



Midvale Community Gardens 2010 Garden Application Information

This application is for a plot at the Midvale Community Gardens. The plots are 10x10 feet and are organic.

The application deadline for continuing gardeners is March 16, 2010. Open application for new gardeners begins March 17, 2010.

- Priority for plots will be given to continuing gardeners who apply to renew their plot on or before March 16, 2010.
- Beginning March 17, the plots that remain available will be offered to those on the waitlist in the order their inquiry was received. If you are a new gardener, you must complete your application within 7 days of being offered a plot. If you want to know your status on the waitlist, contact Monica Jaehnig at sjpartners@tds.net.
- After all plots are assigned, a waiting list will be maintained for those who remain interested.

Annual Fees:

- Fees cover your use of the land for the growing season as well as water, mulch, compost and marsh hay.
- Fees for plots are on a sliding scale according to your household income as follows:

Annual Household Income	Plot Fee per Year
Up to \$38,000	\$20
\$38,001-\$59,000	\$35
Over \$59,001	\$50

If you are unable to pay fees in these amounts, contact Garden Coordinators Rachel Martin (martincaruccio@gmail.com) or Nancy Gutknecht at ngutknecht@gmail.com.

- Gardeners are expected to contribute time to the garden by attending Opening Day and participating in at least one scheduled work day. However, if *you are unable to participate in a scheduled work day*, you may choose the “No Work Day Option” and pay an additional \$25 along with your annual fee.

Your garden plot will be forfeited if any of the following occur:

- Your application and payment are not received on or before March 16 for continuing gardeners or, for new gardeners, within 7 days of being offered a plot.
- Your plot is not planted by May 15.
- Your garden is excessively weedy or neglected or appears abandoned.
- You do not fulfill your Work Day obligations or pay the No Work Day Option Fee.
- You violate Garden Rules (Rules enclosed).

Join the Garden Committee:

The Garden Committee is the management body of the Gardens and is made up of volunteers like you! Committee members are asked to attend periodic meetings, respond to Committee discussions (often via email) and to manage specific projects throughout the year. New members are always welcome! Please come to a Garden Committee meeting if you would like to get involved. Committee meetings will be announced to all gardeners via email. Meetings are typically held at Sequoia Library. For more information, contact Rachel Martin at martincaruccio@gmail.com or Nancy Gutknecht at ngutknecht@gmail.com

Midvale Community Gardens Application

[Applications and fees due on or before March 16 for returning gardeners. Your application will not be processed unless all of the information is provided and all fees are paid.]

Primary gardener:

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

Home phone number: _____ Cell number: _____

Secondary gardener:

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Email address: _____

Please check the applicable boxes:

- I am a new gardener
- I gardened at Midvale Community Gardens in 2009 and wish to renew my plot
- I agree to let my photo be part of Garden publicity materials
- My phone number and email may be included on a phone list shared with fellow gardeners

Work Day obligations:

All gardeners are expected to contribute to the cooperative, volunteer management of the Gardens. In addition to attending Opening Day, you are expected to commit to at least one Work Day per season, which requires about two hours. In lieu of a Work Day, gardeners may opt to pay an additional fee of \$25.

- I commit to attending the following Work Day from 4 to 6 p.m. **(CIRCLE At Least ONE)**
May 16 June 13 July 11 September 12 October 17
- I choose the No Work Day Option work option and will pay an additional \$25

Fees:

Plot Fee (see fee schedule on information page)	\$ _____
No Work Day Option	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

No cash; CHECKS or MONEY ORDERS ONLY, made payable to "Midvale Community Gardens."

Volunteer Opportunities:

- I would like to help with planting and maintaining the flower garden along the fence to the south of the garden plots
- I would like to help maintain a plot in the Kids Gardens for Midvale Elementary School during the summer.
- I would like to help maintain the Fruit Trees at the Midvale Gardens.

Translation assistance:

- I would like translation assistance. Language: _____
- I speak _____, and would be willing to provide translation services.

Personal responsibility:

I agree to hold Midvale Community Gardens, the City of Madison, the Madison Metropolitan School District, and their agents and employees harmless from any and all liability for bodily harm, damage, or loss of any kind or nature arising from, or in any manner connected with, my participation in Midvale Community Gardens. My signature below indicates my agreement with this statement of personal responsibility and waiver of liability.

My signature also indicates that I have read the entire application packet and am willing to abide by the rules and guidelines outlined in the enclosed "Basic Gardening Rules."

Signature of Primary Gardener: _____

Signature of Secondary Gardener: _____

Date: _____

Mail or deliver your completed application and fee to:

**Monica Jaehnig
421 S Midvale Blvd
Madison, WI 53711**

**Email: sjpartners@tds.net
608.233.5193**



Midvale Community Gardens Basic Gardening Rules

Ensuring an enjoyable gardening experience for all of the Garden community is the primary goal of these rules. For this reason, please observe the rules and be a good neighbor.

Safety:

- The Gardens should be a safe place for the community, children and other gardeners. Do not bring anything to the Gardens that will compromise their safety.
- Do not put tools or other impediments in the common pathways
- Do not bring dogs into the area immediately around the garden plots. They may be on the Garden grounds but kept near the fencelines. To ensure food safety, be sure that dogs do not defecate or urinate on the garden plots or compost or mulch piles.

Gardener responsibilities:

- You are responsible for your own plot and for contributing to the upkeep of the whole garden by attending Opening Day as well as one two-hour Work Day. (You may choose the No Work Day Option and pay an extra \$25 if you are not able to participate in a scheduled Work Day.) You are responsible for cleaning out your plot at the end of the growing season. Failure to fulfill these requirements will result in the forfeiture of your plot for next year.
- If you decide not to use your plot, please contact the Registrar as soon as possible so that it may be reassigned to someone on the waiting list. **If there is no evidence of activity at your plot by May 15, it will be reassigned. There are no refunds on plot fees paid.**

Neighborliness:

- Do not pick from your neighbors' plots even if you think they have neglected their plot. Please report evidence of neglect to the Garden Monitor.
- If you use the Garden's tools, return them to the storage shed when done.
- After using the Garden water, turn off the water to the hose you are using by flipping the valve switch on the hose splitter. If no one is using the second hose, turn off the water entirely by also turning off the common valve. Drain water out of the hoses after use to reduce pressure in the hose, especially on hot, sunny days.
- Keep plot boundaries weeded and trash-free. You are responsible for the common pathway running along the edge of your plot. Keep plot edges free of weeds, particularly those that will go to seed. Do not put rocks and sticks in the paths; take them to the rock and stick area.
- Plant refuse piles are set up for weeds and diseased plants. Please use these designated areas.
Do not place trash in the refuse or compost piles. Please also do not place kitchen scraps in the plant refuse or compost piles; they attract animals to the Garden. Pack your trash and take it home to dispose of properly.
- Stakes that mark your plot's corners with your plot number must be left in place all season.
- Teach your children to respect others' plots and to not waste water.
- The Garden is not available for commercial use; do not sell your produce from the Gardens.

Plants and weeds:

- **Weeds must be kept under control.** If your plot is overgrown with weeds, you will receive a warning via email from the Monitor. After two weeks of no further action, your plot may be mowed and reassigned. If your plot is identified twice during the same season as excessively weedy, you will forfeit your plot to a person on the waiting list.
- If you are unable to care for your plot for a period of time because of illness or vacation, please ask a fellow gardener or the Garden Coordinators for help with weeding and harvesting.
- Generally visit your plot at least once per week to check for weeds and to harvest.
- The compost bins should be used only for weeds without seeds and for garden plant matter. Weeds with seeds should be placed in a specially-marked area by the entrance to the Garden for removal by the City.
- Biodegradable mulches such as compost, leaves, straw and hay are encouraged. Marsh hay, compost and mulch are provided for your use as part of your Annual Fee. Carpeting may not be used as mulch. Remove any non-organic mulch at the end of the growing season. Do not use wood chips in your plot for mulch, as they do not biodegrade quickly.
- No chemical fertilizers (e.g., MiracleGrow, ammonium nitrate, or urea) are allowed in the Gardens. Please check the Garden's web site for information on how to maintain an organic garden.
- Please use only organic methods for weed and pest control. Never use herbicides (weedkillers) or pesticides.
- Please do not plant mint, catnip, Jerusalem artichokes, comfrey or raspberries. These plants are very invasive in the Gardens. Strawberries may be planted as long as they are kept confined to your plot.
- Keep tall plants, such as corn or sunflowers, at the center of your plot so they do not shade your neighbors' plants.
- Keep vines and visitors out of neighbors' plots.

Enforcement of Garden rules:

- The Garden Committee has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions for the Garden. The Committee has the authority to resolve conflicts and may refuse a plot to a gardener or dismiss a current gardener.
- Unresolved issues or disputes between gardeners will be referred to the Garden Committee

Plot assignment:

- Each person must apply each year for a plot, but returning gardeners will be given first preference and are permitted to keep the same plot from year-to-year if they wish.



Midvale Community Gardens Volunteer Opportunities

Gardens run smoothly because of the work of many people, coordinated by several key volunteers. Volunteer positions important to operating Midvale Community Gardens are listed below. If you are interested in one or more of these positions, please contact Rachel Martin at martincaruccio@gmail.com or Nancy Gutknecht at ngutknecht@gmail.com or attend the next Garden Committee meeting.

Coordinator

The coordinator gathers the gardeners together for events, Work Days, and meetings, encouraging all to share in the work and decision-making of the garden.

Registrar

The registrar assigns plots, holds the waiting list for people who want a plot, and organizes spring registration.

Secretary

The secretary attends all meetings and maintains minutes and other records of the Garden.

Treasurer

The treasurer collects garden fees and deposits them in the garden bank account, pays bills, authorizes spending in consultation with other gardeners, and manages grants that the garden receives.

Communications Coordinator

The communications coordinator makes sure that gardeners are in touch through meetings, phone calls, mail and email, and arranging the services of interpreters when needed.

Monitor

The monitor (a.k.a. “weed police”) has the task of making sure that all garden plots are being used and maintained.

Outreach

The outreach person makes sure that people in the neighborhood and school know about the garden and feel welcome to participate and spend time there.

Grounds Leader

The grounds leader organizes Work Days to make sure that paths, common areas, hoses, fences, compost, etc. are in order.

Social/Education Leader

The social/education leader organizes and publicizes potlucks and other events at the Gardens. They can also set up educational workshops and connect new and experienced gardeners through a buddy program.

Translators

Bilingual gardeners are important as interpreters during events, as liaisons throughout the gardening season, and with translating signs, communications, etc.

Security

The security leader works on strategies to minimize theft and vandalism.

Midvale School Liaison

The school liaison works with the School Garden Committee to ensure that Midvale classrooms using the Gardens have the tools and information they need.

Other Opportunities

In addition to leadership opportunities with the Midvale Community Gardens, you can be involved in other ways, including:

- Attending Garden Committee meetings.
- Making sure neighbors feel welcome at the Garden and understand how it works. This is a chance to explain that individuals care for plots and then harvest the vegetables they grow, since some people assume that a community garden is a free resource for anyone to harvest from.
- Assist with the kids' garden plots by maintaining one of the school plots during the summer.
- Assist with the Midvale Gardens Flower Garden.
- Help maintain the fruit trees planted at the Garden.
- Attend the Midvale Plant Sale. This is a major fundraiser for the Garden. Consider shopping for your garden or contributing or volunteering on May 8, 2010
- Help organize a social or educational event for the Gardens.
- Make durable signs to place around the Gardens. Consider using easy-to-understand pictures or images to communicate. If possible, put words into English, Hmong and Spanish.
- Put out bins near the entrance to the Gardens in the shade so that when gardeners have too much produce they can put it there for fellow gardeners or people in the community to use.

Contact anyone on the Garden Committee for more information



Midvale Community Gardens 2010 Garden Leader Contact List

At Midvale Community Gardens in 2010, the following persons have volunteered to lead the Garden. Please contact them with ideas, questions or to get involved. If no one is designated in a leadership position, and if you are interested in assuming that role, please contact the Co-Coordinator.

Co-Coordinator:

Rachel Martin	238-341	martincaruccio@gmail.com
Nancy Gutknecht	238-7595	ngutknecht@gmail.com

Registrar:

Monica Jaehnig	233-5193	sjpartners@tds.net
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Secretary:

Kristin Davis		kristindavis@wisc.edu
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Treasurer:

Betsy Hambrick	238-7996	betsydedow@yahoo.com
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Communications Leader:

Ann Wieben	238-1853	ann@wieben.de
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Monitor:

Open

Outreach:

Open

Midvale School Liaison:

Rachel Martin	238-3414	martincaruccio@gmail.com
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Member(s) at Large:

Paul Haskew		phaskew@gmail.com
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Midvale Community Gardens 2010 Calendar

Last Payment Dates: **March 16** for continuing gardeners; **within seven (7) days** of being offered a plot for new gardeners. If your application and payment are not received by these deadlines, your plot will be assigned to the next person on the waiting list.

Opening Day: April 17

Location: Midvale Community Gardens

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Events:

- Pick up welcome packet
- Receive plot assignment
- Participate in overall garden clean-up/maintenance
- Clean-up individual plots
- Sign up for volunteer opportunities

Midvale Plant Sale: May 8

Location: Midvale Elementary School

Time: 9 a.m. to noon

Water turn on date: After the danger of freezing is past, generally by mid-May

Last day to begin planting: May 15

If you have not begun to plant your plot by this date, your plot will be reassigned. Your plot fee will not be refunded.

Garden Work Days:

Location: Midvale Community Gardens

Dates: May 16, June 13, July 11, September 12 and October 17. (There will be no organized Work Day in August.)

Time: 4 p.m. to 6p.m.

Water Turn off date: After October 17.

Community Garden Meetings (open to ALL gardeners):

Location: Sequoya Library Meeting Room

Dates: TBA via email

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Welcome to Community Gardening!

Adapted from *Growing a Stronger Community with Community Gardens: An Action Plan for Madison (1999)*
www.wisc.edu/urpl/mfsp/pubs/tskfrpt.htm

You've probably heard the term "community gardening," but what exactly is it? Many people come into community gardening thinking that it's simply a way to grow food ... the same as back yard gardening, only not in their back yard. It's actually a whole lot more; there are more responsibilities, but there are also more benefits and rewards.

Responsibilities

A community garden takes a lot of work to run well, and everyone is expected to participate (many hands make light work). Some examples of group responsibilities are maintaining paths, fixing hoses, handling registration, managing the budget, organizing educational workshops, enforcing garden rules, communicating to all gardeners and organizing social events. From the work of many volunteers, each according to his or her ability, Madison's community gardens survive and thrive.

Other responsibilities are related to your plot. For example, most community gardens require that you keep your plot fairly well weeded and tended.

Despite these extra responsibilities, community gardening is immensely popular in Madison! The demand for plots generally exceeds the supply, and every time a new garden is started somewhere, it fills quickly.

Benefits and Rewards

If you've never gardened in a community garden before, you can look forward to more than fresh fruits and veggies. Cultural exchanges sprout and new friendships grow among diverse groups of people.

Community gardens are common ground for growing plants that feed, heal and give aesthetic pleasure. They are civic spaces where people work and recreate to nourish themselves and their families and friends. The gardeners' shared labor also builds a strong sense of belonging to their physical environment and connection to other gardeners. Community gardens are the collective effort of people with the patience and determination to make things grow.

The gardeners in Madison are a remarkable mix of people from many backgrounds, so the gardens function as some of the most multicultural places in the city. Community gardens not only nurture green spaces, but foster the development of a community identity and spirit. Community gardens often set aside space for community get-togethers, serving as the modern-day equivalent of the ancient plazas in urban areas where people would gather to meet and spend time together. Community garden spaces also allow for interaction with nature and the productive use of land. Because community gardens are beautiful and visually unique in an urban setting, they also function as traffic calming devices.

Community gardening brings together people and encourages interaction. Interest in urban gardening has often led to community-based efforts to deal with other social concerns. Many people have developed leadership skills as a result of being involved with their community garden.

Community gardens should be inclusive and welcoming to all people. Regardless of age, education, language barriers, or disability, all gardeners should participate both in the upkeep of the garden – with tasks like caring for the water system and common areas – and in garden decision-making, including setting policies and choosing leaders.

By choosing to be in a community garden, you'll be gardening in close proximity to others. You can learn from these folks either actively (by asking questions) or passively (by observation). People of different cultural backgrounds garden differently; if your community garden is culturally diverse, you may be surprised at what you'll learn even if you've been gardening many years.

Welcome to Midvale Community Gardens! We hope you enjoy this new way of gardening! Please call any of the Garden leaders if you have any questions or suggestions.