

1997 Project Abstract  
For the Period Ending June 30, 1999  
This project was supported by MN Future Resources Fund

**TITLE:** Sustainable Gardening for Minnesota Homes and Communities  
**PROJECT MANAGER:** Sue Gunderson  
**ORGANIZATION:** Sustainable Resources Center  
**ADDRESS:** 1916 2nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55403  
**LEGAL CITATION:** ML 1997, Ch. 216, Sec. 15, Subd. 12 (f)  
**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$400,000

Statement of Objectives:

This project was designed to promote and provide information on ecologically-sound horticulture; to offer technical, horticultural and organizing assistance to community gardeners statewide; to provide educational opportunities to Minnesotans on environmentally-sound gardening; and to promote links between sustainable local farmers and urban communities.

Overall Project Results:

Sustainable Resources Center (SRC), Minnesota State Horticulture Society (MSHS) and the Duluth Community Garden Program (DCGP) provided over 1700 people the opportunity to learn about environmentally safe landscaping, to talk and consult with landscaping professionals, and to visit designed plantings of Minnesota native species through 7 Sustainable Landscape Fairs and two Sustainable Landscape Tours. Technical and organizing assistance was provided to 28 new community gardens, and nearly 570 existing community gardens, giving Minnesotans the opportunity to produce some of their own food and to engage in stewardship of the land. Over 18,900 seed packets were distributed to Twin Cities' community gardens and over \$400,000 of in-kind plant donations were distributed among community greening projects. Over 110 public classes, workshops and information sessions, slide shows and organizational meetings were held on topics such as basic gardening techniques, organic gardening, native plant landscaping, food preservation, community garden start up and garden permanence. SRC maintained its sustainable horticulture demonstration sites, using them as the location for several series of classes. MSHS organized two Community Greening Conferences with a total attendance of 419 to foster networking among community greening groups and gardeners. DCGP worked on gardening projects with several special needs groups, such as Courage Duluth, teens in an alternative high school, women in alcohol recovery, and youth at the Arrowhead Juvenile Center. Throughout the biennium SRC, DCGP and MSHS regularly published newsletters reaching over 3100 households statewide. SRC and The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) collaborated to hold two annual Local Community Farm Festivals at Hamline University, where a total of over 750 urban eaters connected with over 55 local sustainable farmers. SRC and LSP facilitated urban consumers learning about the importance of supporting the local food system and how they can connect with local farmers by referring over 300 people to local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms by phone and distributing the local CSA directory. SRC organized a tour of two local farms (Wilder and Red Cardinal) with a group of Hmong women, and held several workshops and distributed information on how consumers can order directly from local farmers, reaching over 500 households. LSP organized three Apprentice Field Days with 25 CSA farm apprentices attending and organized 5 CSA guild meetings with 20 farmers actively participating.

Project Results Use and Dissemination:

The information provided by this project has helped Minnesotans make informed and environmentally-sound choices about gardening and landscaping techniques and fostered connections between local sustainable farmers and consumers. Information was disseminated through newsletters, fact sheets, SRC's community garden directory, MSHS's database of community greening contacts, LSP's CSA directory, phone referral, conferences, workshops, classes, meetings, tours, fairs and festivals.

**Date of Report:** July 1, 1999

**LCMR Final Work Program Update Report**

**1. PROJECT TITLE:** SUSTAINABLE GARDENING FOR MINNESOTA HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

**Project Manager:** ~~Melinda Hooker~~ Sue Gunderson  
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**Total Biennial Project Budget:**

**\$ LCMR:** \$400,000.00  
**Less \$LCMR Amount Spent:** \$398,790.17 billed to date  
**\$LCMR Balance:** \$1,209.83

**A. Legal Citation:** ML 1997, [Chap. 216], [Sec. 15], Subd. 12(f).

**SUSTAINABLE GARDENING FOR MINNESOTA HOMES AND COMMUNITIES**

**Appropriation Language:** This appropriation is from the Future Resources Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for an agreement with the Sustainable Resources Center for the fifth biennium to accelerate community garden programs through technical assistance to encourage ecologically-sound landscape plantings and maintenance. Up to \$60,000 is to provide a link of sustainable farmers with urban communities.

**B. Status of Match Requirement:** Not applicable.

**II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:**

Sustainable Resources Center (SRC), Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS), and the Duluth Community Garden Program (Duluth) will cooperate to provide information and technical assistance encouraging ecologically-sound home landscape plantings and maintenance, beautification and reclamation of lands through community gardening, and sustainable community development. A fourth organization, Land Stewardship Project (LSP), will cooperate with SRC to reach the goals in Result 4.

Nine **Sustainable Landscape Fairs** will feature speakers on key aspects of ecologically sound landscaping, and will provide approximately 3,600 residents an opportunity to meet high-quality providers of sustainable landscape design, non-chemical lawn care services, native plant nurseries, and educational organizations.

Provide **technical and horticultural assistance to community gardeners** developing and maintaining community vegetable and flower gardens, orchards, native plantings, and tree plantings statewide. Link projects with existing resources and expertise. Coordinate private donations to over 75 sites per year. Encourage high quality community planting projects through events and awards programs.

Provide **education** on environmentally-sound gardening through newsletters, displays at public events, outreach to schools, slide presentations, fact sheets, ongoing classes and workshops, maintenance and use of 10 demonstration sites, and an annual statewide community gardening conference.

Facilitate urban/rural links between sustainable farmers and urban communities. Provide information, resources, and technical assistance to develop sustainable food projects. Link two sustainable farmers with two metro area community or neighborhood groups. Coordinate three informational workshops, two farm tours, and a CSA mentorship program.

### **III. PROGRESS SUMMARY:**

#### **Result 1**

##### **Sustainable Landscape Fairs:**

SRC held two Sustainable Landscape Fairs in the winter of 1998 and two in the winter of 1999. The fairs were held in Eden Prairie (February 1998), Woodbury (March 1998), Bloomington (February 1999) and Roseville (February 1999). The total attendance of the four fairs was 1700 people. The Landscape Fairs included workshops and exhibits by sustainable landscape professionals. In place of the two remaining Sustainable Landscape Fairs, SRC held two Sustainable Landscape tours. One in August of 1998, with forty-one participants, and one in June of 1999 with 33 participants. Each tour included a four hour bus trip to designed plantings of native species in Minneapolis and St. Paul and surrounding suburbs. Educational materials were distributed at all 6 Sustainable Landscape events. Through these six events, over 1770 people learned how to landscape with native plants, how to attract wildlife through landscaping and how to garden and care for lawns without using chemicals. The Sustainable Landscape Tours, although reaching fewer people, were highly effective because they offered participants the opportunity to see designed plantings which incorporate plant species native to Minnesota, and an opportunity to talk with and ask questions of landscape designers. Minnesota State Horticultural Society held two Sustainable Landscape Fairs in the winter and spring of 1999 in collaboration with DNR-Urban & Community Forestry, MnDOT-Roadside Community Landscape Program, and MN Landscape Arboretum-Therapeutic Horticulture Program. The total attendance of the fairs was 130. The conferences were tailored to meet the needs of local communities and to identify and promote sustainable land uses in community spaces. The 1999 Northern Greening Conference: Community Pride Through Healthy Landscapes (January 1999 in Grand Rapids, MN) featured Bonnie Harper-Lore, landscape architect for the Federal Highway Administration, as the keynote speaker. She spoke about the importance of understanding the biotic community and the restoration of the natural landscape through community-based projects. Seminars included the "How-to" of Community Landscape Partnerships, Building "Bridges with Native Plants", Cultivars for Northern Minnesota, and Therapeutic Horticulture Program Profile: Minnesota Veterans Home. The 1999 Southern Conference (April 17, 1999 in Red Wing, MN) featured Vera Krischik, professor University of Minnesota-Department of Entomology, as the keynote speaker. She focused on how to create a healthy habitat for critters. Seminars were offered on garden photography and herbs. Evaluations by conference participants were very positive: appreciative of the focus on Northern Minnesota and citing the conferences as great networking opportunities. In April of 1998, the Duluth Community Garden Program, in conjunction with other Duluth area organizations and municipalities, conducted a Sustainable Landscape fair which drew an attendance of 400 people. There were educational displays, seminars on non-chemical lawn care, native plants, landscaping for wildlife, and a variety of other topics.

#### **Result 2**

##### **Technical Assistance:**

SRC has provided garden start-up assistance to 23 gardens (serving approximately 460 individuals) by helping gardeners gain access to land, offering tips on community organizing, garden design and organic gardening techniques, lending tiller and tools, and

connecting gardens with other available resources. Ongoing assistance and telephone referral was provided to the majority of the Twin Cities 135+ community gardens, which serve over 5000 individuals. SRC communicates with existing community gardens through garden organizer surveys, the quarterly *Twin Cities' Urban Gardener* newsletter, the annual lease and insurance process (at the end of the grant period, we are holding 90 leases with public and private owners), regular phone calls, garden workdays and garden visits. SRC has contributed over 75 tilling jobs, compost drop-offs and tool lendings, and distributed 18,900 seed packets to Twin Cities' community gardens and community greening projects. Regular communication with community garden organizers has led to more organization among the gardens and a request for a new type of technical assistance -- assistance with garden permanence. SRC is working with gardeners, neighborhood organizations, and city and county officials in both Minneapolis and St. Paul to actively address the land permanence issues that face community gardens and to identify options for long-term protection for these sites. Ongoing assistance and telephone referral -- on topics ranging from general gardening to community garden plot referral -- has been provided to more than 700 individuals, resulting in contact with at least 100 organizations or individuals with projects. Through assistance to and contact with the Twin Cities' community gardens, SRC has seen the community gardening movement grow. With more gardens established every year, more people in the Twin Cities are learning about organic vegetable and ornamental gardening, and more people are becoming concerned about garden permanence. MSHS has provided technical assistance to 416 community garden sites across the state of Minnesota. Telephone assistance has been provided to a minimum of 425 individuals or groups needing help with project implementation, granting sources, plant donations, and speaker requests on native and ecoregion landscaping. Between June 1998 and June 1999, 90 community greening groups with 194 community greening sites between them, received donated annuals, perennials, bareroot trees and shrubs, vegetables, and hanging baskets. These diverse community greening sites include roadside gardens, gateway gardens, parks, outdoor environmental learning centers at schools, churches, inner city youth vegetable gardens, therapeutic horticulture gardens used by children and adults with disabilities, and community shoreline plantings to prevent erosion. 9 community greening groups distributed plant material to multiple groups and sites, (e.g. Sustainable Resources Center). MSHS aggressively sought plant donations through a mass mailing, telephone contact and networking to nurseries and growers. For the biennium, MSHS exceeded the goal of \$400,000 worth of in-kind plant donations. The plant donations were received from whole-sale nurseries, retail nurseries, plant sales, a commercial flower show, and private growers. In spring of 1998 and 1999, DCGP provided technical assistance to community gardeners and other garden program members. Technical assistance is provided nearly year-round to all members of the Duluth Community Garden Program, starting in the spring as planting season gets underway. In the summer, DCGP gives advice on organic weed and pest control, and in the fall, on the harvest and preservation of fruits and vegetables. DCGP assisted 16 sites in 1998, and is assisting 19 sites in 1999 (two new gardens started in 1998 and 3 in 1999) with maintenance and soil quality improvements. Telephone assistance has been provided to many individuals and community groups throughout the two years of the project.

### **Result 3**

#### **Education and Outreach:**

SRC provided 60 city-wide classes with over 700 participants. Class Topics include: Organic Plant Care and Pest Control, Worm Composting, Seed Saving and Storing, Native Plant Seed Starting, Edible Landscaping, two vegetable-based cooking classes with chef Jenny Breen, Landscaping for Wildlife with DNR naturalist Carrol Henderson, Landscaping with Native Plants, Organic Vegetable Gardening, Heirloom Vegetables, Non-Chemical Lawn Care, "What Good is Community Gardening?", Freezing Garden Produce, Drying Fruits and Vegetables, Jams and Jellies, Tomato and Tomatillo Salsa,

Canning Tomatoes, Pickling, Preserving Fall Fruits, Starting Seeds Indoors, Cold Frames and Season Extenders, Community Gardening With Children, and Planning and Planting A Blooming Boulevard. SRC organized and maintained the sustainable horticulture demonstration gardens throughout the biennium. SRC hosted a Native Plant Garden Tour of the Hillcrest Demonstration Site featuring nationally renowned native plant designer, Cole Burrell. Four Native Plant Discovery Tours also featured SRC's demonstration sites (St. Paul's Blazing Star Garden, North Minneapolis' Shingle Creek Garden, St. Paul's Hillcrest Garden, and South Minneapolis' Standish Neighborhood Garden) in the summer of 1998 with a total of 66 participants. The 1999 spring and summer class schedule featured 16 classes and workshops at the demonstration gardens with a total of 61 participants. Topics included Birdscaping and "Let me tell you 'bout the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees . . . of a Native Habitat", which were taught by Jennifer Menkin, a naturalist from the Bell Museum. Throughout the biennium, SRC distributed a wide range of information through the *Twin Cities' Urban Gardener* newsletter, as well as our fact sheets. The *Twin Cities' Urban Gardener* newsletter was published four times each year, and the mailing list has grown to over 2,600 households and organizations. SRC's fact sheets, which include "How to Start a Community Garden, the Basics" and two new fact sheets: "Why Native Plants?" and "Planning and Planting a Blooming Boulevard" have been distributed by mail, through office visits, at meetings, conferences, and other public events attended by staff, and at all SRC events (garden tours, harvest parties, classes, Sustainable Landscape Fairs and Tours). SRC held over 20 slide shows and organizational meetings for community garden projects. Slide shows and presentations were tailored to meet the groups interest, ranging from basic community garden start up slide shows for neighborhood groups to a presentation on our local food system (which highlighted the Twin Cities' community gardening movement) for a community college environmental science class. Many of the meetings SRC has organized and facilitated have revolved around the topic of garden permanency. During both the winter of 1998 and 1999, SRC convened a series of monthly and sometimes biweekly meetings with St. Paul community gardeners to discuss the long term protection of community gardens and community green space. Over 100 people attended SRC's annual community garden tours and harvest parties. These annual events not only highlight the accomplishments of Twin Cities' community gardeners, they also give community gardeners the chance to meet one another and socialize. The 1998 Twin Cities' Community Garden Harvest Party included a panel on youth gardening. Panelists represented four local youth gardening projects showcased their successes and answered questions. The education and outreach work of SRC has been very successful: class participation, although waning during the summer time, has been steady for the duration of the two years; with every printing of the *Twin Cities' Urban Gardener*, the mailing list grows; fact sheets, particularly the new ones listed above, have been in demand throughout the biennium; and requests for information flow into the office nearly everyday (by phone and mail). MSHS held Greening Conferences in February of 1998 and 1999. The 1998 Greening Conference: Using Plants to Build Community, attracted 304 individuals, and former Senator Steve Morse provided the keynote address on the Community Based Planning Act and Ecosystem Management. Evaluations completed by participants revealed that 93% felt the conference exceeded or satisfied their expectations. The 1999 Metro Greening Conference: Community Pride Through Healthy Landscapes attracted 115 people and featured Joan Iverson Nassauer, professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Michigan as the keynote speaker. Nassauer suggested that landscapes must be culturally sustainable, evoking human attention and enjoyment, to be ecologically sustainable. Evaluations by participants revealed 29% were very satisfied, 45% were satisfied, 11% were neutral, 2% were dissatisfied, and 13% were very dissatisfied. Ratings were inconsistent with the numerous positive comments. Participants at both conferences included individuals representing community organizations/councils and community gardens, the nonprofit sector, and master gardeners. Exhibits included native and sustainable landscaping professionals, information on

Community Supported Farms, and books tailored to gardening in Minnesota Hardiness Zones 3 & 4. Some of the conferences' seminars included: The "How To" of Community Landscape Partnerships, Crime Prevention Through Gardening, The Edible Landscape, Building a Paradise in a Parking Lot, Green Thumbs Up for Water Quality, Growing a Green Vision for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Region, and program profiles on "The Plant Club", Minnesota Veterans Home, and Minneapolis Blooming Boulevards. Fifteen community greening sites were recognized at each conference in an Awards and Recognition ceremony. Six seminars on sustainable horticulture practices were presented in Mankato, Springfield, Dent, Montevideo, Georgetown, and Roseau during June 1998 - June 1999. In collaboration with the DNR, MnDOT and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, a partnership database of community greening contacts has been produced. This database will be used as a resource tool for mailings, notification of funding/grants and up and coming community conferences. MSHS also publishes the *MN Community Gardens* newsletter, which has changed its name to *Minnesota's Community Greenspace Newsletter*. The newsletter is distributed to individuals, communities, parks, schools and churches. The DCGP offered 10 workshops and information sharing sessions in spring of 1998 and 1999 on topics such as intensive planting techniques, companion planting, seed saving, planting your garden with preservation in mind, and season extending techniques. Informational materials and fact sheets were distributed through the spring newsletter, at public events like the Sustainable Landscape Fair, and through the office. DCGP organized a harvest festival gathering each year of the project, and also worked with special needs groups throughout the biennium. Some of those groups include: Courage Duluth, to facilitate their raised bed gardening program; teens in the alternative high school; women in alcohol recovery; Hmong women through a connection with English as a Second Language instruction; youth at the Arrowhead Juvenile Center; and other youth programs like Kids' Corner and Girl Scouts. DCGP held a weekly Kids' Garden Program in 1997 and 1998, which educated an average of 25 neighborhood children on how to plant, care for and harvest a vegetable garden. The Cannery had two successful seasons, facilitating the preservation of almost 6000 pounds of food. 56 people participated in workshops, preserving 420 pounds of food; 77 people participated in food connection sessions, preserving 1171 pounds of food; 173 people participated in special group workshops - groups like Teen Parent Program, Arrowhead Juvenile Center, and Unity School - preserving 385 pounds of food; and an additional 1503 pounds were preserved at home by people utilizing our equipment check-out program. The newsletter was published in the spring, summer and fall of 1997 and 1998, each issues distributed to over 500 households. Articles included information on soil improvement, organic pest control, proper storage techniques for vegetables, and canning information.

#### **Result 4**

##### **Urban Rural Link:**

SRC hosted the first annual Local Community Farm Festival in March of 1998. Over 250 urban residents learned more about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) through workshops and direct conversations with 20 CSA farmers. Building on the interest in the 1998 festival, LSP organized the 1999 Local Community Farm Festival. Thirty five farms and 9 supporting organizations had booths, and over 500 people attended the festival. In their evaluations of the event, farmers said they connected with anywhere from 6 new CSA members to 50 new customers. Many gave out over 100 copies of their brochures and information. SRC referred over 300 urban residents to local CSA farms by telephone. LSP updated and widely distributed the 1999 CSA directory at the Local Community Farm Festival and by telephone request. There were also nearly 250 directories distributed at several Twin Cities' cooperative groceries. SRC continues to serve as an information and resource clearinghouse for individuals and communities interested in making links with local, sustainable farms and starting projects that achieve that purpose. SRC helped foster connections between Plowshare Community Farm and the Steven's Square Neighborhood.

Activities included numerous meetings to assess neighborhood interest in connecting with a farmer, and assistance with recruitment of participants and selection of a neighborhood drop-off site. We also began research to discover potential interest in direct links with farmers in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood. SRC conducted two informational workshops on how communities can directly connect with a farmer, or a group of farmers. One workshop took place at SRC, in the Steven's Square Community. Community members were invited to discuss the advantages of purchasing local food and to learn how to order food directly from farmers. The workshop resulted in a regular food delivery at SRC from Whole Farm Coop. A second workshop was held at Glendale Homes (a public housing complex in southeast Minneapolis), where 70 people received information and resources about direct ordering and connecting with local farmers. SRC also distributed information on CSA's and direct ordering from local, sustainable farmers to households involved in the MN Grown Food Voucher/ Community Food Project. Over 500 families in Minneapolis, St. Paul and rural western Minnesota received this information. The first farm tour, a day long gardening workshop scheduled for May 1998 at Red Cardinal Farm, was canceled since not enough people signed up. The second farm tour was a success. SRC organized a tour in June 1999 with a group of Hmong women from McDonough Homes (a public housing complex in St. Paul). A group of 17 women (plus coordinators from McDonough and SRC staff) visited Wilder Farm, and learned how to secure plots at the Wilder Community Garden for next season. After lunch the group visited Red Cardinal Farm. LSP organized a mentorship program for CSA farm apprentices on three Apprentice Field Days. 25 apprentices participated throughout the 1998 growing season. Each field day had a different focus: whole farm planning at Red Cardinal Farm, entomology at Big Woods Farm, and cover crops at Our Farm. LSP helped contact growers in the Sustainable Farming Association to promote a new opportunity with Erickson's Grocery Stores, and assisted Wilder Forest in organizing the first of two workshops at Wilder Forest Farm on advanced vegetable growing in December 1998. In addition, LSP is providing organizational assistance in marketing, intern and apprentice network development and CSA membership education for the Twin Cities region CSA Guild. There were five guild meetings in 1998 and 20 farmers are active participants in the guild.

#### **IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

**Result 1:** Nine Sustainable Landscape Fairs; two in Minneapolis/St. Paul, two in north metro suburbs, two in south metro suburbs, one in Duluth, and two in other Minnesota communities.

**LCMR Budget:** \$20,045 **LCMR Balance:**

**Completion Date:** All completed by June 30, 1999.

**SRC** will conduct 3 landscape fairs in the twin cities and surrounding suburbs per year, **MSHS** will conduct 2 fairs in Greater Minnesota, and **Duluth** will conduct one fair. Each fair will cost \$1,975 (including staff organizational time, travel expenses, materials/printing, rental fees, speakers, and advertising), with an expected attendance of over 400 people. The fairs will be held between January and May 1998, 1999. Attendees at each fair will have access to the following resources:

- Educational displays by over 30 sustainable landscaping and gardening professionals.
- High quality seminars on native plants, non-chemical lawn and tree care, and other topics.
- Presentations highlighting the positive impact sustainable gardening techniques will have on soil and water, significant community projects, and exceptional practices by individual homeowners.

**Result 2:** Provide quality technical, horticultural and organizational assistance to existing \* community garden projects , and to new projects throughout Minnesota.

- \* Community Garden Projects are typically gardens built on a vacant, or underused, piece of land and tended by a group of members. Community Gardens are most often initiated by neighborhood groups, block clubs, schools, churches, and other community groups.

**LCMR Budget:** \$178,442      **LCMR Balance:** \$6,837.40

**Completion Date:** Carried out through project period, and completed by June 30, 1999.

**SRC, MSHS and Duluth** will work to achieve the following goals over the course of the biennium:

- Technical assistance will be provided to at least **135** existing community gardens, and approximately 8,000 gardeners across the state. Assistance may include site selection and leasing, community organizing tips, tiller and tool rental, and on-site garden visits to discuss horticulture or other garden issues. Duluth will assist 14 community gardens with maintenance and soil quality improvements, and possible assistance with fundraising.
- At least 16 new community garden projects will be established statewide over the course of the biennium; 10 in the metro area, 4 in greater Minnesota, and 2 in Duluth.
- Telephone referral and assistance will be provided to more than 750 individuals and community groups.
- \$400,000 worth of in-kind plant donations and over 10,000 free seed packets will be distributed to community gardens and public plantings.

**Result 3:** Provide education on environmentally sound gardening throughout Minnesota.

**LCMR Budget:** \$141,513      **LCMR Balance:** -\$23,609.03

**Completion Date:** Carried out through project period, and completed by June 30, 1999.

**SRC will:**

- provide 50 city-wide classes to general public on organic gardening and sustainable landscaping, landscaping with native plants, composting, mulching, tree care, container gardening, cooking and preserving produce, and other related gardening classes.
- utilize the 10 already established demonstration gardens in Minneapolis and St. Paul as sites for 20 neighborhood-based, hands-on workshops on sustainable gardening and organic vegetable production.
- distribute informational materials and fact sheets to over 10,000 people at public events.
- facilitate 20 slide presentations and organizational meetings for community groups and neighborhood associations starting community gardening projects.
- hold 2 annual community garden tours for over 120 people.



**MSHS will:**

- conduct 2 statewide Greening Conferences for over 500 attendees. Session topics will include developing self-sufficient projects, how to planting demonstrations, use of native plants, and gardening with diverse populations.
- conduct 4 regional presentations including information on design and plant selection for sustainable gardening and native plant landscaping, and developing community green space projects in Greater Minnesota.
- present 6 seminars on environmentally-sound horticulture practices to audiences of 500 in Greater Minnesota.
- produce a statewide directory of 700 community garden sites as a resource tool for existing and new gardens.

**Duluth will:**

- provide 10 workshops for community and backyard gardeners on composting, intensive planting techniques, succession planting, container gardening, square foot gardening, season extension for northern climates, planning for food preservation and food preservation techniques.
- distribute informational materials and fact sheets at public events.
- organize 2 annual harvest festival gatherings.
- work with special needs groups (low-income children, chemically dependent teens and Hmong immigrants) to facilitate gardening projects.

Each cooperator will publish a regional quarterly newsletter with information pertinent to the communities that they serve. These newsletters are necessary community building tools and information disseminators for the three different programs, and the individuals and communities that they serve.

**Result 4:** Promote and facilitate sustainable farmers linking with urban communities.

**LCMR Budget:** \$60,000      **LCMR Balance:** \$19,899.28

**Completion Date:** Identify CSA mentor/mentee relationship, conduct 3 informational workshops and a farm tour, and facilitate one sustainable food project by June 30, 1998. Second food project and farm tour, and ongoing promotional work to be completed by June 30, 1999.

**SRC and LSP** will complete the following goals:

Compile and distribute information and resources for communities interested in linking with local farms or starting sustainable food and land projects (urban market gardens, youth farm projects, \* CSA farms, church owned food and land projects).

\*A CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm sells shares to members who receive weekly amounts of fresh food.

- Facilitate 2 sustainable farmers linking with 2 community groups.
- Conduct a series of 3 informational workshops on the "nuts and bolts of starting a community market or sustainable food project."
- Coordinate 2 farm tours for urban residents: one to a local CSA farm for a day long gardening workshop, and another tour of sustainable food projects throughout the twin cities metro area.

- Facilitate a mentorship program that provides a prospective farmer with a connection with an existing CSA farmer, reading lists and other educational opportunities.

## V. DISSEMINATION:

Garden tours and educational opportunities at greening and demonstration sites are open to the public and widely publicized. Community gardening information and sustainable gardening fact sheets are distributed at public events, meetings and city-wide classes. 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 sustainable gardening fact sheets free of charge to anyone in the metro area upon request. Duluth provides free printed material on sustainable gardening techniques and produce preservation. SRC and MSHS will also have web sites including sustainable gardening fact sheets, information on starting community gardens and neighborhood greening projects, and other related information. MSHS will provide answers to questions from web site users on a weekly basis. LSP will utilize their 1000 Friends of Minnesota Speaker's Bureau, the *Land Stewardship Letter* (newsletter), existing clearinghouse efforts, and the Land Stewardship Tool Kit to promote the urban/rural linkage component.

## VI. CONTEXT

**A. Significance:** Gardening is the most popular leisure pastime in the United States, according to a 1988 Gallup poll. In Minnesota, greening projects and community gardens are becoming increasingly integral parts of neighborhood organizing and community planning. Community gardens increased in the metro area from 26 in 1991 to over 140 in 1996, with a total of over 5,000 plots. Numbers of participants in each of these gardens range from 8 to 300, and total more than 5,000 families (approximately 20,000 individuals). With similar increases in participation expected in the next biennium, providing quality technical and horticultural assistance to community gardeners will be crucial. All three cooperators are experiencing increasing requests for information and services on sustainable gardening and native plant landscaping; public interest in environmentally sound gardening is growing. Through educational programs, Sustainable Landscape Fairs, and urban/rural link projects, the cooperators will provide technical support for community garden projects incorporating vegetable and fruit production, beautification, education, and environmentally sound gardening techniques, promote sustainable landscaping to residential homeowners, and increase links between urban communities and sustainable farmers.

**B. Time:** Described project is designed to conclude on June 30, 1999.

**C. Budget Context:** In this fifth biennium of community garden program funding, the cooperators will expand on the established program of technical assistance for community gardeners, and increase promotion of environmentally-sound gardening and sustainable community greening. Areas of expansion with the proposed expenditures include Landscape Fairs and Urban/Rural Link projects.

	July 1995- June 1997	July 1997- June 1999	July 1999- June 2001
	Prior expenditures on this project	Proposed expenditures on this project	Anticipated future expenditures on this project
1. LCMR	\$300,000	\$400,000	\$0
2. Other State	\$	\$	\$
3. Non State Cash	\$15,000	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$315,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**1997-1999 BUDGET:**

**Personnel:**

• SRC Project Manager	\$70,200 FT
• SRC Education Coordinator	\$70,200 FT
• SRC Garden Organizer	\$40,000 PT
• SRC Urban/Rural Link Coordinator	\$40,000 PT
• LSP Urban/Rural Link Coordinator	\$8,000 PT
• MSHS MN Green Coordinator	\$21,700 PT
• MSHS MN Green Assistant	\$20,600 PT
• MSHS Horticulture Information Specialist	\$10,300 PT
• MSHS Community Organizer	\$14,860 PT
• Duluth Coordinator	<u>\$30,000 PT</u>

**Total Personnel** **\$325,860**

**Equipment:**

•SRC	
tools	\$500
rototiller	\$2,000
(repairs, gas)	
truck operation	\$4,500
(maintenance, repairs, gas)	
signage	\$1,000
•MSHS	
equipment rental	\$300
•Duluth	
tools	\$300
signage	\$600
equipment maintenance	<u>\$600</u>

**Total Equipment** **\$9,800**

<b><u>Acquisition:</u></b>	\$0
<b><u>Development:</u></b>	\$0
<b><u>Other:</u></b>	
<b>•SRC</b>	
garden insurance	\$2,500
garden supplies	\$1,250
(plants, compost, mulch)	
printing	\$17,000
(newsletter, fact sheets,	
urban/rural link materials)	
postage	\$8,350
(information requests, newsletter)	
books	\$1,150
training	\$4,000
licenses/permits	\$300
advertising/publicity	\$1,000
slide sets	\$300
photos	\$400
exhibits	\$350
telephone	\$1,500
office supplies	\$1,438
bus rental (tours)	\$600
professional fees	\$5,000
<b>•MSHS</b>	
printing	\$3,750
(newsletter, handouts, etc.)	
meeting sites/speakers	\$730
garden supplies	\$500
advertising/promotion	\$700
slide sets	\$100
exhibits	\$1,620
telephone	\$200
mileage	\$900
awards program	\$1,400
postage	\$1,652
<b>•Duluth:</b>	
newsletter	\$1,000
garden insurance	\$1,000
postage	\$800
printing	\$1,100
telephone	\$1,000
office/program supplies	\$600
garden supplies	<u>\$2,150</u>
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$64,340</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>

## **VII. Cooperation:**

The following organizations will cooperate with SRC, and receive a percentage of the LCMR allocation:

- Minnesota State Horticultural Society (23%)

~~Dorothy Johnson, Executive Director~~

Terry Goodfellow-Heyer, Director of Programs

- Duluth Community Garden Program (12%)

Sue Katt, Executive Director

- Land Stewardship Project (2%)

~~Mary Schulte, Organizer~~

Dana Jackson, Associate Director

**VIII. Location:** The project is statewide.

## **IX. Reporting Requirements:**

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than May 1997. Work Program reports will be submitted by November 1, 1997; June 1, 1998; November 1, 1998 and a final work program report and associated products will be submitted by June 30, 1999, or by the completion date as set in the appropriation.

**X. For Research Projects:** Not applicable.