



Welcome to the 2021 Gardening Season at the Living Earth Community Garden!

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you are new to the Living Earth Community Garden, please fill out a registration form on this page. We will reach out to you to confirm if a garden plot is available by no later than March 31st. If no plots are available, we will automatically place you on a waitlist. If you submit payment and space is not available, you will be fully refunded.

Being part of the Living Earth Community Garden is more than just having a place to grow food. We consider ourselves a community growing space in many different ways and have programs, workshops, volunteer opportunities and regular events that we encourage you to attend and participate in. If you have never gardened before, have no fear, we have a new gardener training program to help you grow and learn as well.

Below are some things to keep in mind prior to signing up:

COVID REGULATIONS

Due to COVID many of the policies and dates that we have now, may change. Please be ready to adapt as the pandemic evolves. The Garden will officially be opened on Saturday, April 24th for Garden Clean Up, Pot Luck and Seed Swap. More information will be forthcoming.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

There is no garden experience required to garden at the Living Earth Community Garden! We welcome everyone with any level of gardening experience. Each plot must have a primary gardener (the primary person responsible for the plot) who fills out a garden contract. Anyone who gardens at the community garden including family and friends must fill out a garden liability form before entering the garden. Please note, failure to have forms submitted may result in your being asked to leave the garden or have your plot forfeited.

RETURN GARDENERS

New this year! Please read the following updates for the 2021 Season:

1) **Virtual Update Meeting:** Return gardeners do not have to attend in person meet and greet trainings. Instead, we ask that you join a virtual update meeting that will go over new things happening in the Garden. The virtual meeting will take place Wednesday, April 14th at 5:30 PM via Zoom.

2) **Garden Clean Up, Pot Luck and Seed Swap-** The Garden Opening and Pot Luck Event will take place on Saturday, April 24th from 10:30-2:30 PM. In addition to volunteering to get the garden ready for the season, gardeners can also swap seeds. Please note that COVID guidelines will be followed as recommended by the CDC and changes may need to take place if in-person gathering outdoors is still not deemed safe.



3) **Clean Up Fine-** please note that if your garden is not properly cleaned up at the end of the year, we will be charging a \$30 clean up fee.

NEW GARDENERS

Garden Trainings- In order to have a full understanding of all the guidelines at the Garden, we ask that once you have been informed that there is a plot available, you attend a New Gardener Training to select your plot and go over gardening basics.

- 1) Monday April 20th at 5:30 at the Living Earth Community Garden (170 Good Counsel Dr., Mankato MN)
- 2) Tuesday April 27th at 5:30 at Living Earth Community Garden (170 Good Counsel Dr., Mankato MN)
- 3) By appointment with the Garden Manager

GARDEN GATHERING AND SEED SWAP

We invite you to join your fellow gardeners to officially open the Barn doors and get the garden ready on Saturday, April 24th from 10:30-2:30 PM (with a potluck lunch break). We will gather together (rain or shine) to help get the barn cleaned up, the tools ready and the garden plots turned over. This fun day is a great way to meet other gardeners, give back to the community and swap some seeds. Please bring a dish to pass and extra seeds you would like to trade.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT

We ask all gardeners to join a "team" that contributes to the maintenance of the Garden or works to build a strong Garden community. Please sign up for one Volunteer Team for the season. Time commitment varies from team to team. We ask that all gardeners record their volunteer hours on our volunteer record in the Barn.

Partner Plot Team

Responsible for planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting partner plots and delivering produce to Welcome Inn, Theresa House and other organizations with expressed need. Time commitment: weekly.

Kids Peace Garden Team

Responsible for helping to plant, water, and weed the Kids Peace Garden. Time commitment: weekly.

Barn and Tool Care Team

Responsible for keeping the barn and tools clean. Time commitment: weekly.

Hospitality and Education Team

Responsible for helping to organize monthly gardener meet and greet potlucks with an education focus and posting tips on pest control and organic gardening methods. Time commitment: monthly.



Flower Bed Team

Responsible for planting, watering, and weeding flower beds near barn and around bird baths. Time commitment: weekly.

Gardener Assistance Team

Responsible for helping gardeners in need of assistance to weed or water their plots if they are on vacation or have a medical issue. Time commitment: as needed.

Path Maintenance Team

Responsible for laying cardboard and wood chips around paths and making sure they are maintained throughout the year. Time commitment: monthly.

Garden Committee

Responsible for meeting monthly during the Garden Season to discuss garden issues and make important decisions regarding the gardens. Time commitment: monthly.

PLOT PAYMENT AND FEES

Plots are priced on a sliding scale. The first plot is \$30, each additional plot is \$10. We invite gardeners who can afford more to pay more if they are willing. This fee will go toward expenses of the community garden (electricity, water bills, compost, toilet fees, tools, maintenance, and education etc.). The fee includes ONE wheel barrow of compost per plot, water, the use of tools, and access to the barn. Gardeners will be charged \$30 for every plot that is not fully picked up at the end of the season.



2021 COMMUNITY GARDEN APPLICATION

RETURN GARDENERS- Welcome back for the 2021 Garden Season! Please fill out the form below by no later than March 1st to secure your garden plots from last year. If registration is not received, your plot will be forfeited and new gardeners will have an option to register for plots on a first come- first served basis. Payment is due by no later than March 31st to secure your spot. Nobody is turned away for inability to pay. If you are in need of a scholarship this year, please contact lpeterson@ssndcp.org.

NEW GARDENERS- Please fill out the form below. Plots will be assigned on a first come first served basis depending on availability. You will be informed if you have received a plot by no later than March 31st, otherwise, you will be placed on a waitlist and contacted until a plot opens up.

For questions, please contact Laura Peterson, Living Earth Center, at 507-389-4272 or email lpeterson@ssndcp.org

General Information

1. Primary Gardener Information. *Please indicate who the primary contact will be for your garden plot. (Required)*

- First Name * _____
- Last Name * _____
- Address* _____
- City * _____
- State* _____
- Postal Code * _____
- Phone * _____
- Primary Gardener Email * _____

2. Additional Gardeners' Contact Info *(Please indicate the names and contact information of all people who will be gardening in your plot. Please note that all people who will be gardening on your plot must attend a Garden Meet and Greet Meeting and fill out a Garden Contract and Liability Waiver.)*

- Additional Gardener Name _____
- Additional Gardener Phone _____
- Additional Gardener Email _____
- Please list the names, phone numbers and/or emails of any other gardeners who will be gardening in your plot _____



Garden Plot Information

1. Are you a new or returning gardener?
☐ I did NOT have a garden plot last gardening season
☐ I did have a plot last gardening season

2. If you are a returning gardener, do you wish to keep the same plot(s) you had last year?
If no, please contact Laura Peterson at lpeterson@ssndcp.org to set up a time to be reassigned new plot(s).
☐ Yes
☐ No

3. How many garden plots would you like?
Garden plots are approximately 10' x 10'. The maximum amount of plots a gardener can have is 5 if space permits. If plots need to be filled, gardeners may take on more on a year-to-year basis.
☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4
☐ 5

Community Event and Volunteer Information

1. Do you plan to attend the Living Earth Garden Barn Clean Up, Seed Swap and Potluck on Saturday, April 24th from 10:30 AM -2:30 PM? (please check one) *In the spirit of community, we ask all Gardeners to attend the Spring Barn Clean Up and Potluck. The event occurs no matter the weather.*
☐ I plan to attend and will bring a dish to pass
☐ I am unable to make it but will complete my four hours of community service at another time

2. Please indicate what volunteer team are you interested in? Please see descriptions at the beginning of the form. (Please check all that apply). *All gardeners are asked to join a volunteer "team" to complete their four hours of volunteer community service.*
☐ Barn and Tool Team
☐ Partner Plot
☐ Kids Peace Garden Team
☐ Path Team
☐ Hospitality and Education Team
☐ Flowerbed Team
☐ Garden Assistance Team
☐ Garden Committee



Demographic Information

Living Earth Center has a commitment to understanding the views, needs and wants of different members of the community. It asks optional demographic questions to better understand the community we serve, to secure outside funding and grants, and to inform programs and workshops in addition to delivering better services, make decisions based on evidence about the local population. Data collected will not be stored in individual's records, rather collected for qualitative review only. If you do not feel comfortable sharing the below information, it will not impact your garden application.

1. Are you:
 - ☐ Male
 - ☐ Female
 - ☐ Other

2. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Latino origin?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No

3. How would you describe yourself? (please check all that apply)
 - ☐ Native American or Alaskan
 - ☐ Asian
 - ☐ Black or African American
 - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - ☐ White
 - ☐ Other

4. What is your age?
 - ☐ 15-20
 - ☐ 21-25
 - ☐ 26-40
 - ☐ 41-64
 - ☐ 65 or older

5. Can you tell us your household income?
 - ☐ Under \$20,000
 - ☐ \$20,001-\$40,000
 - ☐ \$40,001-\$60,000
 - ☐ \$60,001-\$80,000
 - ☐ \$80,001-\$100,000
 - ☐ Over \$100,000



6. Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?
☐ Yes
☐ No
7. Do currently or have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces?
☐ Yes
☐ No

Health and Emergency Contact, and Liability Information

We take your health and safety seriously and collect health information in order to better serve the gardening population.

1. Please describe any medical conditions or serious allergies that we should be aware of:

2. The Living Earth Community Garden is a no hose garden. However, exceptions are made for those with documented medical need. *If you have a medical condition that requires that you use a hose, please submit a copy of a doctor's note or other medical documentation.*
3. Please provide the name of an emergency contact that does not also garden at the Living Earth Community Garden
 - a. Emergency Contact Information (Required) _____
 - b. Emergency Contact Phone (Required) _____
4. *All gardeners are required to submit a liability waiver. Please attached a signed liability waivers for all people who plan to utilize the community garden to this application OR download a copy and put in the mailbox at the Community Garden prior to gardening there.*

Payment and Fees

Plots are priced on a sliding scale. The first plot is \$30, each additional plot is \$10. We invite gardeners who can afford more to pay more if they are willing. This fee will go toward expenses of the community garden (electricity, water bills, compost, toilet fees, tools, maintenance, and education etc.). The fee includes ONE wheel barrow of compost per plot, water, the use of tools, and access to the barn. Nobody is turned away for inability to pay. Scholarships are available upon request. If you are interested in a scholarship, please leave this field blank or enter the amount that you can pay.

1. *I am interested in a scholarship:*
☐ Yes
☐ No



2. *I am interested in donating plot to someone in need:*

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. Please confirm your payment total amount:

If you are interested in a scholarship, please leave this field blank or enter the amount that you can pay.

Please submit a check or cash for the total amount. Checks can be made out to Living Earth Center and mailed to 170 Good Counsel Dr. Mankato, MN 56001. If you submit payment and are not granted a plot or decide not to garden before May 1st, you will be fully refunded.

We are excited to share common ground with you this season! Please reach out with any additional questions.