



**DODGE**  
NATURE CENTER

# Dodge Nature Center

## Community Garden Program

Thank you for your interest in the community garden program at Dodge Nature Center!

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### What's Included with the Garden Program

- An approximately 15' x 15' plot of land, available roughly mid-May to mid-Oct.
- Water, compost, and use of shared tools.
- Garden orientation and organic gardening classes with Dodge's experienced staff and volunteers.

### Garden Program Information and Guidelines

- Organic Gardens
  - Our garden plots are run as organic: fertilizers, pesticides, etc. all need to have an OMRI-approved stamp to be used on your plots. No herbicides are allowed.
  - Gardens are supplemented every year with composted manure. You may use additional composted manure from Dodge as a soil amendment if needed.
- Plot Assignments
  - A map in the garden shed will show where each plot is located.
  - Returning gardeners may receive the same plot as previous years but plot locations requests are never guaranteed.
- Access
  - Park in the paved lot; do not park at the garden. If you have physical limitations or need to pick up/drop off large items, please let us know so we can make individual arrangements.
  - Paths are created between rows of garden plots- please consider helping keep these paths clear by hoeing and/or using Dodge's wood chip mulch to prevent weeds from spreading to your gardens. (See the 'Waste' section about rocks you may find in your plot.)
- Tools
  - You may bring and use your own tools, fencing, etc. as long as they are removed by the end of the season.
  - Dodge has tools available at the shed for shared onsite use- please do not take shared supplies offsite.
  - If you have tools you no longer want or are willing to share, you can leave them at the shed for others to use onsite.
- Water
  - Water is available through the provided hoses and spigots.
  - Main Property- please turn the water on and off at the main pump (rather than spigots or hose nozzles) if no one else is in the garden.
  - Shepard Farm- please turn the water on and off at the spigot (rather than hose nozzles).

- Waste
  - All garbage needs to be taken out with you.
  - All plant waste can be composted in the designated compost piles.
  - If you dig up any rocks from your garden, please move them to the shed area (Main Property) or gate area (Shepard Farm) - do not put them in the paths or any grassy areas.
  - Everything needs to be removed from your plot by the end of the season and returned or disposed of properly. Please take all non-organic items home with you or donate reusable items to the shed for others to use the following year.
- Visitors
  - Anyone visiting the gardens who is under 18 years old must be added to the [minors' permission form](#) and monitored by an adult at all times.
  - Monitor your children and keep them out of others' plots **and away from the barn.**
- Other
  - All garden communication is via email, so please check your email for garden open/close dates and other relevant information.
  - The orientation and organic gardening sessions in April are only offered in-person at this time. If you are unable to attend the classes and have questions, you can email [doberdorfer@dodgenaturecenter.org](mailto:doberdorfer@dodgenaturecenter.org).
  - Bathrooms and drinking fountains are available in the red Farm Education building at the Main Property, and the white building at Shepard Farm.
  - Pets are not allowed on any of Dodge's four properties, including in the garden plots.
  - Please do not feed any of the farm animals.
  - Please do not take items, produce, etc. from other gardens without permission.
  - If you see a hazard, unsafe situation, or other issue, please leave a message for Dodge's Farm Director, Don, at [doberdorfer@dodgenaturecenter.org](mailto:doberdorfer@dodgenaturecenter.org) or his office phone: 651-789-5285.
  - A first aid kit is available in the shed; call 911 if there is an emergency.
  - Please be respectful, courteous, and have fun with it!
  - Don't stress yourself over your garden- we understand most people have a busy schedule. If you find you are unable to regularly maintain your garden plot for any reason, no worries and no shame. Please contact us so we can either reassign the plot or mow it to help prevent weeds from spreading.
- Garden Contacts
  - Don Oberdorfer | Farm Director | [DOberdorfer@dodgenaturecenter.org](mailto:DOberdorfer@dodgenaturecenter.org) | 651-789-5285
  - Noah Blickensderfer | Shepard Farm Manager | [NBlickensderfer@dodgenaturecenter.org](mailto:NBlickensderfer@dodgenaturecenter.org)
  - Dodge Main Office | [info@dodgenaturecenter.org](mailto:info@dodgenaturecenter.org) | 651-455-4531

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**Dodge Nature Center - Main Property** | 365 Marie Avenue West | West St. Paul, MN 55118

**Dodge Nature Center - Shepard Farm** | 8946 70th St S | Cottage Grove, MN 55016