

2010 Application for Denver Urban Gardens' Master Community Gardener Training Program



Denver Urban Gardens' (DUG) Master Community Gardener Training Program is an 11-week "train the trainer" course designed to train community leaders in all aspects of community gardening with a focus on community organizing, as well as basic horticultural knowledge. This hands-on course teaches participants the skills they need to create and maintain strong, vibrant and sustainable community gardens. The course has an organic gardening emphasis and is designed for food-producing gardens. Participants will receive 35 hours of instruction covering all aspects of community gardening; topics range from community organizing to organic gardening basics. In exchange for the instruction, participants pay a \$35 materials fee, and are required to return 30 hours of GiveBack, community service utilizing the new skills in existing or new community gardens. Participants will have until October 31, 2010 to complete the GiveBack hours.

The course is open to residents of Metro Denver area who demonstrate involvement and/or interest in community gardening, with a class limit of 25 participants. Respectfully, community gardens and organizations are limited to two applicants. Enrollment is open to the public and all applications will be considered. Limited scholarships are available to cover the materials fee for qualified applicants. Participants must be able to commit to **attend all the classes and hands-on activities** and to **complete the GiveBack hours**.

DUG, in partnership with participants, offers opportunities for continuing education and GiveBack hours. To maintain "active" status as a Master Community Gardener, participants are required to complete 8 hours of continuing education and 16 hours of GiveBack each year thereafter.

LOCATION: To be announced.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

- Attendance and active participation in all eleven classes. Classes are hands-on and include some outdoor activities.
- Complete required reading assignments and participate in the hands-on group activity, which will include assignments outside of class time.
- Complete 30 GiveBack hours. You will have until October 31, 2010 to complete these hours.

GIVEBACK HOURS: Participants are required to contribute 30 hours of community service utilizing their new skills in existing and/or new community gardens. A maximum of 15 hours may be done in a participant's own community garden. A minimum of 15 hours must be done in DUG community gardens in which a participant is not currently involved. DUG staff will provide volunteer opportunities and additional guidance, but this aspect is self-directed. GiveBack hours must be approved before completed. You will have until October 31, 2010 to complete these hours.

FEE: In exchange for the training, participants will pay a \$35 materials fee and will be required to return 30 hours of GiveBack. Please bring payment to the first class and make checks payable to Denver Urban Gardens.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Limited full & partial scholarships are available for low-income households. To request a scholarship, please submit a letter explaining why you should be considered for a scholarship with your completed application no later than December 15th.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: The completed application is due no later than **December 15, 2009**. Applications may be mailed (postmarked no later than December 15, 2009) to: Denver Urban Gardens, 3377 Blake Street, Suite 113, Denver, CO 80205 or faxed: 303.292.9911. All applicants will be contacted by the end of January.

CONTACT US: If you have questions or need further information, please email dirt@dug.org or call 303.292.9900.

SCHEDULE & CLASS DESCRIPTIONS: Creating a successful community garden takes more than just a “green thumb.” In addition to horticultural skills, it also takes time, dedication, leadership, and organization. These trainings provide participants skills, resources and ideas to overcome the organizational and logistical challenges in order to build and maintain successful, productive and sustainable community gardens. DUG’s Master Community Gardener Training Program is an 11-week course. NO partial attendance.

- Thurs, 2/11 *History of Community Gardens and How to Start a New Community Garden*
6:00-8:30pm Ever wondered how community gardens are started? Learn about the history and benefits of community gardens, DUG, and the growing movement of local small-scale agriculture. The whole process will be discussed.
- Thurs, 2/18 *Communication Skills*
6:00-8:30pm This training will include skills and resources on conflict resolution, effective methods of communicating with gardeners, interacting with diverse populations, and overcoming language and cultural barriers.
- Thurs, 2/25 *Garden Management/Administration*
6:00-8:30pm The “how-to” class of managing a community garden, including “nuts & bolts” on garden leadership, committees, budgeting, soliciting donations, and how to assign plots.
- Thurs, 3/4 *Community Organizing Basics (In the Garden and Out In the Neighborhood)*
6:00-8:30pm Learn effective methods of growing your community within the garden and out into the surrounding community. Including how to develop a gardener’s skills bank and encouraging partnerships in the community garden.
- Thurs, 3/11 *Community Garden Design Principles*
6:00-8:30pm Principles and guidelines for garden design including physical parameters, building permanent features (e.g. raised beds and pathways), planning thematic beds, applying appropriate design for specific sites, and maintenance of infrastructure (such as how to fix such things as simple irrigation breaks).
- Thurs, 3/18 *Botany and Water Conservation*
6:00-8:30pm Learn basic fundamentals of plant biology and water conservation techniques and issues.
- Sat, 3/27 *Basic Organic Growing of Edibles in Colorado - Part I*
9:00am-3:00pm The two-part series of horticulture classes will provide a well-rounded approach to organic growing. Topics will include soil health and improvement techniques; composting methods and demonstration; seed selection; spacing and thinning; companion planting; weed and pest management; and seasonal planting techniques. This first class will focus primarily on spring gardening, including bed preparation and seed starting. There will be an outdoors, hands-on component to this class if weather permits.
- Thurs, 4/8 *Basic Organic Growing of Edibles in Colorado - Part II*
6:00-8:30pm This class will build upon the previous week’s lessons with specific emphasis on warm and hot season crops, summer and fall gardening, seed saving, and putting the garden to rest for the winter.
- Thurs, 4/15 *What To Do With All the Produce...*
6:00-8:30pm Identify and share community and online resources for nutrition information, healthy recipes, and preservation, as well as ideas to share with the broader community. Class includes how to hold a cooking demonstration.
- Sat, 4/22 *Hands-On Group Activity*
9:00am-3:00pm Throughout the program participants will work toward designing and implementing the components of a community activity. This hands-on group activity will utilize the new skills gained through the program and enable participants to gain confidence in implementing them in community gardens.
- Thurs, 4/29 *Troubleshooting – Where To Find the Resources You Need*
6:00-9:00pm This session will cover ideas to overcome common difficulties that frequently arise in a community garden. In addition, this session will include where to go for more resources and a discussion of volunteer opportunities for GiveBack hours.

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Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Preferred Phone: _____ Email: _____

This program is for individuals interested in COMMUNITY GARDENS.

Are you currently involved with a community garden? Yes No

If "yes", what is the name of the garden?

How long have you been involved?

(1) What does "community garden" mean to you?

(2) Please describe your community work/involvement or any other leadership training you have received.

(3) Please describe your gardening experience or any other garden training you have received.

(4) Please list any areas of specialization (community organizing, marketing, vegetables, flowers, etc) & any other interests or skills you have (carpentry, graphic design, language skills, etc).

(5) Please list any volunteer work (does not necessarily need to be garden-related).

Previous:

Current:

(6) Why are you interested in the Master Community Gardener training program?

(7) What are your hopes and expectations for the training program?

(8) How do you anticipate using the training program to benefit the community?

(9) Please tell us anything else about yourself or your interests that you feel is relevant.

(10) How did you hear about the Master Community Gardener Training Program?

(submit this page)

FOR STAFF USE ONLY

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