000-\$250,000 and from one to three years. These are one-time grants that require a dollar for dollar match in resources.

*Wedge Community Cooperative*

Wedgeshare voice-mail (612) 874-7275, Box 333



Grants are focused on organizations that promote sustainable development. Use the Minnesota Common Grant Application Form, available from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, at 612-642-1904, or by their fax-on-demand service at 612-646-3090 or on the web at [www.mcf.org](http://www.mcf.org). The total application should not exceed seven pages. Wedge Community Co-op does not provide grant application forms.

#### *Wells Fargo*

Carolyn Roby, Vice President  
6th & Marquette, MAC N9305-192  
Minneapolis, MN 55479  
(612) 667-8847 (Direct)  
(612) 667-8283 (Fax)  
Email: [Carolyn.H.Roby@wellsfargo.com](mailto:Carolyn.H.Roby@wellsfargo.com)  
[http://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/mn\\_guidelines.jhtml](http://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/mn_guidelines.jhtml)

Wells Fargo has grants available for economic improvement for adults and families, social services, arts and culture, and education.

#### B. Fundraising

Community gardens generate income through the following activities

##### *Annual Plot Fees*

Not all community gardens charge plot fees, but most do. They range from \$10 to \$35 per season and usually go into general maintenance funds. These funds pay for leases, insurance, water, tools, and specific projects.

##### *Sales*

One garden raised a significant amount of money by making cookbooks and selling them at neighborhood events. Yard sales and plant sales can also help raise money.

##### *Garden Tours*

One neighborhood plans an annual garden tour to raise money for community greening efforts.

#### C. Writing grants

Most grants include specific instructions and formats for submitting information (see the "Fundraising" section in Part I for a sample of local funders). However, having certain information on hand can make grant writing quite simple and fast. Create a document with the following information to facilitate grant writing<sup>9</sup>:

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<sup>9</sup> This information is adapted from America Community Gardening Association Growing Communities Curriculum, provided by the Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program

- Who the garden serves
- What needs does the garden meet
- Garden history
- Goals of the garden
- Strategies for achieving goals
- Yearly operating budget
- Budget for a particular project
- Fundraising goals

The following resources can assist communities in grant writing:

*The Neighborhood Revitalization Program Grant Resource Guide*

<http://www.nrp.org/R2/Resources/Forms/NRPGrantResourceGuide.pdf>

(612) 673-5140

This guide includes resources for grant writing, grant sources and resources, research tools for identifying funding sources, a foundation guide, the Minnesota Common Grant application form, and Internet resources. It can be downloaded for free from the above web site.

*The Minnesota Council on Foundations*

<http://www.mcf.org/>

15 South 5<sup>th</sup> St Ste 600

Minneapolis, MN 55402-1570

(612) 338-1989, fax: (612) 337-5089

This organization's web site includes links to Minnesota grantmakers, instructions on how to write a grant proposal (<http://www.mcf.org/mcf/grant/writing.htm>), the MN common grant application form, a grantseeking glossary, grant deadlines, and a schedule for their grant seeking for beginners one-day seminars, which cost \$90.

*The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits*

2314 University Ave W Ste 20

Saint Paul, MN 55114-1904

(651) 642-1904, fax (651) 642-1517, greater Minnesota: (800) 289-1904

[info@mncn.org](mailto:info@mncn.org)

[www.mncn.org](http://www.mncn.org)

MNCN operates five regional Foundation Centers located in Minnesota public libraries. These collections contain information on national and state funders, including national directories and the Guide to Minnesota Foundations and Corporate Giving Programs, and can provide information to help you in your search. The Foundation Center locations are:

- Duluth Public Library, 520 West Superior Street, Duluth, 55802, (218) 723-3802
- Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, 55401 (612) 372-6555
- Rochester Public Library, 11 First Street SE, Rochester, 55902, (507) 285-8000
- Saint Paul Public Library, 90 West Fourth Street, Saint Paul, 55102 (651)292-6307
- Southwest State University Library, Marshall, 56258, (507)537-7278

The Minneapolis Public Library sponsors a free class to introduce users to the foundation section and other resources on the nonprofit sector. Call (612) 372-6555 for further information.

*Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Libraries*  
Various locations

The following resource is available at local libraries:  
*Minnesota grants directory*. St. Paul, MN : Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. 1993/94, 1994/95 and 2000 editions.

D. Becoming a nonprofit

Some grants are only available for nonprofit organizations. One option for accessing these grants is to partner with an already incorporated nonprofit in your neighborhood. Many community gardens use neighborhood organizations or churches as fiscal agents. If your garden cannot work with an existing nonprofit, these resource will help you through the path of incorporating your own nonprofit.

*Minnesota Council of Nonprofits*  
2314 University Ave W Ste 20  
Saint Paul, MN 55114-1904  
(651) 642-1904, fax: (651) 642-1517, greater Minnesota: (800) 289-1904  
[info@mncn.org](mailto:info@mncn.org)  
[www.mncn.org](http://www.mncn.org)

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits provides step-by-step information on how to start a nonprofit (<http://www.mncn.org/howtosteps.htm>). They outline what steps to take at the visionary and planning stages and what kind of federal and state filing for tax exemption needs to occur. Once again, check with local nonprofits before taking this step. If you can "borrow" your neighborhood organization or church's 501(c)3 number, you can save the time and paperwork required to create a new nonprofit.

This organization also publishes the *Handbook for Starting a Nonprofit*, which it sells for \$25. It includes all the forms an organization will need for applying and filing for nonprofit status.

*Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Libraries*  
Various locations

The following book is available at local libraries:

Gary M. Grobman. 1999. *The nonprofit handbook: Everything you need to know to start and run your nonprofit organization*. Harrisburg, PA : White Hat Communications.

*University of St. Thomas' Center for Nonprofit Management*  
1000 LaSalle Avenue, 25H 525  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
(651) 962-4300 or 1-800-328-6819, ext. 2-4300

This program offers courses in nonprofit management.

## 9. Starting a Community Garden

Amazingly, some Twin Cities neighborhoods still lack community gardens. If you can't find a garden near you, then consider starting your own (Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program can help you do this). Check out Sustainable Resources Center's How to Start a Community Garden booklet: 612-872-3297/ [www.src-mn.us](http://www.src-mn.us)). Other organizations have published thorough guides on starting a community garden in Minnesota (Minnesota Green Handbook: Creating Community Gardens; 651-643-3601/ [www.northerngardener.org](http://www.northerngardener.org)). Instead of repeating that information here, this guide will just help you get started with a few important resources: finding land, organizing and resolving disputes. After that, the above references should be able to answer most of your questions.

### A. Finding Land<sup>10</sup>

Look for open land in your neighborhood. Consider institutional grounds (schools, hospitals, etc), vacant lots, private land (a neighbor with a double lot, maybe) and park property (only in St. Paul at this point. There is a current movement in Minneapolis to remove an old statute that outlaws food gardening in parks that is still on the books.). The following resources can help you pin down who owns a piece of land.

#### *Minneapolis*

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<sup>10</sup>Thanks to Eric Hart and Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands for the information in this section.

In Minneapolis, finding out who owns a piece of property is very simple as long as you have web access (this might be worth a trip to the library). Just enter an address at [www2.co.hennepin.mn.us/pins/](http://www2.co.hennepin.mn.us/pins/), and you can find out the current owner, property taxes and other information. You can also call the County Tax Department at (612) 348-3011.

If the lot is owned by Hennepin County, call (612) 348-3734 to request permissions to garden on it.

If the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) owns the lot, call (612) 673-5229.

The Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program has an established relationship with both Hennepin County and MCDA and negotiates lease agreements for community gardeners on a first time and yearly basis. (612-872-3297) Garden groups can get liability insurance for their garden, which is required by MCDA and Hennepin County, through the Sustainable Resources Center.

### *St. Paul*

In Ramsey County, the Ramsey County Department of Property Records and Revenue can tell you who owns a piece of land. Call them at (651) 266-6000.

If the land is tax forfeited, call the Tax Forfeited Land Department at (651) 266-2081 to arrange a lease.

If the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Agency (HRA) owns the land, call (651) 266-6683 to proceed with securing a lease.

Again, Urban Lands negotiates lease agreements for community gardeners with the above agencies.

### B. Organizing

This is the most difficult section of the Guide to write. Every single garden has a different method for organizing gardeners to complete the necessary tasks of a community garden. However, the survey results consistently indicated that organizing is one of the most challenging parts of community gardening. Spring enthusiasm rarely carries through to fall clean-up, and garden organizers have devised a variety of techniques for buoying support throughout the gardening season. The following tips come from Community Garden Workshop Series discussions as well as the Garden Web community garden list serve ([www.forums.gardenweb.com/forums/commgard](http://www.forums.gardenweb.com/forums/commgard)).

## Tips for organizing community gardens

- Have something for people to do at meetings and a reason to return for the next one. Specifically, have something for people to take away from meetings (seeds, transplants, fact sheets, enthusiasm, food, etc.).
- Have a variety of small tasks that are easily completed to give gardeners a sense of accomplishment when assisting with community chores
- Utilize individual gardeners' talents. Some gardens have benefited from the talents of garden members who are also lawyers, carpenters, Master Gardeners, and stay-at-home moms.
- Keep a list of each gardener's talents, resources and connections for easy reference. This catalogue of community resources comes in handy for finding out who has a lawnmower or rototiller, who provides childcare, and who is best friends with the city council person.
- Have non-gardening tasks available for those who want to be involved but don't want to garden. These tasks can include record keeping, treasurer, spreading woodchips and volunteer coordinating.
- Try to spread leadership around by having different garden committees. One person can be responsible for plot registration, another for organizing compost duties.
- Don't forget to provide easy means of communication to notify gardeners and passers-by alike about garden events and contact information. Bulletin boards, signs and kiosks all help keep gardens organized.
- Document hours worked in the garden on community tasks and figure out a way to reward gardeners based on hours worked. It might be possible to hook into neighborhood barter networks, or to get local businesses to donate awards. Recognition at a harvest banquet may be all the reward gardeners need.
- Have weekly, seasonal and yearly community activities. Some gardens have weekly potlucks, seasonal workshops and classes in the garden, field trips, seed and seedling exchanges and harvest festivals. These community-building activities will hopefully increase gardeners' stakes in maintaining a beautiful garden year-round.

Every garden has different needs and abilities. Different leadership styles will adopt different organizing methods, and not all of the above tips will work with every garden. Likewise, there are many other ideas for organizing than listed here. Hopefully, though, this list will get you started toward developing an organizing method that works for your community garden.

### C. Mediation Services

Occasionally, community gardens run across hostile neighbors or even gardeners who will not abide by the garden rules. If this is the case, mediation services can help resolve difficult issues without resorting to litigation.

*Hamline Mediation Center for Dispute Resolution*

1536 Hewitt Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55104-1284  
Phone: (651) 523-2880, fax: (651) 523-2967  
[mediationcenter@gw.hamline.edu](mailto:mediationcenter@gw.hamline.edu)

This center provides mediation services to community organizations for a reasonable fee, particularly in comparison to litigation.

*Minneapolis Mediation Program*

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/police/ccp-safe/tips/mmp.html>  
612-822-9883

MMP's services are free of charge for all community cases referred by SAFE, the Minneapolis Police Department or local social service agencies. If you have a concern that you think could be mediated, call MMP at. If you know of a problem issue that is on-going, encourage the parties to call MMP directly. The statistics show that once people take the first step, they are able to resolve the issue and become satisfied.

## 10. Policy

Minneapolis and St. Paul both have policies regarding community gardens. Both cities, though, could better support community gardens by changing city policies to make community gardening easy and efficient. Other cities have implemented supportive policies for community gardens, and the Twin Cities Greening Coalition is currently working on revising local policy.

The Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) has recently instituted a policy that allows the purchase of vacant lots for the purpose of community gardening in specific circumstances. The complete policy can be found on their web site ([http://www.mcda.org/policies\\_reports/Policies/real\\_disposition.htm](http://www.mcda.org/policies_reports/Policies/real_disposition.htm)). The Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program was key in negotiating this policy. See their web site for more details ([www.src-mn.org](http://www.src-mn.org)).

Minneapolis does not currently allow gardening for food in public parks, although the exact policy that states this has not been located. This elusive policy dates back to the 1940s and will hopefully soon be revised.

Green St. Paul is currently attempting to pass a resolution for the city to create designation for the city's green spaces. St. Paul has an informal procedure that allows community gardens in public parks on a case-by-case basis.



## PART II: COMMUNITY GARDEN GREEN PAGES

If Part I left any questions unanswered, call an organization or check a web site in this section.

### 1. Organization Directory

#### *Community Forestry Resource Center*

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
2105 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 444040  
(612) 870-3415  
[forestrycenter@iatp.org](mailto:forestrycenter@iatp.org), <http://www.forestrycenter.org>

This Center works with landowners to develop sustainable wood cooperatives and other forestry initiatives. This is a good resource for local, sustainably-produced wood products (think timber for raised beds and other garden structures).

#### *GreenSpace Partners*

Corrie Zoll, Program Director  
2801 21<sup>st</sup> Ave S., Ste 110  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
Phone: (612) 278-7119, fax: (612) 278-7107  
[www.greeninstitute.org](http://www.greeninstitute.org)

GreenSpace Partners delivers a number of programs, including urban market gardening and urban forestry. GSP focuses on, but is not limited to the Phillips neighborhood in south Minneapolis. New this year is a membership program. Membership is free, and members get preference on the thousands of donated plants GSP receives annually. Visit the web site or call the number above for more details about membership and meetings.

#### *Green St. Paul*

Anna Wasescha, Convener  
(651) 646-8733  
[ariel@tc.umn.edu](mailto:ariel@tc.umn.edu)

A coalition of (mostly) St. Paulites interested in local greening policy and issues meets monthly to discuss current concerns and actions.

*Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP)*

Crown Roller Mill, Suite 425  
105 Fifth Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
Tel: 612 673-5140  
Fax: 612 673-5138  
Email: [internet@nrp.org](mailto:internet@nrp.org)  
[www.nrp.org](http://www.nrp.org)

This program disburses funding to neighborhoods for community improvement projects. The NRP web site provides comprehensive resources on community building, neighborhood environmental issues, and grant seeking.

*Minnesota Department of Transportation*

Community Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program  
Todd Carroll, State Landscape Partnership Program Coordinator  
Mn/DOT Office of Technical Support, M.S. 686  
395 John Ireland Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899  
Phone: (651) 284-3760, fax (651) 282-6022  
[todd.carroll@dot.state.mn.us](mailto:todd.carroll@dot.state.mn.us)

This program offers communities technical and financial assistance to install and maintain landscape plantings on eligible state highway rights of way. Contact the State Program Coordinator (above) for an application guide. An important part of the process is securing a Sponsoring Local Government Unit, so be prepared to make some calls to local government offices.

*Minnesota State Horticultural Society Minnesota Green Program*

1755 Prior Ave N.  
Falcon Heights, MN 55113  
(651) 643-3601  
[www.northerngardener.org](http://www.northerngardener.org)

This program supplies donated plant material—from seeds to trees—to member-gardens (call or visit web site to find out about membership). Donations come from nurseries, plant sales, garden shows, individuals and other sources, and are therefore varied and unpredictable. This means that exciting and unexpected plants can be found through this network.

Also, the MSHS houses a thorough library specific to northern gardening.

*Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program*

1916 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S

Minneapolis, 55403  
(612) 872-3297  
[www.src-mn.org](http://www.src-mn.org)

This program supplies publications ranging from a booklet on how to start a community garden to various topical gardening fact sheets. They give out free seeds to community gardens, and they have a tool lending library that includes a rototiller. SRC's Urban Lands program also has a community garden directory with over 150 community gardens in the Twin Cities metro area. Visit their web site to locate community gardens in specific neighborhoods or call for assistance. Urban Lands has a garden permanency program, through which they assist communities to purchase their gardens. They provide leases and liability insurance for many community gardens, and on top of all this, their web site has a good compendium of community gardening resources.

#### *Tree Trust*

Tree Trust  
2350 Wycliff Street Suite 200  
Saint Paul, MN 55114  
Phone: 651-644-5800, fax: 651-644-1469  
email: [info@treetrust.org](mailto:info@treetrust.org)  
<http://www.treetrust.org/treeprograms/community.html>

Tree Trust "link[s] community groups with programs, resources and technical assistance to implement environmental projects that unite people and support community development." Tree Trust also works with youth in combining hands-on learning with job skill development.

#### *Twin Cities Greening Coalition*

(612) 278-7119  
[czoll@greeninstitute.org](mailto:czoll@greeninstitute.org)

This group of representatives of several Twin Cities greening organizations meets monthly to address community greening issues.

## **2. Youth Gardening Directory**

Start kids gardening young in order to improve the future of community gardens! If you can't find a program for youth in your neighborhood, think of starting one yourself.

*Community Design Center*

370 Selby Ave, Ste 310  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
(651) 228-7037

The Center focuses on community development through children, food and ecology enterprises through its six garden sites, youth internship programs and an urban "salad share" CSA.

*Farm in the City*

275 Syndicate St. N.  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
(651) 247-4275, (651) 641-8831  
[www.farminthecity.org](http://www.farminthecity.org)

Farm in the City operates a Youth Market Garden Program for ages 12-17 and a Summer Arts and Gardening Program for ages 7-12. The Market Garden Program is offered at no cost and the Arts and Gardening Program for \$75 per week or \$450 for all six weeks (scholarships are available).

*Youth Farm and Market Project*

2831 Aldrich Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
(612) 872-4226  
[www.youthfarm.net](http://www.youthfarm.net)  
[info@youthfarm.net](mailto:info@youthfarm.net)

Youth Farm hires youth ages 9-17 at different capacities to operate market gardens and participate in arts and cultural activities in the Lyndale and Powderhorn neighborhoods of Minneapolis and the West Side neighborhood in St. Paul.

*JD Rivers Outdoor Discover Center*

Theodore Wirth Park at the intersection of Glenwood and Washburn Avenues north  
(612) 374-8431

This program is co-sponsored by University of MN Extension Service-Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and provides outdoor programs for ages 6-12. It costs \$40 for 5-day summer camp (register by July 15).

*Tree Trust*

Tree Trust  
2350 Wycliff Street Suite 200  
Saint Paul, MN 55114  
Phone: 651-644-5800, fax: 651-644-1469  
email: [info@treetrust.org](mailto:info@treetrust.org)

Tree Trust employs low-income and at-risk youth, ages 14-21, to carry out landscaping projects in local parks and neighborhoods.

### 3. Retail Directory

Most neighborhoods have local or at least nearby hardware and lawn and garden stores. However, community gardeners have found some stores that are worth making an extra trip out of the neighborhood. The list of stores that follows are the ones that cropped up most often in the surveys. Check the Yellow Pages for complete listings.

#### *Garden City*

2309 Lyndale Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
(612) 871-6265

A recent change in ownership has not affected this store's dedication to carrying organic products.

#### *ReUse Center*

2216 East Lake Street near Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis  
(612) 724-2608

Sells used garden equipment, windows for cold frames, and lumber.

#### *Mother Earth Gardens*

3738 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
(612) 724-2296

This garden store has a good selection of native plants and often has organically grown transplants. They are also a good source for organic yard and garden supplies.

#### *Phillips Garden*

2646 Cedar Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 721-1221

Transplants and gardening supplies can be found here—just look for the giant fish!

*SouthSide Farm Store*

1534 E 38<sup>th</sup> St  
 Minneapolis, MN 55407  
 (612) 721-2761

This eclectic neighborhood garden and pet store keeps a variety of composters in stock and is the Twin Cities premier source of compost worms. Call ahead for worm availability. They also have vegetable transplants, annuals and perennials, and bunnies and kitties!

*Twin Cities Community Cooperatives*

Most of our grocery coops also have seasonal plant sales and some carry organic seeds as well in the spring. They are also natural partners for supporting neighborhood gardens and community plantings.

<b>Lakewinds Natural Foods</b> 17523 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka (952) 473-0292	<b>River Market Community Co-op</b> 221 N. Main St., Stillwater (651) 439-0366
<b>Lakewinds Natural Home</b> 17515 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka (952) 473-0292	<b>St. Peter Food Co-op</b> 119 W. Broadway, St. Peter (507) 943-4880
<b>Linden Hills Co-op</b> 2813 W. 43 <sup>rd</sup> St, Minneapolis (612) 922-1159	<b>Seward Co-op Grocery and Deli</b> 2111 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis (612) 338-2456
<b>Mississippi Market</b> 1810 Randolph Ave, St. Paul (651) 690-0507  622 Selby Ave, St. Paul (651) 310-9499	<b>Valley Natural Foods</b> 13750 County Rd. 11, Burnsville (952) 891-1212
<b>North Country Co-op</b> 1929 S. 5 <sup>th</sup> St, Minneapolis (612) 338-3110	<b>Wedge Co-op</b> 2105 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis (612) 871-3993

*Farmers Markets*

Minneapolis and St. Paul both have a number of farmers markets, which in the springtime abound with locally-raised vegetable, herb and flower transplants. Meet the person who cared for your plants from seed, and make special requests for hard-to-find plants. This is also a good place to make connections with

farmers for extra compost or mulch. Also check with local farmers markets for opportunities to market produce from your community garden. The following is just a sampling of neighborhood and downtown farmers markets.

*Minneapolis ([www.mplsfarmersmarket.com/](http://www.mplsfarmersmarket.com/) (612) 333-1727)*

<b>Healthy Powderhorn Farmers Market</b> E. 31 <sup>st</sup> St and Chicago Ave S. Saturdays June 1 <sup>st</sup> -Oct 19 <sup>th</sup> , 9am to 1 pm	<b>Northeast Minneapolis Farmers Market</b> Saturdays June-October, 9am to 1pm University and 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE
<b>Minneapolis Farmers Market</b> Under I-94 at Lyndale and Glenwood Daily April 22 <sup>nd</sup> -Dec 24 <sup>th</sup> , 6am to 1pm	<b>Youth Farm and Market Project</b> Saturdays end of June-September, 9am-1pm 3131 Pillsbury Ave S (Lyndale)

*St. Paul ([www.stpaulfarmersmarket.com/](http://www.stpaulfarmersmarket.com/) (651) 227-6856)*

<b>International Marketplace</b> Corner of Payne Ave and Sims St Wed, July-Sept, 12pm to 5pm	<b>St. Paul Downtown Farmers Market</b> Lowertown Sat. 6am to 1pm and Sun. 8am to 1pm, April-November
<b>Seventh Place Mall Farmers Market</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Place Mall, across from Marshall Fields Tues, July 27-Oct; Thurs, June-Oct 10am to 2pm	<b>Youth Farm and Market Project</b> West Side (651.231-0010) Sunday, end of June-Sept., 11am-3pm Behind El Burrito Mercado on Concord.

#### 4. Community Directory

Who are the people in your neighborhood? Garden clubs, block clubs and neighborhood organizations abound in the Twin Cities, and are often great resources for gardening ideas, community building, and yes, even money! This section will help you track down community information.

##### A. Garden Clubs

*Minnesota State Horticultural Society*  
 (651) 643-3601  
[http://www.northerngardener.org/content/garden\\_clubs.html](http://www.northerngardener.org/content/garden_clubs.html)

MSSH maintains a list of registered Minnesota garden clubs. Garden clubs are great resources for plant swaps and plant information as well as potential funders of local projects.

## B. Neighborhoods

### *Minneapolis*

#### *Minneapolis Community Development Association (MCDA)*

(612) 673-5095.

[http://www.mcda.org/Services/Neighborhoods/neighborhood\\_groups.htm](http://www.mcda.org/Services/Neighborhoods/neighborhood_groups.htm)

The MCDA lists Minneapolis' 81 neighborhoods, including contact numbers, Ward number, and meeting dates, on their web site.

#### *Minneapolis Center for Neighborhoods*

2600 East Franklin Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55406

(612) 339-3480, fax (612) 339-3481

<http://www.center4neighborhoods.org/index.htm>

The Center for Neighborhoods has an excellent neighborhood resource guide at their web site with information on organizing, management and programming. In the Environment section, they list city and county departments' environmental contacts, state agencies providing environmental services, environmental resource organizations, environmental projects in neighborhoods and environmental consultants.

#### *Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program*

(612) 673-5140

<http://www.nrp.org/R2/Neighborhoods/default.html>

NRP lists the following on its web site: neighborhood NRP action plans, neighborhood summary, neighborhood organizations, and NRP award recipients.

### *St. Paul*

#### *St. Paul Government*

(651) 266-8989

<http://www.stpaul.gov/neighborhoods/>

The city web site includes a page on neighborhoods that provides information, maps and links to the 17 St. Paul Districts. Call the city at for more information.

## **5. Bibliography**

These are locally available written resources for community gardens.



### A. Community Gardening

*Creating Community Gardens.* MN Green. 1755 Prior Ave N., Falcon Heights, MN 55113, (651) 643-3601. [www.northerngardener.org](http://www.northerngardener.org).

*How to Start a Community Garden.* The Urban Lands Program, the Sustainable Resources Center, 1916 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404. (612) 872-4255. [www.src-mn.org](http://www.src-mn.org).

*Sustainable Gardening Fact Sheets.* The Urban Lands Program, the Sustainable Resources Center, 1916 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404. (612) 872-4255. [www.src-mn.org](http://www.src-mn.org).

Fact Sheets cover composting, tree care, seed starting, gardening for nutrition, boulevard gardening, worm composting and a guide to community gardening.

### B. Fundraising

Gary M. Grobman. 1999. *The nonprofit handbook: Everything you need to know to start and run your nonprofit organization.* Harrisburg, PA : White Hat Communications.

*Handbook for Starting a Nonprofit.* The Minnesota Council of nonprofits. 2314 University Ave W Ste 20, Saint Paul, MN 55114-1904. (651) 642-1904. [www.mncn.org](http://www.mncn.org).

*Minnesota grants directory.* St. Paul, MN : Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. Yearly editions.

*The Neighborhood Revitalization Program Grant Resource Guide, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.* (612) 673-5140. <http://www.nrp.org/R2/Resources/Forms/NRPGrantResourceGuide.pdf>.

## **6. Web Resources**

This is a compilation of all the web sites referenced in this Guide as well as other useful sites.

### Farm Connections

[http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/pr/2002/newsr\\_020308.htm](http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/pr/2002/newsr_020308.htm): The Land Stewardship Project community supported agriculture directory

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/mngrown/directory.htm>: Minnesota Grown directory, linking consumers directly to producers of a variety of farm products.

[www.mplsfarmersmarket.com](http://www.mplsfarmersmarket.com): Minneapolis Farmers Markets

[www.stpaulfarmersmarket.com](http://www.stpaulfarmersmarket.com): St. Paul Farmers Markets

### City Connections

#### *Parks*

[www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org): Minneapolis Parks and Recreation

<http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks/>: St. Paul Parks and Recreation

#### *Mediation*

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/police/ccp-safe/tips/mmp.html>:  
Minneapolis mediation program

#### *Policy*

[http://www.mcda.org/policies\\_reports/Policies/real\\_disposition.htm](http://www.mcda.org/policies_reports/Policies/real_disposition.htm): Minneapolis policy regarding the purchase of community gardens

### Compost

<http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental/>: Hennepin County Environmental Services, with information on obtaining compost bins through the county and a schedule for composting workshops

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG5553.html>: Plans for a variety of compost bins

<http://www.bae.umn.edu/extens/manure/compost/>: Compost web page

<http://stevesearthengine.com/>: Steve's Earth Engine, compost bin manufacturer. 4841 Garfield Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409.

<http://www.compostinfo.com/Default.htm>: Florida composting site, including bin plans for many different types and a program that calculates C:N ratio for you on the Virtual Pile page—limited, but very fun and informative.

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG3296.html#toc>:  
Composting and Mulching: a Guide to Managing Organic Yard Wastes.  
University of Minnesota Extension Service.

### Greening Organizations

#### *Local:*

<http://www.forestrycenter.org>: The Community Forestry Resource Center

<http://www.fscus.org>: The Forest Stewardship Council of the United States

[www.greeninstitute.org](http://www.greeninstitute.org): The Green Institute and GreenSpace Partners

[www.northerngardener.com](http://www.northerngardener.com): The Minnesota State Horticultural Society and MN Green; list of MN garden clubs

[www.src-mn.org](http://www.src-mn.org): The Sustainable Resources Center and the Urban Lands Program; Twin Cities Community Garden Directory

<http://www.treetrust.org/>: Tree Trust

*National:*

[www.cityfarmer.org](http://www.cityfarmer.org): Urban agriculture notes from Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture

[www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org): American Community Gardening Association

<http://www.communitygarden.org/pubs/starting.html>: Starting a Community Garden

<http://www.bostonnatural.org/organizing.php>: Community garden month-by-month task organizer from Boston

Neighborhood web sites

[www.macgrove.org](http://www.macgrove.org): Macalaster-Groveland neighborhood web site, where updates on local plant swaps can be found

[www.dowlingcommunitygarden.org](http://www.dowlingcommunitygarden.org): Dowling Community Garden

[www.longfellow.org/commcg.html](http://www.longfellow.org/commcg.html): Longfellow Community Garden

University resources

<http://www.hcmg.umn.edu/>: The Hennepin County Master Gardener Program

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/programs/index.asp?getnav=1>: Extension classes

[www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu): Minnesota Extension Service

Public Libraries

Minneapolis: <http://www.mpls.lib.mn.us/>

St. Paul: <http://www.stpaul.lib.mn.us/>

### Volunteer Sources

#### *Americorps information:*

[http://www.americorps.org/joining/direct/direct\\_mn.html](http://www.americorps.org/joining/direct/direct_mn.html)

[www.clearcorps.org](http://www.clearcorps.org)

[www.desstate.mn.us](http://www.desstate.mn.us)

[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

#### *Scouting:*

<http://www.scouting.org/nav/signup.html>

<http://www.emf.net/~troop24/scouting/gs-mn.html>

### Funders

<http://www.andersenwindows.com/corporate/page.asp?p=40510000>: Anderson Window Corporation

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/police/ccp-safe/index.html>: CCP/SAFE

<http://www.cottonwoodfdn.org/>: Cottonwood Foundation

[www.nrp.org](http://www.nrp.org): Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp>: National Gardening Association

<http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/bremer/>: Otto Bremer Foundation

<http://www.swmcb.org/CommunityPowerMN/index.html>: Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board

<http://www.hrkfoundation.org/grants/>: HRK Foundation

[http://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/mn\\_guidelines.jhtml](http://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/mn_guidelines.jhtml): Wells Fargo Bank

<http://www.reeusda.gov/crgam/cfp/community.htm>: United States Department of Agriculture

[http://www.targetcorp.com/targetcorp\\_group/community/foundation.jhtml](http://www.targetcorp.com/targetcorp_group/community/foundation.jhtml): Target Foundation

### Finding Funding

<http://www.mncn.org/howtosteps.htm>: MN Council of nonprofits web page on how to start a nonprofit

[www.mcf.org](http://www.mcf.org): Minneapolis Council on Foundations

### Neighborhood Information

[http://www.mcda.org/Services/Neighborhoods/neighborhood\\_groups.htm](http://www.mcda.org/Services/Neighborhoods/neighborhood_groups.htm):  
Minneapolis neighborhoods listed by the Minneapolis Community Development  
Agency

<http://www.center4neighborhoods.org/index.htm>: Minneapolis Center for  
Neighborhoods

<http://www.nrp.org/R2/Neighborhoods/default.html>: Minneapolis Neighborhood  
Revitalization Program's neighborhood finder

<http://www.stpaul.gov/neighborhoods/>: St. Paul neighborhoods

Property Search

[www2.co.hennepin.mn.us/pins/](http://www2.co.hennepin.mn.us/pins/): Hennepin County Property Information Search

## 7. Quick Phone Number References

This section includes numbers referenced in the Guide in an easy-access format.

### Compost and Soil

Botany Bob: (651) 450-9178

NRG Processing Solutions: (952) 946-6999

Ramsey County Compost Sites: (651) 773-4455

St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium: (651) 221-4462

### Garden Leases

The Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program: (612) 872-3297

### Hydrant Access

Minneapolis: (612) 673-2867

St. Paul: (651) 917-4790

### Extension Services

Master Gardener Hotline (Yard and Garden Line): (612) 624-4771, option 5 or 2

Hennepin County Master Gardeners: (612) 374-8450

Ramsey County Master Gardeners: (651) 704-2080

### Lead Testing

Minneapolis: (612) 673-3535 (Children's Environmental Health Department)

St. Paul: (612) 625-3101 (University of MN)

### Liability Insurance

The Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program: (612) 872-3297

### Mediation Services

Minneapolis Mediation Program: (612) 822-9883

### Plants and Seeds

GreenSpace Partners: (612) 278-7119

The Sustainable Resources Center's Urban Lands Program: (612) 872-3297

Minnesota Green: (651) 643-3601