

Gardening Matters Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Community Garden?

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

In this definition, a community garden is primarily a physical locality and all operations occurring on or in conjunction with that space. The community of people who work together to define that space (i.e. maintaining it and any activities related to it) are defined as a garden group. Some garden groups, such as a garden club, can maintain more than one garden.

There are many kinds of community gardens, varying in how they operate, how they are organized and their mission and goals. Nonprofit organizations, social service organizations, and youth programs often support or run some community gardens. Other gardens are supported by volunteer efforts through a block club, church or other loose organization, and can offer free participation or provide plots for rent. Community gardens have different purposes; some provide access to people to grow plants that may or may not produce food, other gardens specifically grow food to donate to those in need, while others only grow plants for beautification purposes. Many gardens often have more than one focus.

How do I join one?

Contact Gardening Matters by phone (612-492-8964) or email (info@gardeningmatters.org) -- we can connect you to a community garden.

Is there help for starting a community garden?

There sure is – contact Gardening Matters and you'll gain the insight and experience of hundreds of community gardeners, along with gardeners' best practices, access to local resources, and steps for ensuring long-term success. We want to help you get off on the right foot, so contact us for the details you'll need to know to make your group's commitment blossom into a successful community garden.

What is Gardening Matters?

We are an organization dedicated to community gardening throughout the metro area and Greater Minnesota. We are a clearinghouse about community gardening and can help people join community gardens or start one.

Gardening Matters draws on the skills, experience and insight of community gardeners, fostering a network of community gardens to collectively advocate and educate for community gardening.

Gardening Matters' goals are:

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

Where did Gardening Matters come from?

Gardening Matters became an independent organization in 2008, spinning off from GardenWorks, a program collaboratively begun by The Green Institute, the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and Farm in the City, all of which have long supported community gardening in the Twin Cities. Together, these organizations, sponsored development of a community garden sustainability plan with area gardeners. The core recommendation of the sustainability plan is to create a program dedicated to preserving and promoting community gardening – this is Gardening Matters.

How can I get involved?

Give Gardening Matters a call (612-492-8964) or email info@gardeningmatters.org. Please visit our website at www.gardeningmatters.org.

