



Gardening Opportunities

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Gardening beautifies the park system, builds community, provides recreation and fosters healthy lifestyles. Whether beginner or expert, the MPRB provides a variety of opportunities for gardeners to develop skills and share their talents. Education programs teach youth the art of gardening and set a foundation for healthy lifestyles. Volunteer programs connect talent with existing park gardens to create beauty and community. The park board's ability to hold land allows organizations to turn a vacant lot into a community garden. This multi-faceted approach maximizes the strengths of the MPRB and provides a comprehensive range of opportunities for gardeners. The following is a summary of the opportunities residents can enjoy.

Garden Volunteer Programs/Opportunities

With supervision and training from the MPRB's professional gardeners, volunteers may help care for and grow their gardening skills at many sites throughout the city. This includes:

- Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden & Bird Sanctuary at Theodore Wirth Park
- Longfellow Gardens at Minnehaha Park
- Loring Park's Garden of the Seasons
- Lyndale Gardens: Rose, Peace, Annual/Perennial, Trial Border & Butterfly Gardens
- Nokomis Naturescape at Lake Nokomis
- And many, many more!

The MPRB also provides the opportunity for gardeners to adopt-a-park - meaning a volunteer gardener would adopt a landscape or a specific flower garden in either a neighborhood or regional park close to their home. To find out more, please contact our volunteer coordinator Michelle at mkellog@minneapolisparcs.org or visit www.minneapolisparcs.org and click on volunteer. Volunteers can also check the website to sign up for classes offered by MPRB gardeners.

Garden Programs in Neighborhood Parks

The MRPB provides youth programming centered on gardening at Luxton, Sibley, Van Cleve and Webber Parks. Each site has a small raised bed for hands-on educational activities for both food production and flowers & butterflies. Youth engage in active gardening (planning, planting, watering, weeding, harvesting, food prep and eating). Youth may also engage in monitoring monarchs and other insects, as well as flower arranging (take a bouquet home to mom). The range of classes varies by site and interests of recreation center programming staff.

The Neighborhood Naturalist Program provides seasonally relevant programs for youth at all 49 recreation centers. Programs vary by the season and year, and regularly incorporate various aspects of gardening. Please visit www.minneapolisparcs.org and click on environmental programs to discover what programs are being offered at your local park.

The MPRB also partners with Youth Farm & Market at Powderhorn Park to provide educational gardening opportunities for youth. For more information about this educational garden program, please visit www.youthfarm.net

Garden Programs in Regional Parks

Theodore Wirth Park is home to the JD Rivers' Children's Garden. Now entering its 27th season, the Garden provides garden programs and environmental education for youth and also facilitates intergenerational on-site programs focused on gardening. For more information, visit www.minneapolisparcs.org or email jdrivers@minneapolisparcs.org

Community Gardening

To support community gardening throughout the city, the MPRB can hold land for citizen groups who have met the criteria outlined in the December 18, 2002 action taken by the Park Board (see other side for the action). This action does not authorize use of existing park property for community gardens. The MPRB currently holds land for Bancroft Neighborhood Association and Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association.

OPERATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

December 18, 2002

THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD WOULD LIKE TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF COMMUNITY GARDEN EFFORTS IN MINNEAPOLIS. SUCH SUPPORT IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR MISSION OF PROVIDING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CITIZENS IN OUR CITY, PROMOTES THE USE OF UNDERUTILIZED LAND AS GREEN SPACE, AND PROVIDES A PLACE IN WHICH NEIGHBORS CAN CONGREGATE.

WE, THEREFORE, INTIALLY AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM ON PROPERTY ACQUIRED FROM AVAILABLE SOURCES SUCH AS THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, HENNEPIN COUNTY AND/OR THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS. ACQUISITION OF EACH SUCH PROPERTY WILL BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEW NET COST TO THE MPRB.

COMMUNITY GARDEN REQUESTS BY CITIZEN GROUPS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE RECOGNIZED NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS, AND THE DISTRICT PARK COMMISSIONER. REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR PLANNING. APPROPRIATE USE OF SUCH PROPERTY AS A MAINTAINED COMMUNITY GARDEN WILL BE IDENTIFIED THROUGH A USE AGREEMENT WITH THE MPRB.

INSURANCE TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY GARDEN ACTIVITIES ON SUCH PROPERTY WILL BE PROVIDED BY A SUPPORTIVE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AND WILL NAME THE PARK BOARD AS AN ADDITIONAL INSURED.

Note: The current title for the assistant superintendent of planning is the Director of Citywide Planning and Project Management. The Director can be reached by calling MPRB customer service at 612-230-6400.