

**Resolution
of the
City of Minneapolis**

By Gordon, Glidden and Lilligren

Honoring Community Gardening Day in Minneapolis

Whereas, there are more than 213 community gardens in Minneapolis, in all 13 wards, providing opportunities to more than 5,000 youth and adult gardeners; and

Whereas, there are 163 food production gardens in Minneapolis; and

Whereas, there are almost 36 acres of community garden space in Minneapolis; and

Whereas, community gardens add beauty to urban neighborhoods and provide much needed green space in high density areas; and

Whereas, community gardens build community by crossing cultural and socio-economic divides by providing cross-cultural and intergenerational opportunities for neighbors to meet and work together; and

Whereas, Minneapolis' community gardens reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the city, including gardeners who speak English, Spanish, Hmong, Somali, and Korean; and

Whereas, community gardens reduce the urban heat island effect and filter rainwater, helping to keep our rivers, lakes, and groundwater clean; and

Whereas, community gardens provide horticultural therapy and exercise, helping to draw people out of their homes and get active; and

Whereas, community gardens combat inactivity, unhealthy eating habits and social isolation, thereby reducing risk of diabetes and obesity; and

Whereas, community gardens educate neighbors about land stewardship, providing an informal classroom for children and adults to learn skills caring for the natural environment; and

Whereas, community gardens enhance crime prevention efforts and improve property values; and

Whereas, community gardens provide a more livable environment in Minneapolis and present a positive local image to a community's residents and visitors; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is proud to support community gardening by providing compost via Public Works Solid Waste and Recycling Department and by providing access to water through the Public Works Water Treatment and Distribution Services Division; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Department of Health continues to support the Local Food Resource Hubs Network to link residents, gardeners and entrepreneurs with the seeds, seedlings, tools, education and connections needed to build food growing, preservation, distribution and composting skills; and

Whereas, community gardens and urban farms help promote local abundance of healthy fresh food and generate opportunities for employment and new enterprise development; and

Whereas, community gardens and urban farms provide rich opportunities for our adults and young people to learn to grow their own food and become active stewards of environmental health and ecosystems restoration while co-creating local food systems; and

Whereas, community gardens and urban farms actively involve many (30 just in North Minneapolis this year) Step-Up summer youth interns throughout the City of Minneapolis each year, providing work experience, engaging youth in making a difference in their communities and preparing our next generation of environmentally responsible urban leaders; and

Whereas, Community Garden Day will take place in the Twin Cities Metro area on August 10th, giving residents an opportunity to learn about community gardening and visit gardens in their area,

**Now, Therefore, be it Resolved by
The City Council of the City of Minneapolis:**

That the City of Minneapolis recognizes the role community gardens play in making our city more livable, attractive, resilient and healthy.

Be it Further Resolved that the City Council of the City of Minneapolis declares August 10, 2013, as Community Garden Day in the City of Minneapolis