

## Our History

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In 2004, the Twin Cities Greening Coalition hired Kirsten Saylor to develop a Twin Cities Community Garden Sustainability Plan drawing on regional models and working with local community gardeners.

From this, GardenWorks was created as a project of The Green Institute in 2005, with major support from the McKnight Foundation and founding support from the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and Farm In The City.

In 2008, Gardening Matters was formed as a non-profit organization independent from The Green Institute, with the purpose of continuing the work of GardenWorks.

### Funding

Gardening Matters is funded through a combination of grants from individuals, businesses and foundations.

### Staff

Kirsten Saylor, Executive Director, provides administrative and program support.  
[kirsten.gardeningmatters@gmail.com](mailto:kirsten.gardeningmatters@gmail.com)

Ila Duntemann, the program coordinator, provides support to community gardeners.  
[ila.gardeningmatters@gmail.com](mailto:ila.gardeningmatters@gmail.com)

The success of Gardening Matters depends on the time and financial contributions donated by volunteers and student interns!

### Future "Works"

In 2009, we will continue our support of community gardening.

In addition, we are laying down the foundation to expand our work to include support for greater neighborhood-based food production among both residential and commercial enterprises. Community gardens are core to this effort.

## Community Gardens

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*"A community garden is any space where plants are grown and maintained by a community to meet the needs of that community."*

### To Find a Community Garden Near You

Visit the online community garden directory at [www.gardeningmatters.org](http://www.gardeningmatters.org)

### Benefits to gardeners & community

Building community by crossing cultural and socio-economic divides

Making our neighborhood a greener and more attractive place to live

Providing access to nutritionally rich and Culturally appropriate foods

Educating neighbors about land stewardship

Assisting in community crime prevention

Providing physical exercise and mental well-being

### Please Support Gardening Matters and Community Gardening through a charitable contribution! Here's how...

Make check to "Crossroads Resource Center on behalf of Gardening Matters" and mail to address below



Promoting and Preserving Community Gardening

PO Box 580496  
Minneapolis, MN 55458  
[info@gardeningmatters.org](mailto:info@gardeningmatters.org)  
612-492-8964

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



An organization dedicated  
to community gardening  
across the Twin Cities

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...because **Gardening Matters!**

## About Us

Gardening Matters is a non-profit organization that brings together community gardeners across the Twin Cities' metro area and in Greater Minnesota.

### Our Mission

to promote and preserve community gardening by connecting community gardeners with each other and the communities in which they reside.

### Our Goals

- To strengthen networking between community garden groups
- To strengthen internal functioning of community gardens
- To improve public relations for community gardens
- To foster partnerships between the gardening community and public and private sectors
- To assist with the establishment of new community gardens

### How We Do It?

Gardening Matters is run by and for community gardeners. Tapping into the resources and expertise of the gardening community, we serve as a central clearinghouse for community gardening resources in the Twin Cities.

**Community gardeners are the best experts on community gardening!**

## Events

Here are some excellent opportunities to meet and talk with community gardeners. Events are updated on our website and on COMGAR.

### Community Garden Spring Resource Fair

This annual "hoe-down" in March is an excellent chance to meet other gardeners from around the metro area, glean what resources and opportunities are available to community gardens, and cultivate some new horticultural and organizational skills. Visit our website for information on past Fairs.

### Parade of Community Gardens

For one Saturday in August, a quarter of the metro area's community gardens celebrate the community garden with the neighborhood. Interested in joining a garden, starting one, or just learning more? This is a terrific opportunity to meet and talk with the gardeners who make it happen! Website has information on the upcoming Parade and past ones. See you in the garden!

### Community Garden Leadership Series

This multi-week training series was developed by Gardening Matters and UMN Extension's Leadership and Civic Engagement Program. The course draws on successful curriculum established by the American Community Garden Association's Growing Communities Workshop. Workshops are designed for community gardeners to gain the skills and knowledge needed to build a dynamic and successful community garden. Call for information.

*Stay up-to-date on the latest community garden developments, events and news by visiting our website*

**[www.gardeningmatters.org](http://www.gardeningmatters.org)**

## On-Going Activities

### Community Garden Directory

120 community gardens, representing more than 4,500 gardeners are mapped on the online Community Garden Directory. Learn where gardens are located and discover the variety of gardens in the Twin Cities and beyond!

### Community Garden Listserv (COMGAR)

Connect with hundreds of people from different community gardens, organizations, and public agencies to share resources and ask questions of other community gardeners. To join, email [info@gardeningmatters.org](mailto:info@gardeningmatters.org) and write your name in the subject line.

### Advocacy & Research

Gardening Matters conducts research about community gardens to develop advocacy tools on behalf of community gardeners. Volunteer opportunities and internships are available.

### Online Resources

We regularly add new materials to our virtual library on our website to help community gardeners have a successful community garden, from ideas on garden coordinating, to building neighborhood coalitions to gardening tips and resources.

### Garden Start-up Assistance

Don't reinvent the wheel! Call us for help in getting started and give your community garden a good foundation.

### Distribute Donations

From time to time, we get donations of tools, seeds, and other gardening goods that we then distribute to community gardens. All donations to Gardening Matters are tax-deductible.

**See you in the garden!**



*Promoting and Preserving Community Gardening*