

## Local Food Resource Hubs registration is open now

Written by

Wednesday, 03 April 2013 14:27

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Registration is now open for Twin Cities residents who are interested in joining their local neighborhood gardening network, where they can connect with other gardeners and get access to low-cost seeds and plants.

This is the third year of the Local Food Resource Hubs program. The Hubs are designed to provide household gardeners and community gardeners the tools and education they need to grow, preserve, cook and compost their own fresh produce by offering supplies, classes and connections. Hubs benefit neighborhoods by increasing community connection and increasing access to healthy food. Four Hubs have been established in Minneapolis: North Minneapolis, South Minneapolis, Phillips/Ventura Village, and Northeast/Southeast Minneapolis, and three Hubs will be active in St. Paul this year: Midway, East Side, and West 7th/West Side. The East Side and W. 7th/West Side Hubs are new this year!

Members will pick up their seeds and seedlings at their local Hub's distribution events this spring. Small garden packages include 10 packets of seed and 12 seedlings, medium garden packages include 20 packets of seeds and 24 seedlings, and large garden packages include 40 packs of seeds and 72 seedlings. Seed distributions are scheduled for various weekends in March or April, and all Hubs' plants will be distributed May 18. Gardening classes, skillshares, and social events will also be scheduled throughout the year in each neighborhood. More information about distribution events will be sent to members and will be available at [www.gardeningmatters.org/hubs](http://www.gardeningmatters.org/hubs)

Residents can join a Local Food Resource Hub and select one of four types of membership. Prices vary and scholarships are available. Memberships are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a membership spot, residents can contact Gardening Matters at 612-821-2358, download the membership form (in English, Spanish, or Hmong), or sign up online at [www.gardeningmatters.org/hubs](http://www.gardeningmatters.org/hubs).

Last year the Local Food Resource Hubs Network included 600 members, distributed more than 14,000 packets of seeds and 15,000 seedlings, and measurably expanded residents' food-growing skills through classes and trainings.

The Hubs are supported in part by the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support

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through the Statewide Health Improvement Program, Homegrown Minneapolis, Afro-Eco, CAPI, Waite House, the Northside Fresh Coalition, Ventura Village, Northeast Park, Columbia Park, Corcoran, and Powderhorn Park neighborhood associations, Southeast Como Neighborhood Improvement Association, Little Kitchen Foodshelf, East Side Food Co-op, Hamline-Midway Coalition, East Side Prosperity Campaign, Healthy West 7th Coalition, Growing the West Side, and many neighborhood partners.