



Welcome Back to Another Year of Gardening!

Hello to returning Dowling gardeners, and to those who are just joining us. We hope you will have a successful and rewarding season. Please review the rules and service commitment information, fully complete the Rental Agreement form, and return it with your payment by March 1.

GARDEN RENT is Due March 1!

For garden plot rental, please send \$_____ and the signed agreement form by March 1, 2006.

 Plot rentals postmarked March 2-March 15 must include a \$10.00 late fee, so get yours in on time!

Registrations postmarked after March 15 will not be accepted; your garden will be forfeited and given to the next person on the waiting list.

Call 651/255-6607 right away if you don't want a garden space this year; we have a long waiting list of gardeners. Make your check payable to **Dowling Community Garden**.

Spring Planting Date: JUNE 3

 Gardens must be planted by Sunday, June 3, 2006.

You will be contacted and may forfeit your plot if your garden is not planted in a timely manner.

Reminder: SERVICE COMMITMENT of 4 Hours for Each Plot

Each Dowling gardener is expected to assist with the chores that keep this garden running. From seasonal clean-ups to water barrel filling, flower bed maintenance, shed repair, surplus produce donation to food shelves, helping with events, mowing or special projects – there's a job for every gardener!

 Gardeners are required to work 4 hours each season, per plot.

Please select the activities that best suit you (from the list on page 3) and indicate your choices on the Rental Agreement form. In the event that many gardeners sign up for the same activity, requests will be filled on a first-come/first-served basis. Please indicate a second choice in case your first choice is filled.

You will be notified of your service assignment and project coordinator's name and contact information in the April newsletter. Keep track of your service hours and report them within one week to your project coordinator. It is your responsibility to keep track of, and report, your service hours. All service hours must be completed and reported by November 15, 2006. *If service hours are not performed and reported by the deadline, you will receive a violation letter.*

What's NEW in the GARDEN for 2006?

- The *water lines* in both areas of the Garden will be extended farther to the west early this spring. Gardeners near the 46th Avenue fence will now have hose access, or a shorter distance to carry water.
- Look for *new tools* in the shed. We were given a grant to purchase wheelbarrows, a cart, forks, hoses and watering wands, and watering cans.
- Garden "*Swap Day*" continues at Spring and Fall Cleanups. This is your opportunity at the garden to recycle usable gardening items that you no longer need. Unclaimed items must be removed from the garden by end of day.



Dowling Sponsors HEIRLOOM EVENTS

HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL FEATURES OLD-FASHIONED FLOWERS. Heirloom Festival, our annual event celebrating great-tasting and attractive food, focuses on beautiful flowers in 2006. Our flower gardens will showcase old-fashioned and interesting varieties of annuals.

Heirloom Festival will continue to offer many samples of tomatoes to taste and evaluate, and present information on saving seeds, gardening resources and sustainable agriculture. Displays of heirloom produce and flowers will be featured.

We encourage you to plant heirloom flowers and vegetables this year, and show them off on August 19. Are you growing an interesting variety in your garden this season? Let us know! Saturday, August 19, 10 AM-1 PM in the Garden.

HEIRLOOM PLANT SALE. Great tasting, historical, beautiful: you'll find many varieties of vegetables and flowers for your garden at this sale, and help support Heirloom Festival at the same time. A large assortment of hard-to-find heirloom tomatoes will be available; based on last year's requests, we'll offer more smaller-fruited and cherry tomatoes. Also available will be old-fashioned flowers, other vegetables and herbs. Look for a list of sale plants in the bulletin board in early May.

Saturday, May 13, 11 AM-2 PM. 3549 46 Avenue South, Minneapolis.



SPRING GARDEN CLEAN-UP May 6, 10 AM - Noon

We will clean up debris, get out the water barrels, prepare the raised beds, and complete other seasonal chores.

Bring garden tools (rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, pruners), weed trimmers, lawn mowers, trash bags, garden gloves.

Free seeds will be available for pick up. Also bring usable garden items that you no longer need for Swap Day (but you must take home with you any items not claimed by others!)

DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES

To act as a responsible gardening community, we must respect the interests of our fellow gardeners and the community with whom we share our gardening space. Dowling Community Garden leases the land we use from the Minneapolis School District. Our continued use of the land depends upon maintaining respectful relationships with the Dowling School community, the surrounding neighborhood and the School District. Requirements of our lease with the District, our insurance policy and Minneapolis city ordinances are reflected in our rules. When you rent a plot, you agree to follow these rules.

Rules 1 and 2 require strict compliance. Gardeners who violate these rules will be contacted and will immediately forfeit their garden plot. Gardeners who violate other rules will be contacted, and may forfeit their garden plot if problems are not resolved in a timely manner (see "Procedures" below). If you commit three violations in a two-year period, you will be contacted and your plot forfeited. Rental fees will not be returned to those whose plots have been forfeited due to rules violations.

1. **Pay the rent** for your plot by the time designated on the Rental Agreement.

2. **Use of pesticides and herbicides is prohibited** in the garden (Minnesota law applies to all school property; visit the Dowling web site for more information – www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org).

3. Gardeners must **perform 4 hours of service**, per plot, to the garden each season. Report completed hours within one week to your service coordinator. All service hours must be completed and reported by November 15. Gardeners who have not completed and reported required service hours will receive a citation for rules violation. (see *Procedures*, below)

4. Keep the Garden Committee advised of your **current address and telephone number**; notify the Garden Committee of any change of address or telephone by voice mail at 651/255-6607.

5. **Plant your plot** by the time designated, and **clean up your plot** at the end of the season by removing dead plants and temporary supports. The planting deadline is published in the spring newsletters; the clean-up date is published in the spring and fall newsletters. Plots that are unplanted by the planting deadline are assumed abandoned and will be forfeited without a refund.

6. Keep your garden **neatly weeded** on a regular basis. Weeds may not become taller than 8 inches (*city ordinance*). Weeds are a major complaint of neighbors and other gardeners, and are the leading cause of plot forfeiture.

7. You are responsible for maintaining half of the **path** next to your plot. Paths must be kept clear of weeds, rocks, garden plants and other obstacles. This includes plants overhanging from your plot, such as raspberry canes. You may use landscaping cloth covered with wood chips to keep weeds from the path, but you may not use carpeting, roofing material or other non-organic materials on common pathways.

8. The **fence** surrounding the Garden is school property. Do not place signs on the fences. Gardeners with plots adjacent to the fence must maintain a one-foot buffer between garden plants and the fence. 46th Avenue plotters must remove plants/weeds outside the fence up to the sidewalk. (*lease requirement*)

9. **Keep the garden attractive** for neighboring residents and safe for all. Place bags and other objects in a neat and orderly way in your plot, and keep them within your plot boundaries. If you have a compost bin or pile on your plot, it must be neat and properly made to prevent odors. Do not store or mix **chemical fertilizers** on your plot or in the shed (*insurance requirement*).

10. **No trees or structures that shade** adjacent plots are allowed. If

trees grow on your plot, you are responsible for removing them.

11. **Respect school property.** Place **rocks** in the designated area near the path at the east end of the garden. You may put compostable materials in the school **compost area** east of the orchard along the fence; follow the posted instructions. Do not dump debris or garden materials in the woods, by the shed or anywhere on school property. **Motorized vehicles** are not allowed in the garden area. (*school request*)

12. Keep **pets** out of other plots. Keep dogs leashed and under your control at all times; clean up after pets (*city ordinance*).

13. **Power equipment** may only be operated by those over 16 who own or lease the equipment. All use is at your own risk (*insurance requirement*). Return all commonly-owned **tools** to the shed and store them securely. No personal power tools may be left in the shed. You must follow all rules concerning rototilling that are posted on the shed bulletin board.

14. **Your plot is not transferable.** You may not give your plot to another person. A one-season temporary transfer is allowed; notify the Garden Committee by voice mail at 651/255-6607.

Procedures for Rules Violations

Violation of rules 1 and 2 is grounds for immediate plot forfeiture. The Dowling Garden Committee has established these procedures when other Garden rules have been violated. If you have questions about rules, call the Dowling voice mail at 651/255-6607.

First rule violation: Except in the case of rule 3 (service hours), the gardener receives a phone call to explain the problem, and has 10 days to resolve the problem.

If the problem has not been resolved in 10 days, the Garden Committee sends the gardener a letter re-stating the problem and giving the gardener 10 additional days to correct the problem. This letter also states that if the problem is not corrected within the additional 10 days, the plot will be forfeited.

If the problem is still unresolved 10 days after the gardener receives the letter, the gardener receives written notice that the plot has been forfeited.

It is the responsibility of each gardener to accurately report service hours (rule 3) to your coordinator within one week of service. If required service hours are not performed and reported by the annual deadline, a violation letter will be sent to the responsible gardener.

Second rule violation within a two year period: The above procedures will be followed, and the gardener receives a letter stating they are on probation for two years.

Third rule violation within a two year period: The gardener receives a letter stating the plot has been forfeited.

***Dowling Community Garden* SERVICE COMMITMENT**

Dowling Garden is a community of people who donate time and energy to maintain this land as a pleasant place to garden. In order to share responsibilities fairly, each gardener is required to commit 4 hours of time to garden activities each season, per plot. When you renew your garden plot, you agree to this commitment. Review the activities below and select those that fit your personality, interests and schedule. Fill in your first and second choices on the Rental Agreement form. All service commitment requests will be filled in the order in which rental agreements are returned; get yours in early to get the job you request.

Each area below has a project coordinator; you will be notified of your service assignment, coordinator's name and contact information in the Spring newsletter. Keep track of your service hours and report them to your project coordinator within one week after task is completed. It is your responsibility to keep track of, and report, service hours. If required service hours are not performed and reported by the annual deadline, a violation letter will be sent to the responsible gardener. All service hours must be completed by November 15, 2006.

** Numbers in parentheses refer to the number of persons needed for this activity*

Surplus Produce Distributors (15)

Collect donated produce from the Garden on a regular basis and deliver to area food shelves. The program will run from June 2-September 29. Pickups occur Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings, and Saturday morning. You must be committed to picking up produce and making deliveries on your assigned days.

Water – Maintenance 'Engineer' (3)

Work with Water Coordinator to maintain water barrels, lids, hoses and hardware in good condition. Make minor repairs.

Water – Filling Barrels (58)

Check and fill and/or flush water barrels at least once per month as assigned, and report hours to group leader.

Weed/Plot Monitoring (12)

Check plots for overgrown weeds, trees, problems with paths. Do follow-up monitoring. Check gardens in spring to make sure they are planted, and in fall to make sure they're cleaned up. Inspections will occur 6/24-7/2, 7/29-8/6 and 9/2-9.

Spring & Fall Clean-up Days/Ongoing Debris Clean-up (20)

Pick up litter, perform seasonal chores (weeding, raking, hauling debris, moving water barrels) and maintenance as needed. Must be available May 6 and October 14.

Pathway Maintenance (9)

Mow common areas and common paths (power lawn mower provided), trim overgrown vegetation in pathways (power weed trimmer provided), replace woodchips at entrances and remove weeds growing in asphalt paths. Must be available two hours each session, twice per gardening season.

Plot and Path Surveying (6)

Measure plots and pound durable garden stakes.

Flower Garden Maintenance (9)

Renew existing flower gardens and help establish larger perennial bed near front entrance. Cut and remove sod, dig up garden beds, and haul soil, amendments, and mulch. Edge and weed borders and beds. Plant annuals, perennials, and bulbs in existing and new garden areas. Water and mulch plantings, deadhead spent flowers, and remove dead annuals in fall.

Shed and Wildlife House Maintenance (1)

Regularly inspect the shed, the hose kiosks, and the bird and bat houses for damage and inform the coordinator if repairs are needed. Assist in making repairs, if needed, and weed around shed.

Tool Maintenance (1)

Regularly check tools in the shed and report status and needs to the coordinator. Sharpen mower blades, make sure community tools are in good repair, and organize tools in the shed as needed.

Hauling/Delivery (3)

Haul larger items, get compost as needed. You will need a truck or larger vehicle.

Raised Beds Path Maintenance (9)

Keep pathways weeded on a weekly basis, apply woodchips.

Special Project: Shed Repair (4)

Remove and replace shed siding. Remove door, construct frame and hang door; construct and install door overhang. Mount kiosk to the door. Cut, paint and install wooden trim around siding, window and door. Carpentry experience necessary.

Special Project: Garden Plot for Food Donation (4)

Prepare beds for planting: hand dig, add soil amendments. Plant bed and keep it mulched, watered and weeded throughout the season. Pick produce regularly and place in donation boxes. Clean up plot at end of season.

Special Events: Plant Sale (4)

Help set up tables and set out plants. Answer questions about varieties and plant culture. Must be available May 13.

Special Events: Heirloom Festival (7)

Shop for food service items week of event. Help prepare food and display items the night before event. Help set up tent, tables and displays, provide assistance during event, and help clean up. Must be available August 18-19.

Special Events: Fall Potluck (1)

Help set up tables, help clean up. Must be available October 14.

If you have questions or want more details about the service duties, please call the Dowling voice mail at 651/255-6607.

Dowling Community Garden RENTAL AGREEMENT 2006

Please complete this form and send it, with your rental payment, by March 1, 2006. Registrations postmarked March 2-March 15, add \$10.00 for late registration. Registrations postmarked after March 15 will not be accepted.

All forms **must be signed** by each gardener. Required information, indicated by asterisks, must be completed. Unsigned forms or forms missing required information will be rejected and returned. Late fees are due if correctly completed forms are not received by the registration deadline.

Remit form and payment to: **Dowling Community Garden, PO Box 6757, Minneapolis, MN 55406**

(Changes to the following agreement are not allowed. Registrations with changes to the agreement will be rejected and payment will be returned.)

I/We have read the Dowling Community Garden rules and responsibilities and understand that failure to meet these guidelines will result in loss of gardening privileges. (See page 2 for complete list of garden rules). I/We further understand that neither the Dowling Garden Committee, nor Minneapolis Public Schools (owner of the land), nor The Green Institute (insurer) are responsible for my actions. I/We therefore agree to hold harmless the Dowling Garden Committee, Minneapolis Public Schools and The Green Institute for any liability, damage, loss, injury or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me/us or any guests.

* _____ (signatures)

* 2006 Plot Rental fee enclosed \$ _____ Late fee enclosed \$ _____ Replacement key (\$2) cost enclosed \$ _____

* I/We have enclosed a check, made payable to Dowling Community Garden, for \$ _____

I/We commit to the following garden responsibilities (minimum 4 hours per plot each season.) Requests for service activities will be honored on a first-come/first-served basis. Note that some activities require your availability on specific dates. Please indicate your second choice, or you will be assigned a task if your first choice is already full.

* Gardener Name _____

* first choice _____ second choice _____

Second Gardener Name _____

first choice _____ second choice _____

Water volunteers:

Where is your garden?	<input type="checkbox"/> north side	<input type="checkbox"/> south side	Dates you are unavailable this season:
Need training for filling water barrels?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	_____
Are you willing to be on a group email list?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	_____

Complete contact information for each gardener. Please print.

* Gardener Name _____

* Address _____

* City _____ * Zip _____

* Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____ Email _____

check to receive communications in PDF format via email. Your email address will not be shared with others.

Second Gardener Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____ Email _____

check to receive communications in PDF format via email. Your email address will not be shared with others.

IMPORTANT *Reminders*

RULES. We need to maintain standards for garden appearance, safety and behavior, due to lease and insurance requirements. Please read the rules carefully; when you rent your plot you agree to follow these rules. Review the procedures for rules violations. We know you find your garden plot important; be mindful of Dowling rules so you don't lose your plot.

NO PESTICIDES OR HERBICIDES MAY BE USED. Pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides are prohibited at the Dowling Community Garden, per state law and school policy.

Most common commercial products (and most "organics") are not allowed. To determine which products are acceptable or prohibited, go to www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org, click on "Garden Rules", then click the "Pesticide Information" link. All products in toxicity categories 1-2-3 are prohibited at Dowling. (*Don't have internet access? Call the garden voice mail, 651/255.6607, and leave a message with your name and number, the products you'd like checked; someone will call you back.*) Violation of this rule is grounds for garden forfeiture! More information is available in newsletters from August 2001 and July 2002; see the web site or call for copies.

FENCES. Keep all plants off the perimeter fence, and keep 12 inches between your plants and the fenceline. 46th Avenue gardeners need to weed outside the fence to the sidewalk.

PATHS. Keep rocks, weeds and garden debris out of the path; keep the path mowed; and make sure it's accessible for carts and lawn mowers. Don't use non-organic materials in your path. Keep garden plants out of paths or they will be cut down. Vining plants and raspberries are common problems.

PLOTS. Gardens are in the process of being re-staked. Don't remove plot stakes, or expand your garden into the path.

PETS. If you bring your pet to the garden, it must be under your control at all times. Minneapolis leash law will be enforced: Call Animal Control to report problem animals (*telephone number is posted on the shed*). Keep your dog out of other gardens. Clean up after your dog.

WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDEN.ORG Dowling Garden's web site is a valuable resource for gardening information: starting seeds, fertilizing, seed-saving, recipes, garden history, special projects, gardening links, past newsletters and more. Contributions of articles, photos, graphics, recipes or ideas are welcome; please email Charlie at cbowler@mn.rr.com.

DON'T LEAVE ITEMS BY THE SHED! If you have usable garden materials you no longer want, call the Dowling voice mail, 651/255-6607, to have a notice posted in the bulletin board. Or bring them to Swap Day at Spring or Fall cleanup (unclaimed items must be removed by end of day). You must dispose of trash (plastic plant pots, flats, etc.) in your home garbage can.

Recommended GARDENING BOOKS

The Gardener's A-Z Guide to Growing Organic Food. Tanya L.K. Denckla, Storey Publishing. This book covers fruits, herbs, nuts and vegetables. It provides brief instructions on temperature, soil and water needs, planting depth and space between plants, propagation, harvesting, first and last seed-starting dates, storage requirements and support structures.

2006 DOWLING GARDEN CALENDAR

JANUARY 14

Seed swap and placing a group order for seeds by mail. Email or postcard notices are sent out in late December.

MARCH 1

Completed and signed Rental Agreements are due. Make sure you have completed all required information and included your plot rental payment.

MARCH 15

Final deadline, with late fee, for Rental Agreements

MAY 6

Spring Clean-up and Swap Day, 10 AM-Noon

MAY 13

Dowling's Heirloom Plant Sale, 11 AM-2 PM

JUNE 3

Your garden must be planted by this date. You will be contacted and may forfeit your plot if your garden is not planted in a timely manner.

AUGUST 19

Dowling's Heirloom Festival and Tomato Tasting, 10 AM-1 PM

OCTOBER 14

Fall Clean-up and Swap Day, 10 AM-Noon

OCTOBER 14

Harvest Potluck Dinner, 6:30-8:30 PM

NOVEMBER 4

Your garden must be cleaned up by this date. Remove dead plants to compost pile and take down seasonal plant supports. Arrange leaf bags neatly on your plot.

NOVEMBER 15

Service hours must be completed and reported by this date.

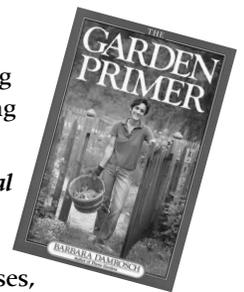
The Garden Primer. Barbara Damrosch, Workman Publishing. Good basic gardening reference book, including planning, planting and upkeep.

The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Insect and Disease Control. Barbara W. Ellis and Fern Marshall Bradley, eds., Rodale. How to identify insects and diagnose diseases, organic controls, prevention through cultural practices, and an A-Z reference for vegetables and flowers.

Square Foot Gardening. Mel Bartholomew, Rodale. Explains the square foot gardening method. Provides starting date, growing requirements, harvesting suggestions and other information for 22 common garden crops.

100 Heirloom Tomatoes for the American Garden. Carolyn Male, Workman Publishing. Covers every facet of raising the best-tasting tomatoes, including when to plant seeds, transplant seedlings, cultivation, propagation and more.

Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening. Louise Riotte, Storey Publishing. Using plants to assist other plants and repel insects.



Spring GARDENING EVENTS

6TH ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT EXPO. Sponsored by Twin Cities chapter of Wild Ones. Exhibits by native plant nurseries, landscapers, restoration experts, booksellers; workshops and demonstrations all day. Entry fee. February 18, 9 AM-4 PM, Hennepin Technical College, 9000 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Park. More information, <http://for-wild.org/chapters/twincities>.

GROWING COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP. Presented by American Community Garden Association and GardenWorks. March 4 & 5, Dodge Nature Center, 365 Marie Avenue West, West St. Paul. Workshop fee/registration required; scholarships are available. Call 612/278-7123 for more information, or gardenworks@greeninstitute.org.

GARDENING EVENTS AT KELLEY FARM.

Seed Saver's Exchange. Learn about Victory Gardens, followed by a seed exchange. Seed art projects will be available for children to make. Sunday, March 12, 2-4 PM. Free admission.

Hot Beds and Cold Frames Workshop. Expand your gardening season with this hands-on workshop. Saturday, March 25, 9 AM-Noon. Workshop fee/registration required.

Spring Gardening for Kids. Hands-on workshop introduces children ages 4-6 to Minnesota gardening. Saturday, April 22, 9-11 AM. Workshop fee/registration required.

Oliver H. Kelley Farm, Hwy 10 (2.5 miles southeast of Elk River), 763/441-6896, or www.mnhs.org/kelleyfarm.

COMMUNITY GARDENING RESOURCE FAIR. Presented by GardenWorks, a new program to promote and preserve community gardens in the Twin Cities metro area. March 18, 10 AM-2 PM at Center for Northern Gardeners, 1755 Prior Avenue North, Falcon Heights. Call 612/278-7123 for more information, or gardenworks@greeninstitute.org.

CLASSES AT CENTER FOR NORTHERN GARDENING.

A Dog in the Garden – Landscaping with your Pet in Mind.

Attractive, durable solutions to pet-generated yard problems; designing play spaces for you and your pet.

Tuesday, March 21 & 28 (2 sessions), 6-8 PM.

Enrollment is limited/registration is required.

1755 Prior Avenue North, Falcon Heights. To register, or for cost information, call 651/643-3601, ext 211.



GARDEN RESOURCES

Rototilling Contact these individuals for garden rototilling at a reasonable cost (*call for prices*):

Clarence Day 612/724-4973

Jeff Wagner 612/722-8920

Soil Testing Contact the University of Minnesota Soil Testing Lab, 612/625-3101 or soiltest@umn.edu, for directions on sending soil samples.

Woodchips are available in the woods south of the prairie, or for pickup at these locations: 36th Street and West River Parkway; Wabun Park in the lower lot on west side of road; Bossen Field on East 58th Street between 28th-31st Avenues; north side of Lake Nokomis between East 50th Street and 22nd Avenue South; and west of Cedar Avenue adjacent to 29th Street between 17th-18th Avenues.

Compost may be picked up (after April 1) at NRG, 630 Malcolm Avenue SE, 612/331-4610. Call before you go to be sure compost is available, and for current prices.

Horse Manure is periodically available in the woods south of the prairie. Dowling gardener Steve Dosch will deliver manure to a spot near your garden. Contact him directly to discuss quantity and cost: 612/729-1865.

Longfellow Garden Club meets on the second Wednesday each month, 7 PM at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Avenue South. Meetings are free, and cover a wide range of gardening and landscaping topics. Call 612/722-8022 for more information.

Informational Sites

• Gardening information and specific plant forums:

<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/>

<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/plants.html>

• U of M Extension Service, plant culture information:

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/topics.html?topic=5>

• COMGAR, Twin Cities community gardens listserve:

comgar-l@lists.umn.edu

• Information about heirloom varieties, preservation:

<http://www.seedsavers.org>

<http://www.seeds.ca/>

<http://www.halcyon.com/tmend/heirloom.htm>

GO TO WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDENING.ORG FOR SEED-STARTING INFORMATION, GARDENING TIPS, DOWLING HISTORY & MORE!

Dowling Community Garden

PO Box 6757

Minneapolis, MN 55406

651/255-6607

Forward and Address Correction Requested

2006 GARDEN RENTAL AGREEMENT