



Please read this important information and updates before filling out an application.

Living Earth Community Garden is fully managed and sponsored by the Living Earth Center. It is located at 170 Good Counsel Dr. across the street from Loyola High School's parking lot. There are over 180 community garden plots and roughly 100 community gardeners and their families that cultivate produce on site. It is an open community growing space that accepts and welcomes all regardless of nationality, race, age, sexual orientation, physical ability or spiritual path. Living Earth Center is a non-profit fully incorporated as a 501c3 charitable organization. It is sponsored in part by the School Sisters of Notre Dame as well through generosity of donors. In addition to hosting the Garden, Living Earth Center also puts on events and workshops that focus on sustainable initiatives and community resilience. For more information, please visit www.livingearthcentermn.org.

Please only fill out ONE registration page per family or plot. If you have more than one person gardening the plot, please list them in the "additional gardener" section.

RETURN GARDENERS (Those who had a plot last year at the Community Garden)

Please fill out the form below by **March 1** to secure your garden plots from last year.

Please note: If registration is not received, your plot will be forfeited, and new gardeners can register for plots on a first-come-first-served basis. All return gardeners must attend a spring update meeting via Zoom on **Tuesday, March 31st, at 5:30 PM on Zoom**. A meeting invite will be emailed out after registration is received. Those unable to participate must email gardenmanager@livingearthcentermn.org to receive the recording.

NEW GARDENERS (Those that did not have a plot at Living Earth Garden last year)

Please fill out the form below. Depending on availability, plots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. You will be informed if you have received a plot by March 31. Otherwise, you will be placed on a waitlist and contacted when a plot opens. If assigned a plot, all new gardeners must attend ONE of the following trainings:

- Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 5-7PM at Living Earth Garden
- Friday, May 29, 2026 at 5-7 PM at Living Earth Garden
- Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 10:00 am-12:00 noon at Living Earth Garden

For questions, please get in touch with Mal Murphy, Garden Manager, at gardenmanager@livingearthcentermn.org

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 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 \$40, 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 wheelbarrow of compost per plot, water, the use of tools, and access to the barn. Scholarships are available upon request.



2026 Garden Registration Form

PRIMARY GARDENER CONTACT INFORMATION *REQUIRED

Please fill out the below section with the name and contact information for the primary contact person for the garden plot.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (required) _____

Email: _____

SECONDARY GARDENER CONTACT INFORMATION

Please fill out the below section with the name and contact information for secondary contact who will be gardening on the plot (if applicable). 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.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Phone (required) _____

Email _____



ADDITIONAL GARDENER INFORMATION

1. Will there be other gardeners other than the primary and secondary gardener tending to the garden plot? (please circle one)
Yes No
2. If yes, please list the name and contact information (phone and email) of the other gardeners below.

Garden Plot Assignment

All gardeners will be assigned garden plots based upon availability. Return gardeners without any disciplinary warnings will be given preference to garden spaces. All gardeners will receive notification of their plot assignment by April 15th. A waiting list will be created if we run out of plots.

1. Did you have a garden plot with Living Earth Community Gardens last year? (Please circle one). *REQUIRED.
Yes No
2. How many garden plots would you like?
*REQUIRED (number up to 5)___
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.
3. If you are a returning gardener, do you want the same garden plot/s again this year? (Please circle one).
Yes No

If not, what area of the garden would you like to be in? We will try to accommodate your request on a first come first served basis.



Payment and Fees

1. How do you plan to pay for your plot? (Please check one). * REQUIRED
Please send payment to c/o Living Earth Center, 1603 N. Riverfront Dr., Mankato, MN 56001. Please make all checks payable to Living Earth Center. Scholarships are available for gardeners with demonstrated need who cannot pay the minimum fee for garden plots.

- I am enclosing a check here. (Preferred)
 I plan to pay in cash or credit card at a Meet and Greet Training
 I am interested in a scholarship to pay the minimum fee for my plots

Living Earth Community Garden Clean Up and Potluck

1. Do you plan to attend the Living Earth Garden Barn Clean Up and Potluck on Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM? (please check one)
 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

Volunteer Teams

1. Please indicate what volunteer team you are interested in? Please see descriptions at the beginning of the form. (Please check all that apply).
*REQUIRED.
This year, we will ask all gardeners to join a volunteer "team" to complete their four hours of volunteer community service.
- Barn and Tool Team
 - Partner Plot Team
 - Kids Peace Garden Team



- Path Team
- Hospitality and Education
- Team Flowerbed Team
- Gardener Assistance
- Team Garden
Committee

Emergency Contact and Medical Information

1. Do you have any medical conditions (serious allergies) that we should be aware of?

*REQUIRED.

Yes No

2. If yes, please describe the medical condition and whether or not it would require that you use a garden hose for watering. *Garden hoses are not permitted at the Living Earth Garden unless gardeners have a documented medical condition.*

3. If your medical condition requires that you use a hose to water, please attach a doctor's note or other medical documentation.

4. In case of an emergency, please provide the name and contact information of an emergency contact that does not also garden at Living Earth Community Gardens. (REQUIRED)

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Phone number _____

Demographic Information:

Living Earth Center asks *optional* demographic questions to better understand the community we serve, to secure outside funding and grants, and to inform programs and workshops. If you do not feel comfortable sharing the below information, it will not impact your garden application.

1. What is your age? (optional)

15-20

21-25

26-40



- 41-64
- 65 or older

2. Can you tell us your household income? (optional)

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,001- \$40,000
- \$40,001- \$60,000
- \$60,001- \$80,000
- \$80,001- \$100,000
- Over \$100,000

5. Do you consider yourself a disabled person?

- Yes
- No

6. Do you currently or have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces?

- Yes
- No

Please mail this form along with payment to c/o Living Earth Center, 1603 N. Riverfront Dr. Mankato, MN 56001.

- By signing this form, I agree to attend a Spring Garden Meeting to review the rules and sign a liability waiver form and contract. I understand that failure to meet the guidelines and/or sign the forms will result in loss of gardening privileges.*

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____