



Service Hours: Why It Matters

DCGP could not function without you! Your service hours help us build fences; grow and harvest vegetables for the food shelf; plant, harvest, clean, and sell garlic; and be responsible land managers in the Duluth community. We appreciate all your time and dedication!

DCGP gardeners are required to complete **5 service hours**, including at least one work bee and regular garden site maintenance activities. Gardeners will also attend their garden's kick-off event. Most gardeners will be asked to sign up for a "garden chore" when they attend the gardener orientation in the spring. Gardeners will be responsible for this maintenance task throughout the season.

According to [Value of Volunteer Time 2023](#), one hour of your volunteer time is worth \$34.27. Completing your 5 service hours is a \$171 value to DCGP. That's a lot of money! Every gardener completing their service hours results in a \$35,126 value to DCGP! Your time can be reported to grants as in-kind donations, helps to reduce the burden and cost of our programming, and strengthens our organization.

Reporting Hours

DCGP is constantly trying to improve its record keeping, including tracking your service hours. It is imperative that you report your hours independently, in a timely fashion. Please report service hours here: [Reporting Service/Volunteer Hours](#). We track service hours in order to better report for grants, improve program impacts & efficiency, and track gardeners adherence to the gardener expectations & 'good-standing' requirements.

Consequences

If you do not complete your service hours you will be penalized with delayed registration the next year. You must wait until public registration - April 1st - to sign up for their plot. If you do not complete service hours for two years in a row you will either be downgraded to a half plot or not be invited back to garden with DCGP.

Questions? Contact us: garden@duluthcommunitygarden.org or 218-722-4583.