

## **GardenWorks Press Release (Long)**

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## **GardenWorks 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parade of Community Gardens Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Community gardeners across the Twin Cities open their gardens to the public and show off lush, thriving gardens, organic produce, and community gems.*

On August 18, from 10AM to 2PM, the second annual Parade of Community Gardens will celebrate art, beauty, and food, all growing in community gardens metro-wide. Urban gardens throughout the Twin Cities feature lush floral treatments and often organic food production as well.

GardenWorks is the voice of community gardening across the region. GardenWorks Manager Kirsten Saylor says, "Across the metro area, these community gardens represent the diversity of the gardeners involved, the communities they live in, what they do, and how they do it. The Parade is an opportunity for the public to join gardeners in celebrating: working together to create common space where people can grow – both literally and figuratively. These gardens show that - even though we all face different challenges - we can all learn from each other."

GardenWorks, a program of The Green Institute, is at the forefront of a nationwide trend toward healthier, greener living. Studies have shown that community gardens aid in building tight knit communities which can assist in alleviating crime problems, can serve to beautify blighted areas, and can encourage local food production. On the day of the Parade, community gardeners will show the public all the ways that community gardens are assets to their community.

Walk, bike, or drive from garden to garden. This year's Parade will feature true community gems. Saint Paul's Phalen Poetry Park encourages parade visitors to read poetry amongst the living dragon nestled in the grass. The ArtStop community garden in South Minneapolis will feature art projects for all-ages. The LaSalle Community Garden (sponsored by the Stevens Square Community Organization) will demonstrate how green space inspires community-building, keeps "eyes on the street", and provides space for residents to grow their own food.

Maps, brochures and garden descriptions are available free at [www.gardenworksMN.org](http://www.gardenworksMN.org). For more information, please contact: Kirsten Saylor, at [ksaylor@greeninstitute.org](mailto:ksaylor@greeninstitute.org), 612-278-7123.

## **GardenWorks Press Release (short for calendar)**

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## **Grab a friend! The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parade of Community Gardens!**

Celebrate the wealth and diversity of community gardens in the Twin Cities during the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Parade of Community Gardens! On Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 10AM – 2PM.

Free event, all welcome! Visit one garden in your neighborhood or many around the Twin Cities.

Gardens will feature a variety of attractions including tasty veggies, massage, ice-cream, music, art in the garden and more!

This event is coordinated by GardenWorks, a program of The Green Institute. More information, maps and garden descriptions available at [www.gardenworksMN.org](http://www.gardenworksMN.org) or (612) 278-7123.