

Date of Report: July 1, 1997
LCMR Final Work Program Abstract

1. Project Title:

Program Manager: Sue Gunderson/Melinda Hooker
Agency Affiliation: Sustainable Resources Center
Mail Address: 1916 2nd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Phone: (612) 872-3283/3299
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A. Legal Citation:

Total biennial LCMR appropriation: \$300,000

Balance: \$0.00

Appropriation Language: This appropriation is from the Future Resources Fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Sustainable Resources Center for a joint project with the Minnesota State Horticultural Society-MN Green and the Duluth Community Garden Program to provide technical assistance on community plantings, food gardens, trees, and native plants, environmentally sound horticulture and land use practices. This appropriation must be matched by at least \$3,000 in nonstate money.

Project Objectives: This project had three main objectives: 1) to provide technical assistance to eight new community gardens and greening sites in the metro-area and to four in non-metro communities, and to improve ten existing sites in Duluth; 2) to provide gardening education and information to urban gardeners and underserved communities throughout Minnesota; 3) and to maintain existing sustainable landscaping demonstration sites in Minneapolis and develop new sites in two St. Paul neighborhoods.

Summary of Project Results: Technical assistance and ongoing support was provided to 73 new community gardens and greening sites, and to 90 existing garden sites. Over 110 workshops on organic gardening, sustainable landscaping and community greening were held, 52 community presentations given, and 24 newsletters were published and distributed to over 3,100 communities and individuals statewide. An estimated \$650,000 worth of plant donations (seeds, perennials, annuals, shrubs and trees) were donated and distributed to metro and non-metro community sites. Alternative Landscaping Fairs, Community Garden Tours and Harvest Festivals and Community Greening Conferences were attended by a total of 1,450 people. Sustainable Horticulture Demonstration Sites in 7 Minneapolis neighborhoods were well maintained and used for on-site workshops, and 3 new sites in the Frogtown and Highland Park neighborhoods of St. Paul were developed, implemented and maintained.

Projects Results Use and Dissemination: The project partners have successfully disseminated information to diverse populations with a variety of goals through newsletters, fact sheets, community greening workbooks and handouts, the community garden directory, community garden tours and landscaping fairs, community presentations, meetings with neighborhood environmental committees, school presentations, garden site visits, informational booths, city-wide classes and workshops, and presentations at conferences. Most of this information is disseminated at no cost to the recipients and participants. Many neighborhood/community groups and individuals continue to disseminate information further after they receive and use it.

Conclusion: Interest in this project continues to increase as Minnesotans deal with issues of the environment, food, and community land use and livability. With the 1997-1999 LCMR allocation the project partners will increase information dissemination on sustainable landscaping through nine fairs in metro and non-metro locations, continue providing technical assistance and education, and form urban rural links through connections between sustainable farmers and urban communities.

July 1, 1997

LCMR Final Work Program Update Report 1995-1997

I. Project Title: Gardening Program - Statewide

Program Manager: Sue Gunderson
Agency Affiliation: Sustainable Resources Center
Address: 1916 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55403
Phone: (612) 872-3283

A. Legal Citation: M.L. 95 Chpt. 220 , Art., Sect. 19, Subd. 8(b)

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$300,000
Balance: \$0

Appropriation Language: This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the sustainable resources center for a joint project with the Minnesota state horticultural society - Minnesota Green and Duluth Plant-A-Lot community garden program to provide technical assistance on community plantings, food gardens, trees, and native plants, environmentally sound horticultural and land use practices. This appropriation must be matched by at least \$3,000 in nonstate money.

B. Status of Match Requirement:
Match Required: \$3,000
Amount Committed to Date: \$3,000
Match Spent to Date: \$3,000

II. Project Summary:

SIGNIFICANCE: Recreational gardening is the most popular leisure pastime in the United States, according to a 1988 Gallup poll. This project seeks to tie Minnesotans' natural inclination to garden with the larger vision of improving the natural and visual aspects of our state. By supporting environmentally-sound community and residential gardening, this project will enhance the use of available land for community-based vegetable and fruit production. As a link with overall community improvements, the project will assist individuals, communities and neighborhood groups with plantings for beautification, habitat restoration, and environmental sustainability.

GOALS: At the end of this project, at least eight new community gardens will be established in the metro area, and four in greater Minnesota. Technical assistance will have been provided to at least 115 gardens. A statewide community greening conference will have been held twice. Regional newsletters on community gardening will be published at regular intervals. Telephone referral and assistance will have been provided to more than 500 individuals and community groups. Several thousand dollars worth of in-kind plant and seed donations will be distributed to community gardens and public plantings. Homeowners and property managers will learn about landscaping with native

plants, and about how to implement non-chemical lawn care methods through classes, literature, and site visits to two new St. Paul demonstration sites, as well as to existing, well-maintained Minneapolis sites.

GENERAL METHODOLOGY: The goals of this project will be met by providing information (such as referrals to existing gardens, instructions on soil testing, books and printed information, classes, and guidance in community organizing), resources (including tools, liability insurance, seeds, and plants), and advocacy (e.g. support in attaining permission to use land).

III. Two Year Work Program Update Summary: As a result of this project, SRC, MSHS and Duluth have provided quality technical assistance and educational opportunities for thousands of Minnesotans around the State. **SRC:** Provided organizational and technical support to 45 new community gardens, serving over 1,000 families. Provided ongoing support and technical assistance to 80 existing community gardens. A total of 89 classes were held, 12 demonstration garden outreach events were conducted and 40 community presentations were given. Community organizing, initial meetings, classes, site design, preparation, and installation for two alternative landscaping demonstration sites in St. Paul (Frogtown and Highland Park) were conducted, and maintenance continues on the Minneapolis Demonstration sites. Two Alternative Landscaping Fairs were held in St. Paul, attracting a total of over 600 attendees. Two community garden tours and two community garden fall festivals attracted over 200 participants. Eight newsletters were published and distributed to 1,250 - 1,850 people each. **MSHS:** Provided training, education, and horticultural services to 28 new community greening sites in 17 communities in Greater Minnesota. Professional horticulture services were provided in 7 Minnesota communities. Program consisted of four main areas in training and education, professional horticultural services on-site, community outreach and evaluation of project. Several local, regional and state partners collaborated with MSHS to provide additional resources for communities. Two Greening Conferences were attended by 531 people total. Cooperation with five state organizations provided cost/resource sharing. Conference tracks included community organizing, therapeutic horticulture, roadside partnerships and horticultural information. 12 community gardening groups were recognized and received travelling plaques for excellence in gardening, livability, beautification, and sustainability. 31 community gardening groups were recognized and received the Governor's Certificate of Commendation. One presentation on 'Creating and Sustaining Community Partnerships was offered at the Environmental Education Conference in Duluth. Eight newsletters were produced and distributed to over 700 community organizations, clubs and individuals. Plant donations were received from 31 growers, garden centers nurseries, and individuals; an estimated \$650,000 worth of plant donations (seeds, perennials, annuals, shrubs and trees) were distributed to metro and non-metro community sites. **DULUTH:** Throughout this project The Duluth Community Gardening Program educated the Duluth community on small scale, environmentally sound fruit tree and vegetable production techniques and composting. Education was accomplished through phone consultation, distribution of spring, summer and fall newsletters (500 each mailing), classes, distribution of information and literature at public events. 151 garden plots in the summer of 1996 and 171 garden plots in 1997 were leased, with over 75% of the plots being used by low-income people.

IV. Statement of Objectives:

A. Site develop

- B. Gardeni . . . education and promotion strategies
C. Develop . . . utilize public demonstration gardens

Timeline for Completion of Objectives:

	7/95	1/96	6/96	1/97	6/97
Objective A:					
Site development					
Objective B: Gardening education and promotion					
Objective C: Develop and utilize public demonstration gardens					
V. Objectives/Outcome:					

A. Site Development

A.1 Activity: SRC: Develop a minimum of four new community gardens each year in conjunction with individuals and neighborhood, civic, or other community groups. Offer technical assistance to reclaim and rehabilitate urban open space. Provide maintenance assistance to existing community gardens where feasible. Provide tools and advocacy for site permanency. SRC and MSHS common services will include information dissemination, community organizing assistance, site acquisition assistance, and design assistance. MSHS: Develop greening sites in two communities in greater MN each year, cooperating with local entities to match community's goals. Offer technical assistance and horticultural information to match specific needs. Coordinate distribution of plants and gardening supplies from the donated pool to four primary sites, and to at least 50 other community gardens throughout Minnesota. Recognize exemplary sites yearly. Form site related maintenance teams, volunteer development training. DULUTH: Improve 10 existing community gardens.

A.1.a. Context within the project: This objective meets the public's growing need for information and assistance in community greening projects. It ensures that existing gardens meet public expectations for maintenance and productivity. It further ensures development of, and support for, long-term public garden sites, protected through appropriate land use.

A.1.b. Methods: SRC and MSHS will respond to requests for assistance over the telephone, in person at meetings and on site, and by mail. SRC will check out or deliver tools to sites during scheduled workdays. Community resources will be connected to gardens. SRC will work with community groups and elected officials to ease site acquisition and prospects for permanency. MSHS will participate as part of the MN Design Team's site review committee and will cooperate with overall community development in greening site planning and follow-up. Procedures include site visits; design recommendations; maintenance planning; coalition building; local resource development; land access; use permits, water and soil needs, composting information; volunteer

training. Plant and produce donations will be coordinated between donor and recipient public groups. Yearly public garden awards will be judged throughout the state. DULUTH: Lease garden plots, loan tools, provide education, sell vegetable seeds at a fraction of retail cost, and apply soil amendments when possible. Involve master gardener volunteers with neighborhoods, civic, or other community groups to "clean and green" community gardens.

A.1.c. Materials:	SRC:	material transportation	\$ 700
		equipment maintenance	<u>2000</u>
		TOTAL SRC	2700
	MSHS:	printed materials	\$1,600
		equipment	<u>600</u>
		TOTAL MSHS	2,200
	DULUTH:	trees and shrubs	\$ 800
		tools (rental only)	300
		transplants & seeds	200
		design supplies	<u>200</u>
		Total DULUTH:	\$1,500

A.1.d. Budget

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$127,705

LCMR Balance: \$0

MATCH: \$1,500

MATCH Balance: \$1,500

A.1.e. Timeline:

	7/95	1/96	6/96	1/97	6/97
PRODUCT #1					
telephone referral	xx				
PRODUCT #2					
public presentations	xx				
PRODUCT #3					
community organizing	xx				
PRODUCT #4					
site development	xxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		xxxxxxxxxxxxx	
PRODUCT #5					
awards program	xx	xx		xx	

A.1.f. Two Year Work Program Summary: SRC: Provided primary technical

assistance (compost delivery, organizing, tool lending, site development assistance and leadership development) to 45 new community gardens. Provided long term consultation for 80 existing and established community gardens. Provided information to more than 500 people at the Walker Art Ctr. Waterways Eco Info Fair and the Ben & Jerry's One Heart/One World Environmental Festival. Made 10 presentations promoting community gardening in city-wide forums and state-wide conferences. Distributed information, seeds and fact sheets at a total of 10 conferences. Conducted 30

PRODUCT #3									
SRC & MSHS ne	ers	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	x	xx	xx
PRODUCT #4									
seed/tree distribution			xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx				xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
PRODUCT #5									
community greening conf.				xx				xx	
PRODUCT #6									
tours		xx	xx			xx		xx	

B.1.f. Two Year Work Program Summary: **SRC:** Published eight Urban Gardener newsletters which were mailed to a mailing list of 1,250 - 1,850 subscribers. Topics included new garden site highlights, seed saving instructions and class announcement, tips on planting fall crops for spring harvest (garlic, lettuces, greens), blight management advice, meeting notices of local food and greening organizations, list of urban volunteer opportunities, and seasonal garden recipes. Provided 89 classes to over 900 people on organic gardening and cooking topics. Purchased and distributed a 9,500 packets of subsidized, non-treated vegetable, flower, and herb seeds for distribution to low-income gardeners. Held two community garden tours and two fall harvest potlucks that included over 200 people. Conducted the 2nd and 3rd Annual Alternative Landscaping Fairs which included 30 vendors and an all day schedule of classes, and drew more than 600 attendees total. **MSHS:** Sponsored MSHS Traveling Horticulture Seminars. Presentations given at Caledonia, St. Peter, Centerville, Fergus Falls, Hermantown, Austin, Duluth, Wadena and Fairmont. Eight newsletters distributed to 700 groups, schools, individuals, community organizations, civic and environmental groups. Newsletters to new sites in Rochester, Winthrop, Marshall, Shakopee, Duluth, Centerville, St. Peter, Manomonee, LaVerne, Monevideo. Over 19,000 seed packets were distributed to 37 new garden sites/communities. Conducted 1996 Greening Conference(Plants as Catalysts for Change) and 1997 Greening Conference (Using Plants to Build Communities). Co-sponsored with MN DOT, DNR Metro Forestry, MN Landscape Arboretum, Minnesota Recreation and Park Association, and Hennepin Technical College. Over 513 people attended conferences. Visited Hackensack, Williams and Baudette public gardens. **DULUTH:** Developed a special program working with the Duluth Hmong community. Trained Hmong gardeners about suitable plants for region, assisted them in seed selection, taught preservation techniques and seed starting. Attempts were made to improve communication and relations between Hmong gardeners and other community gardeners. Consulted with Homeless youth on an entrepreneurial greenhouse project. Worked with Courage Duluth to install wheelchair accessible raised beds at a community garden site for differently abled adults. Worked with people from a low income housing project to start small "kitchen gardens: as the first step in starting a garden site there. Provided garden space for groups such as: developmentally disabled adults, women in alcohol recovery, and those working with homeless adults and families. Ran a weekly kids' garden program in the summer which educated an average of 25 (1996) and 28 (1997) core city children on how to plant, care for, and harvest from a vegetable garden; nutrition; and general health and wellness. Conducted composting classes and held fruit tree and shrub sales in the fall. Published spring, summer and fall issued of newsletter, each distributed to over 500 households. In two seasons, the cannery held 13 workshops incorporating 110 participants and preserving 676 pounds of food; held canning session with 51 participants, preserving 1900 pounds of food; and held food connection sessions for 74 participants,

preserving 1,660 pounds of food. Equipment check outs enabled an additional 1,678 pounds of food to be preserved at home. A total of 6,000 pounds of food was preserved through the cannery.

C. Develop and Utilize Public Demonstration Gardens

C.1 Activity: SRC will maintain existing multi-use urban green space demonstration sites in Minneapolis, and will develop two sites in St. Paul to demonstrate ecologically sound home horticultural techniques. On-site events and demonstrations will complement classroom activities.

C.1.a. Context within the project: An intrinsic part of environmentally-sound garden education includes landscaping and groundskeeping. Demonstration sites provide living, visual examples of successful chemical free lawns; native trees, grasses, and forbes; and sustainable home food production techniques.

C.1.b. Methods: SRC will maintain existing Minneapolis sites in cooperation with surrounding neighborhood residents and groups. On-site demonstrations and tours will be scheduled throughout the season. Two sites will be identified and constructed in St. Paul, with cooperation of the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation, followed by classes and demonstrations. A metro-wide natural landscaping fair will be held in St. Paul during spring 1996 , and in Minneapolis during the spring of 1997. Written materials will be mailed upon request and presentations will be scheduled throughout the Twin Cities.

C.1.c. Materials:	SRC:	Fencing:	\$ 4,000
		Crushed limestone:	2,000
		Signage	750
		borders/edging	350
		Compost bins	300
		Raised beds/supports	2,500
		plants	<u>4,000</u>
		TOTAL SRC:	\$13,900

C.1.d. Budget
Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$ 55,841
LCMR Balance: \$0
MATCH: n/a
MATCH Balance: n/a

C.1.f. Two Year Work Program Summary: **Minneapolis Sites:** Site maintenance was performed on six of seven Minneapolis demonstration sites (the seventh site is maintained in full by Soo Line Community gardeners). Volunteer organizing resulted in three sites (Holland, Newton, and Standish) being maintained primarily by neighborhood residents. On-site events and classes

included: native plants tours, native plants plantings, woody plants plantings, harvest party at 2817 Portland Avenue South, national Night out garden party at 3816 26th Avenue South and other regular garden work days. Primary site maintenance continued on three of the Minneapolis demonstration sites (Knox, Pillsbury, and Portland). Participation in each of the Minneapolis gardens continues to increase. **St. Paul Sites:** SRC developed sites in two new neighborhoods in St. Paul this biennium. First SRC disseminated site applications for future partners in St. Paul demonstration sites, answered phone inquiries and attended community meetings to encourage participation. From four final applications, Highland Park and Frogtown neighborhoods were chosen by a committee of 6 judges. At three planning meetings held with core volunteer groups from each site, garden locations and designers were chosen. Three planning and design meetings including 25 volunteers were held in Highland Park. Two planning and design meetings including 12 volunteers were held in Frogtown. SRC distributed 100 sustainable gardening and landscaping fact sheets promoting practices used at the demonstration sites. The design at Hillcrest Park Center in Highland Park was implemented over five workdays, with over 80 volunteers. The two sites in Frogtown were installed in conjunction with a youth program which ran every weekday from June-August. A dedication for the Frogtown sites included a live band and a neighborhood walking tour. The Hillcrest spring clean up drew 15 volunteers for three hours of work followed by a slide presentation on native plants. A 1996 year end meeting was held in Frogtown at the Thomas-Dale Block Club, and a spring garden dedication was held at each site in spring of 1997. Each of these two neighborhoods' interest in sustainable landscaping and community gardens continues to increase.

VI. Evaluation: SRC: Success will be determined by number of active new community gardens assisted, number of garden referrals made by phone, numbers of existing gardens receiving assistance, attendance at classes and requests for sustainable lawn care & gardening information, mailing list growth, construction and participation at St. Paul demonstration sites, and number of residents receiving information on landscaping for energy conservation. MSHS: Sites will be assessed with a visit, review and written summary as part of nomination for Community Gardening Awards. Success includes long-term commitment to projects, information directed to appropriate audiences then utilized in developing successful projects, and recognition of greening sites. DULUTH: Outcomes will include number of existing gardens improved, level of volunteer involvement, pounds of produce preserved in the Cannery project, newsletter output, attendance at classes and number of requests for printed materials.

VII. Context within field: Requests for assistance have increased substantially as new groups see benefits of gardening for recreation, nutritious food and community improvement. Access to needed expertise and horticultural resources to help interested community members build successful long-term projects is currently very limited.

VIII. Budget context:

SRC: (a)	\$110,000	LCMR
	186,722	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
	10,000	Cooperating Fund Drive
(b)	\$ 10,000	Cooperating Fund Drive
	2,000	LCMR

	3,000	Minnegasco
MSHS: (a)	\$ 4,500	Earned Revenue
	9,000	Donations/Sponsorships
	29,000	MSHS Support
(b)	\$ 5,000	Earned Revenue
	15,000	Donations/Sponsorships
	3,400	MSHS Support
	1,500	Community Sponsorships
	57,000	LCMR
DULUTH:		
(a)	\$41,000	Community Development Block Grant
	13,025	United Way
	13,330	Donations/Income
	12,500	Ordean Foundation
	4,400	Minnesota Power
	500	Land -O-Lakes
(b)	2,500	Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
	\$36,000	Community Development Block Grant
	16,000	United Way
	10,000	Donations/Income
	4,000	Minnesota Power
	8,000	Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
	28,000	LCMR

IX: Dissemination: Garden tours and educational opportunities at greening and demonstration sites are open to the public and widely publicized. Press coverage is regularly sought and received to increase awareness of sustainable gardening and community gardening. Newsletters are distributed to broad community audiences across state. SRC provides printed materials on sustainable lawn care free of charge to anyone in the metro area upon request. MSHS: Related work linked with MSHS garden club network throughout MN and reports published by MN Design Team. Duluth will expand its network through increased class offerings.

X. Time: SRC: Described project is designed to conclude at the end of two years. However, public demand may make continuation desirable. MSHS: Base program will continue through MSHS support, donations and sponsorships, conference, awards and plant distribution. DULUTH: Planned garden improvements will be complete within two years.

XI. Cooperation:
Project Leaders: Sue Gunderson, Sustainable Resources Center (SRC). Melinda Hooker, SRC Urban Lands Program.
Cooperators: (1) Dorothy Johnson, Minnesota State Horticultural Society, MN Green Program: Will

carry out objective ed in workprogram section V. (2) Doug Manthey, Du' Plant-A-Lot
Community Garde. gram: Will carry out objectives as noted in workprog ection V.

XII. Reporting Requirements:

Semiannual six-month workprogram update reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1996, July 1, 1996, January 1, 1997, and a final six-month workprogram update and final report by June 30, 1997.

XII. Required Attachment:

1. Qualifications

Sue Gunderson, Associate Director, Sustainable Resources Center
1916 2nd Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55403, 612/872-3283
BA Urban Planning, University of Illinois. Sue has over eight years experience managing community-based energy and food programs in low-income neighborhoods. Prior to joining Sustainable Resources Center she was executive director of the Self-Reliance Center for four years. Board Member, Cooperating Fund Drive, The Green Institute, member Energy Cents Coalition.

Melinda Hooker, Urban Lands Program Manager, Sustainable Resources Center
1916 2nd Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55403, 612/872-3299
BA American Studies, Carleton College. Three years experience in environmental education and community organizing. Responsible for program planning, development, and implementation. Manage community organizing, technical assistance, information and resources, publicity, educational programs, and advocacy. Member of the American Community Gardening Association and the Community Food Security Coalition.

Dorothy Johnson, Executive Director, MN State Horticultural Society
1755 Prior Avenue N., Falcon Heights, MN 55113 612/643-3601
BA Communications/Business, Metropolitan State University. Added training and coursework in small business management/administration; volunteer and program development, home economics; and horticulture through several colleges. Supervises program areas, fundraising and statewide outreach of MSHS. Serves on MN Shade Tree Advisory Committee, MN Agrigrowth Council, U of M statewide Extension Advisory Committee. Member of American Community Gardening Association, American Association of Botanical Gardens. Current and past service on several non-profit boards of directors related to environmental, horticulture and community efforts. Previous program manager for LCMR funds.

Douglas Manthey, Executive Director, Duluth Plant-A-Lot Community Gardening Program
206 West Fourth St., Duluth MN 55806. 218/722-4583
BA Sociology and Psychology, University of MN-Duluth, MA Sociology, Philosophy Cognate, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks
Executive Director DCGP since 1991. Responsible for program planning and implementation, community organizing, horticultural assistance, promotional events, writing and editing newsletter, supervising staff, budget preparation and fiscal management.