

# DIGGING IN

At Troy Community Gardens  
Madison, WI

## Gardening for Good

*The Supported Gardening Project at Troy Gardens*

“Gardening for Good: the supported gardening project” is a pilot program being introduced on Madison’s northside this summer. Supported gardening assists people with developmental disabilities to explore gardening in a community setting, where the level of participation is individually tailored to meet the person’s skills and interest.

A select group of individuals with developmental disabilities, each with an accompanying support person, along with the project facilitator, will garden for the season at Troy Community Gardens. The 1½ hour weekly sessions will begin with time to plant and tend a shared garden plot. Following that, the supported gardeners will participate in weekly “mini-workshops,” which will be ½ hour lessons from wise community members. Topics will be related to gardening as well as other topics, including singing, citizenship, nature, crafts, story writing, flower bouquet arranging, and more. And finally, the group will end with a yummy snack and time to socialize with other gardeners.

In addition to the supported gardeners, other individuals with disabilities (accompanied by support people) that live on the northside will be invited to come to Troy Gardens on gardening night. There will be tables for picnics, playing games, and more. All interested

folks will be invited to attend the mini-workshops and stay for a snack.

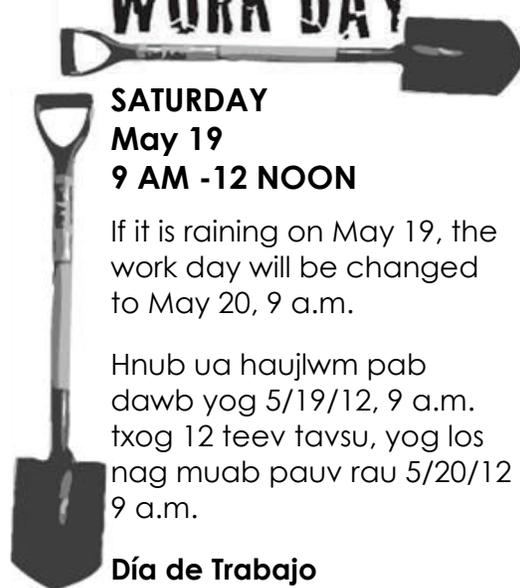
Gardening is a very experiential endeavor, and with support, the desired outcome is that supported gardeners discover that gardening is an activity that enriches their lives. In addition, the dream is that supported gardeners will develop lasting friendships and find their place in being part of the community at Troy Gardens.

The project facilitator is Rebecca Starke, a northsider and gardener at Troy Gardens. Rebecca has worked with people with disabilities for more than 20 years, assisting folks to find paid employment in the Madison community. She is also a long-time lover of gardening and is excited to share this passion with individuals with disabilities.

Northside residents with developmental disabilities are still being recruited. If you or someone you know is interested, contact the individual’s Dane County broker/casemanager for more information. The gardening sessions will begin May 31 and go through August 16. A special event is being planned for Aug. 12, the day of Savor the Summer at Troy Gardens, which also happens to be the day for Northside Ride the Drive. If you’re interested in volunteering with the Gardening for Good pilot program, there are several ways you can help:



### WORK DAY



**SATURDAY  
May 19  
9 AM - 12 NOON**

If it is raining on May 19, the work day will be changed to May 20, 9 a.m.

Hnub ua haujlwm pab dawb yog 5/19/12, 9 a.m. txog 12 teev tavs, yog los nag muab pauv rau 5/20/12 9 a.m.

**Día de Trabajo**  
El Sábado 19 de mayo 9 a.m. -12 medio día  
Si llegara a llover el 19 de mayo, el día de trabajo será cambiado para el día 20 de mayo 9 a.m.

- Weed and prepare the garden plot
- Build trellises and raised bed structures
- Host one of the weekly 30 minute “mini-workshops”
- Invite a supported gardener to help out in your garden on Thursday evenings
- Make yummy snacks to share at the end of the evening
- Technical assistance (website development)

If you’d like to help volunteer, please contact Rebecca at [wearegardeningforgood@yahoo.com](mailto:wearegardeningforgood@yahoo.com). **Volunteer hours can be counted towards your Troy Community Gardens volunteer hours.**

## 2012 Opening Day

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make Opening Day 2012 a success. We were all thankful it wasn't snowing this year, so we could be out in the sunshine and actually see the faces of the gardeners rather than hats, scarves, mittens and parkas.

New gardeners were welcomed by experienced gardeners and given an overview about how things work at Troy. They were able to answer questions and show gardeners to their plots. Those attending were encouraged to pick up their hay and place it in their plots. **If you still need to pick up your hay but forgot how many bales you ordered, check the plot map that is hanging in the display case of the garden kiosk near the red tool shed.** The number of bales will be written next to your name on the map. If you ordered row cover but didn't pick it up at Opening Day, it was delivered to your plot.

Opening Day is traditionally the first volunteer work day of the year, and we had about 60 gardener volunteers tackling tasks such as bringing out the hoses, mowing and weed whipping the grass around the property, pulling garlic mustard in the woodlands, and tackling many other tasks to get things in shape for the start of the season.

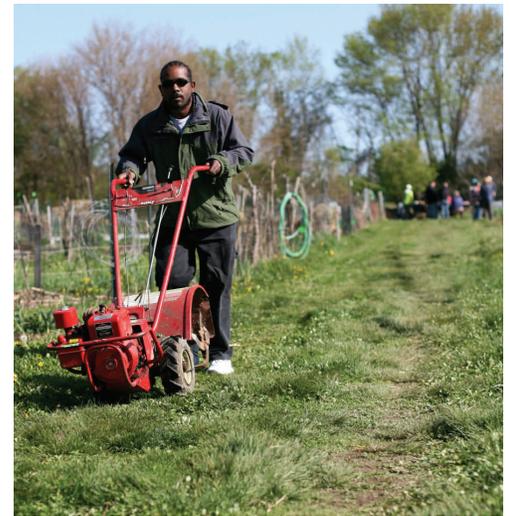
Don't forget - gardeners can bring friends and family to help volunteer with them at the work days. Be sure to record your start time and end time in the sign-in log book, including the number of people volunteering on your behalf. You will get credit for their hours too.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this you've already gotten your plot prepared and have started to plant some things. We have a waiting list for plots, so remember the **planting deadline is June 1**. If your plot doesn't look like you have at least started to plant things by then, the Plot Monitoring Subcommittee will attempt to contact you to see if you intend to use your plot. If you cannot be contacted, your plot will be reassigned to someone on the waiting list. If unforeseen circumstances prevent you from planting by June 1, an extension may be granted. Please email [plotmonitoring@gmail.com](mailto:plotmonitoring@gmail.com) or leave a voicemail for Martha at the Community GroundWorks office (240-0409) prior to June 1.

**If you go on vacation**, ask a garden neighbor to take care of your plot while you are gone or contact us if you need someone to do some minimal watering and picking of produce. We can try to find someone to help out. Also, **if you can't take care of your plot for a period of time or have to give up your plot due to unforeseen circumstances**, please let us know. We can work to find you help or reassign your plot to someone on the waiting list.

And, lastly, **if you move or change your phone number or email**, please notify us so we know how to contact you if needed. You can send an email to [info@troygardens.org](mailto:info@troygardens.org) or call Martha at Community GroundWorks with your name, plot number and new information.

Enjoy the start of the gardening season, and dream of those vine-ripened tomatoes you'll be enjoying in about 90 days, if not sooner.



A whole lot of rolling going on at Opening Day • (L-R) Michael Venner, Paosoua Xiong and Michael Jackson • Photos by Carolyn Drake

### Troy Community Gardens Steering/Leadership Committee Meeting

May 16, 6-8 pm  
Troy Community Gardens

**If you are interested in participating in the management of your community gardens, consider joining the Steering/Leadership Committee.** The first meeting of the Committee is May 16. We meet one evening a month, usually during the third or fourth week of the month. Feel free to attend our meeting in May to see what it's all about and decide whether you'd like to join us on a regular basis. We will meet at the picnic tables near the tool sheds or under the Kids' Garden shelter if it's raining.

## Friendly Reminders

### No Parking Zone

At the request of our Troy Drive neighbors, we have been asked to not park within 15 feet of their residential mailboxes. The US Post Office will not deliver mail to mailboxes if there is a car parked within 15 feet. Please respect our neighbors, and refrain from parking near their mailboxes Monday through Saturday.

Español: No se estacionen más cerca de 15 pies cerca de las cajas de correo residencial en Troy Drive.

Hmong: Yuav tau nres tsheb nrug deb li 15 kotaw (feet) ntawm sab txoj kev Troy Drive uas muaj cov mailboxes rau cov tsev.

### Keep Green Flags in Plots

Please do not remove the green plot marker flag from your plot. Try to keep it in the center of the plot or near the path but obviously within your plot. The Plot Monitoring Subcommittee will need to reference the flag when monitoring plots.

Español: Por favor, no quite la bandera verde de su parcela. Ésta sirve como punto de referencia para el comité que hace el

monitoreo de malas hierbas.

Hmong: Thov txhob rho tus chij ntsuab uas sau nej npe thiab nej tus nabnpawb tawm ntawm nej pav teb. Thaum pab saib xyuas teb (Plot Monitoring Subcommittee) ncig saib cov teb, lawv thiaj li paub leejtwg qho yog qho twg thiab nyob qhov chaw twg.

### Weed Policy

We do not allow gardeners to dump weeds or plant debris anywhere on the property. Gardeners must compost their garden waste within their own plot or take it off site themselves.

Español: No se puede dejar malas hierbas o cualquier otro desecho vegetal en el fondo del jardín, como ha sido hecho en años anteriores. Todos los jardineros deben guardar tales desechos dentro de sus parcelas (para hacer abono) o quitarlos del sitio.

Hmong: Yuav tsis pub koj pov tej yam nyuag khaub nroj tsuag lossis me nyuam khaub ntoo, kav quav pobkws rau pem qab thaj teb lawm. Cov tswv ua teb yuav tau muab tej khaub nroj tsuag faus nyob rau nej thaj teb lossis nqa mus povtseg tom nej tsev xwb.

## Do You Like Grapes?

More specifically, do you like to grow grapes? We are looking for someone with an interest and skills in tending the table grape plantings and arbor between Troy Drive and the south edge of the garden plots. The job could involve annual pruning, trellising, planting new varieties of grapes, fertilizing, insect control (grape leaves seem to be a favorite food of Japanese beetles) and possibly even eating some of the grapes, which are grown for the benefit of anyone who would enjoy the ripe fruit.

The root stock of Troy's grapes was planted some 10 years ago by Dan Durica, a former coordinator of the community garden. At least some of the vines bore last year, but a number of those plantings seem unlikely to survive another season. Anyone with knowledge of viticulture—or an interest in acquiring it—could help bring our grape vines back to their full potential and, like the adjoining beds of red raspberries, give gardeners and site visitors a good taste of what we're about.

If you'd like to put your skills to use and earn volunteer hours at the same time, please contact Patricia Lindquist at [patricia@troygardens.org](mailto:patricia@troygardens.org) or 240-0409.

## Spring Rose Growers Cooperative Benefit

Each year Willy Street Coop holds an annual BBQ fundraising event. This year there will be two events, 'Brats in the Lot East' and 'Brats in the Lot West'. This year's benefit will be for Spring Rose Growers Cooperative, which grew out of the Farm Incubator program at the Farley Center. Community GroundWorks is proud to be the original host of the Farm Incubator Project through a grant from the USDA.

If you'd like to help support the Spring Rose Growers Cooperative and enjoy Willy Street Co-op's house made brats, stop by one of the two dates. The cost is only \$5 and includes a brat or a tofurky brat, a side salad and a Sprecher Root Beer.

If you'd like to learn more about the Farley Center, the Farm Incubator Program and Spring Rose Growers Cooperative, take a moment to visit the Farley Center website at [www.farleycenter.org](http://www.farleycenter.org).

**willy street co-op**  
A natural foods cooperative since 1974  
**PRESENTS:**

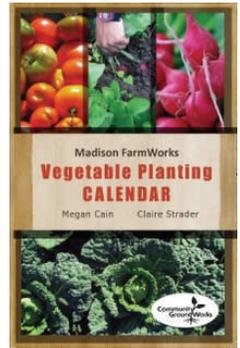
**BRATS IN THE LOT**  
A BENEFIT FOR SPRING ROSE GROWERS COOPERATIVE

FEATURING: WILLY STREET CO-OP'S OWN HOUSE MADE BRATS  
\$5 INCLUDES A BRAT OR A TOFURKY BRAT, A SIDE SALAD, AND A SPECHER ROOT BEER

MAY 12TH, 11AM-2PM @ WILLY WEST  
MAY 19TH, 11AM-2PM @ WILLY WEST

# Great Information Shared at Urban Gardener Class

A group of 25 Troy Gardeners gathered Wednesday evening, April 25, to listen to Claire Strader and Megan Cain of Madison FarmWorks share a wealth of information about gardening. They discussed garden bed design and layout, planting schedules and succession planting, crop rotation and cover crops, proper planting techniques, mulching techniques, and much more. Attendees were able to pick up a copy of the Vegetable Planting Calendar written by Claire and Megan for just \$5. If you missed the class but would like to purchase a copy of the Vegetable Planting Calendar, they will be available at the Troy Community Farm Plant Sale on May 12 (see details below). They can also be ordered from the Community GroundWorks web site (<http://troygardens.org/what-we-do/madison-farmworks/supplies-services>). There is an additional \$2 charge for mailing costs if ordered from web site.



Megan and Claire have another class they will be teaching through Willy Street Coop called **The Urban Gardener Part III: Growing Organic Tomatoes Successfully, July 10, 6-8 pm**. The class will be held at Troy Community Farm and Megan's own community garden plot at Troy. They will focus on growing a successful crop of organic tomatoes. Learn how to prune tomatoes correctly by practicing on the farm crop, see their four favorite types of tomato trellising in action and learn about their favorite varieties for Madison. Please meet near the red tool sheds in the center of the community gardening plots. Since this class is through Willy Street Coop, **you will need to register** by stopping by the Willy East Customer Service desk or by calling them at 251-6776. The cost is \$15 for Willy Street Coop members and \$25 for all others.



## Upcoming Events

### Troy Community Farm Plant Sale\* (see below)

Sat., May 12, 10 am - 2 pm

### Brats in the Lot East (see Page 3)

Sat., May 12, 11 am - 2 pm

### Community Gardens Steering/Leadership Committee Meeting\* (see Page 2)

Wed., May 16, 6 - 7:45 pm

### Community Gardens Work Day\*

Sat., May 19, 9 am - 12 noon

### Brats in the Lot West (see Page 3)

Sat., May 19, 11 am - 2 pm

### The Urban Gardener Part III: Growing Organic Tomatoes Successfully (see above)

Tues., Jul. 10, 6-8 pm

\*For more info about these events, please call the Community GroundWorks office at 240-0409.



## Madison FarmWorks

URBAN VEGETABLE GARDENS

**We can help you become a better vegetable gardener by teaching you right in your own garden!**

ARTISTIC & PRODUCTIVE GARDEN DESIGNS  
ONE-ON-ONE INSTRUCTION IN YOUR GARDEN  
CUSTOM GARDEN PLANS  
PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATIONS



[communitygroundworks.org](http://communitygroundworks.org)

**Mark your calendar!**

## Troy Community Farm Plant Sale

**Saturday, May 12 • 10am - 2pm**

**(next to Troy Passive Solar Greenhouse near community garden plots)**

**Certified Organic Plants Grown in our Passive Solar Greenhouse**

To see available varieties, prices and descriptions click [here](http://www.troygardens.org/sites/default/files/troy-community-farm/2012TroyGreenhouseSale.pdf)  
(or type this address into your browser: <http://www.troygardens.org/sites/default/files/troy-community-farm/2012TroyGreenhouseSale.pdf>)