



Burlington Area Community Gardens

Gardening for a better tomorrow!

Welcome Packet and Newsletter

Spring 2010

Welcome to BACG

The Burlington Parks and Recreation Department operates the Burlington Area Community Gardens (BACG) as one of the most popular recreation activities with the longest seasonal participation in the city. Area residents may apply to rent garden plots starting today! Weather dependent, garden sites open in late April or mid May and close in October.

Registration

BACG is becoming more popular every year, so sign up early. Please note that registration will not be complete without payment in full.

Community gardening

calls for an added commitment, so if you are new to the program please read this packet thoroughly.

Community gardeners actively contribute to the maintenance of garden sites. All gardeners are expected to participate in at least two Community Work Days during the season. Community Work Days help preserve and nourish garden sites, ensuring years of bountiful harvests to come.

Opening Procedures

The gardens are turned over by a tractor in the spring and ready to cultivate after the plot boundaries are marked out. Gardeners will be notified by

volunteer site coordinators about garden orientation and opening dates. Everyone must check in with site coordinators before beginning to garden.

Closing Procedures

In the fall, gardeners are responsible for cleaning out individual plots. The sites are seeded with cover crops on the closing dates (see site descriptions for details) and tilled soon after. It is important that all plant materials are removed to allow these procedures to run smoothly. Failure to do so may result in a denied application for the following year. Returning gardeners may request a no till plot for extended seasons.

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Organic Gardening

Burlington Farmer's Markets
Markets are a great place to find plants, seeds and produce

City Hall Park

Saturdays 8:30-2:30

H.O. Wheeler School

Tuesdays 3pm-6:30pm

Ethan Allen Park

Thursdays 3pm-6:30pm

Seeds

High Mowing

802-888-1800

www.highmowingseeds.com

Plants

Red Wagon Plants

802-482-4060

Gardener's Supply Company

802-660-3505

Arcana

802-899-5123

Compost

Intervale Compost

802-660-4949

Champlain Valley

802-425-5556

Informational Websites

www.burlingtongardens.org

www.organicgardening.com

www.nofavt.org

BACG Spring Potluck Kick Off!



Start off the 2010 garden season with a feast! Join new and returning gardeners for the annual BACG spring potluck.

Where: Miller Community and Recreation Center-at the end of Gosse Court off North Avenue by Hunt Middle School.

When: Saturday, April 10 6-8 pm.

What: Bring your favorite dish to share. This year's guest speaker, Eric Van Vlandren, will present on behalf of the Intervale Center. Eric

is the Intervale compost sales and production coordinator. Don't miss out on one of the best silent auctions of the season where 100% of the proceeds benefit the gardens. There will be many free seeds and seedlings available to help you start your garden as well!

Consider volunteering behind the scenes! Potluck opportunities include silent auction, set-up, and kid's activities. Contact the BACG office at 863-0420

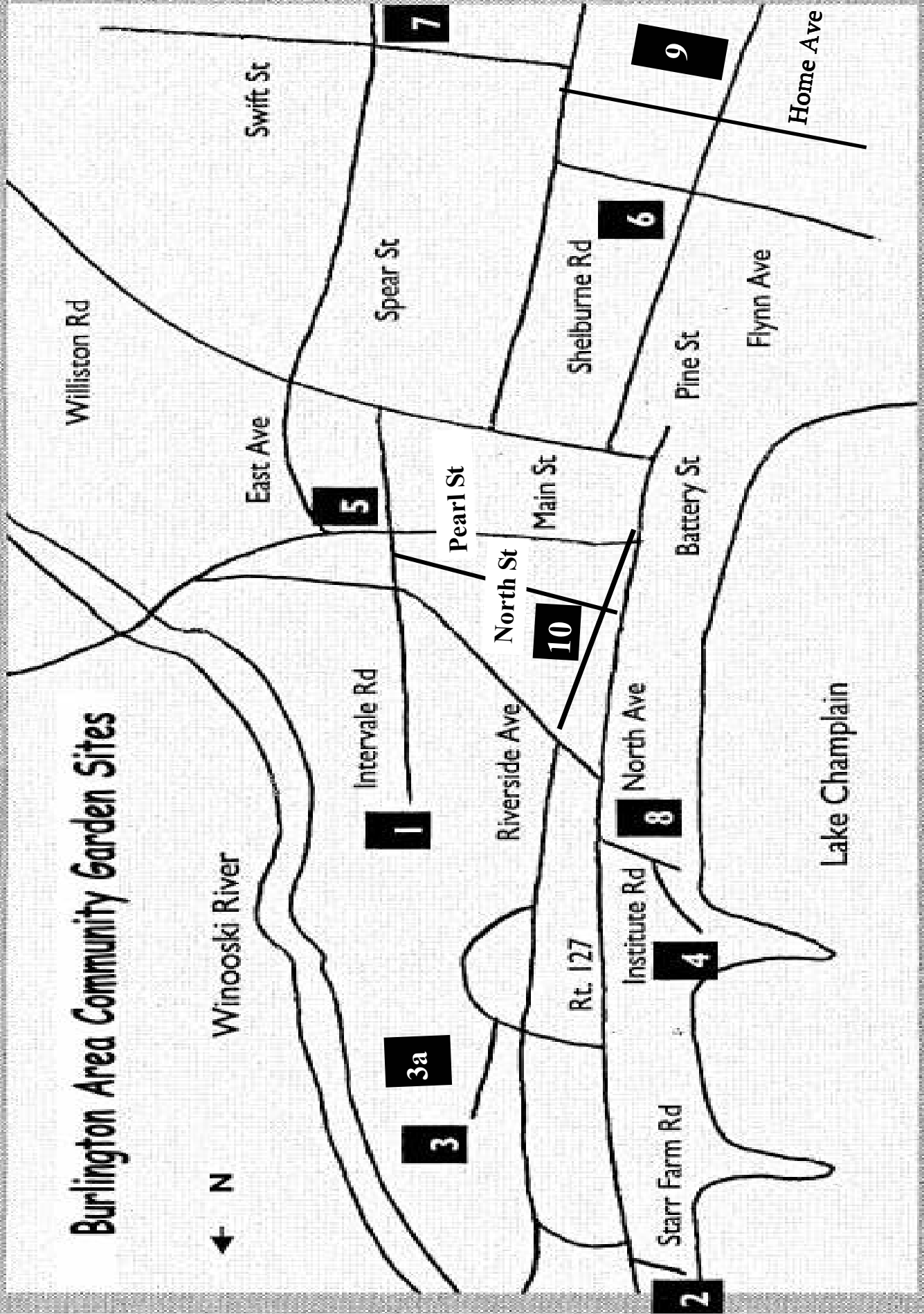


www.enjoyburlington.com

Burlington Area Community Garden Sites



Winooski River



BACG Garden Site Descriptions

Site	Plot Sizes	Closing	Site Description
1. Tommy Thompson Located at the Intervale	Full and Half Plots	October 23	This site has three tool sheds, a pole barn providing a central meeting place, and a shady picnic area. No-till sites are available to returning gardeners.
2. Starr Farm Located off of Starr Farm Rd.	Full, Half and Quarter plots	October 9	This sandy site offers small no-till plots for early, late and year round crops in addition to the other plots. Amenities include a tool shed, picnic tables and fruit trees. This site is adjacent to the Starr Farm Dog Park.
3a. Winooski Valley Park District Located off of Route 127	Full and Half Plots	October 9	This site has a tool shed with bulletin board. Bathrooms and picnic areas are located nearby courtesy of WVPD.
3b. New Discovery Garden Located off of Route 127	Quarter Plots	October 9	This is a great site for first time gardeners and families with young gardeners. There is a tool shed on site. Bathrooms and picnic areas are located nearby courtesy of WVPD.
4. Rock Point Located off of Institute Rd	Full and Half Plots	October 9	This site has heavy soils but great location on the Episcopal Diocese land near North Beach and BHS. There is a tool shed on site.
5. Medical Center Located on the corner of East Ave and Colchester Ave.	Full and Half Plots	October 16	Off street parking is available in the VT Health Department parking lot off of East Avenue. There is a tool shed on site.
6. Champlain Located on Pine Street	Full, Half and Quarter Plots	October 16	This site has compacted soils and is usually the last to open. This site has a tool shed and returning gardeners can request a no-till plot.
7. UVM Wheelock Farm Located on the corner of Swift St. and Spear St.	Full and Half Plots	October 16	This site is not currently equipped with a tool shed but has lovely Adirondack views and is located near the South Burlington Bike Path.
8. Lakeview Located at 311 North Ave.	Half Plots	October 23 No-till site	This small site is not recommended for children. Gardeners are responsible for turning over their own soil. There is a tool shed on site.
9. Baird Park Located on Pine Street	Quarter Plots	October 16	This site is not currently equipped with a tool shed and the water is supplied out of a storage tank. A playground is located on site.
10. Myrtle Street Located on Myrtle St.	Quarter Plots	October 23 No-till site	The newest site to the system already has water in place with hopes of a tool shed coming in July. These plots will be about 10ft X 4ft.

2010 BACG Calendar

Spring Dates and Reminders



- March 1** **Returning gardener registration deadline** to guarantee placement.
- March 15** **Confirmation packets** begin to be mailed out as completed.
- March 20** **Workshop** “Organic Gardening 101” 9:30 am-12 pm, check-in starts at 9 am at the Miller Community Center
- March 24** **Volunteer site coordinator meeting** 5:30 pm at 645 Pine Street.
- March 31** **Free Workshop** “Community Gardening 101” 5pm and 6:30 pm at 645 Pine Street.
- April 10** **Spring Potluck Kick Off** 6-8:00 pm at the Miller Community and Recreation Center (located at the end of Gosse Court off North Ave by Hunt Middle School).
- April 14** **Free Workshop** “Compost Alive” 9:30 am-11:30 am at the Miller Community and Recreation Center.
- Mid April** **Plot placement** announcements; gardeners will be contacted by volunteer site coordinators with information.
- April/May** **Spring tilling** begins. A volunteer will call when your garden site has been staked out. Get ready to rake off your plot and begin planting spring crops like spinach, peas, lettuce, carrots and beets.
- May** **Tip**-Be sure to rake or hoe the weeds in your plot early; it is much easier to hoe weeds when they are small!
- May 1** **Community Work Day** for all garden sites, gardeners will work together on projects to get the site ready for summer. Most activities will take place in the morning hours. Each site is different.
- May 8** **Benefit perennial plant sale** for Grow Team One and Friends of Burlington Gardens. Location to be decided.
- May 22** **Plot claim deadline** in which all plots must show signs of activity. If a gardener does not contact volunteer site coordinators, the plot will be forfeited to someone on the waiting list.
- May 22** **Red Wagon Plants sale** to benefit BACG, the sale is located at Bibbens Ace Hardware on North Ave.

Summer Dates and Reminders



- June** **Tip**-Allow the soil to warm up before laying down mulch. Be sure to stay on top of those weeds!
- June 19** **Community Work Day** for Tommy Thompson, Winooski Valley Park and Starr Farm garden sites only.
- June 22** **Maintenance deadline** in which all plots must be weeded and maintained. Plots overrun with weeds will be forfeited to someone on the waiting list.
- July-August** **Tip**-If you need help because you are going on vacation or having trouble with maintenance, find a volunteer to lend a hand with the Gardenteer program. Contact the BACG office 802-863-0420 for details.
- July 25** **Community Work Day** for Tommy Thompson only.
- August** **Donate a row for the hungry** by donating surplus harvest to the food shelf. Remember to only donate quality produce. Contact the Food Shelf for more information at 802-658-7939.
- August** **Tip**-Harvest frequently to prevent theft. Rotting food and overgrown fruit only encourages theft in the gardens; keep in mind that zucchinis and cucumbers can grow quickly overnight.
- August 8** **Summer Potluck** 4:00 pm at North Beach Shelter.
- August 22** **Community Work Day** for Tommy Thompson only.

Fall Dates and Reminders



- September** **Tip**-Frost is coming soon and it's time to start your final garden harvest and cleanup. Pull out non-productive plants and place in compost piles at your site. Start removing fences, stakes, cages and strings.
- October 9** **Closing date** for Rock Point, Winooski Valley Park District, Discovery Garden, Starr Farm
- October 16** **Closing date** for Wheelock, Medical Center, Baird Park and Champlain School
- October 23** **Closing date** for Tommy Thompson, Myrtle Street and Lakeview

2010

Burlington Area Community Gardens Registration Form

Gardener Agreement

Please initial the following:

- _____ I agree to learn and follow site guidelines, to maintain a spirit of cooperation with my fellow gardeners and volunteer site coordinators, and to notify my site coordinator if my contact information changes.
- _____ I agree to begin planting in my plot by May 22nd (or within one week of hearing from site coordinators). I understand if I do not comply, my plot will be forfeited to someone on the waiting list.
- _____ I agree to weed and maintain my plot throughout the summer. I understand that if my plot is overrun with weeds by June 22, my plot will be forfeited to someone on the waiting list.
- _____ I agree to participate or have a representative participate in at least 2 community work day projects.
- _____ I agree to completely clean up my plot by removing all material including cold weather crops prior to the Community Work Day at my site. I understand that if I do leave vegetables in my plot that they will be harvested by volunteers and donated to the Food shelf.

By signing below, I take full responsibility as a BACG gardener for the agreement above.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please print legibly and fill out registration form completely

Primary Gardener

Secondary Gardener

Name _____ Name _____

E-mail _____ E-mail _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ Mailing Address _____

Please note: E-mail is the primary method of communication for most site coordinators. You will be contacted for Parks and Recreation communication only. If different, please indicate your preferred method of contact: _____

Check here if contact information is new

Garden Site Location

Garden Site First Choice: _____

Garden Site Second Choice: _____

Special needs, comments or request for site placement: _____

Are you new to BACG? No Yes

If so, have you gardened before? No Yes

Describe: _____

Returning Gardeners:

If available, would you prefer the same plot from this past season? No Yes

Are you increasing your plot size? No Yes

Is this a site change from 2009? No Yes

If available, are you interested in a natural no-till site? No Yes

(over please)

For Office Use Only

Name:

Site:

Date:

2010

Burlington Area Community Gardens Registration Form

Community Work Days

Each gardener is required to sign up and participate in at least 2 Community Work Days or make alternate arrangements with your site coordinator. Attendance is taken. Community Work Days are held on Saturdays. Please mark **two** days:

Gardener 1: _____ May 1 _____ June 19* _____ July 25** _____ August 22** _____ October***

Gardener 2: _____ May 1 _____ June 19* _____ July 25** _____ August 22** _____ October***

*For Tommy Thompson, Starr Farm and WVPD only.

**For Tommy Thompson only.

***October workdays vary according to each site's closing day:

October 9-Rock Point, Winooski Valley Park District, Discovery Garden, Starr Farm

October 16-Wheelock, Medical Center, Baird Park, Champlain School

October 23-Tommy Thompson, Myrtle Street, Lakeview

Gardenteering

Sharing the wisdom, lending a hand, working together

Are you interested in getting more involved with community gardening? BACG has many opportunities for gardeners to volunteer. See our Gardenteeer brochure for more information. The enthusiasm that Burlington gardeners bring to the table is uplifting and we invite you to be a part of it. Volunteer as a site coordinator and lead community work days. Be a garden mentor and share your knowledge with new gardeners. Serve on the Advisory Board and help to shape garden policies. If you are interested, please mark below and we will contact you with further information.

- Site Coordinator**
- Garden Mentor**
- Advisory Board Member**
- Spring Potluck Committee**
- Other Gardenteering:** _____

Reed Garden Scholarship Information

Participants with limited income households may stop by the Chittenden Community Action Office at 191 North Street or call 863-6248 for guidelines on the BACG Reed Garden Scholarship Fund. Scholarships provide 50% of the plot fee for one full, half, or quarter per eligible household. Plants and seeds are also available through Community Action.

To make a donation to the scholarship fund, please include your contribution in the order form below.

Mulch Hay Bales

Gardeners may order hay through BACG until May 15. The bales are delivered to the garden site in late May/early June. Mulching conserves water, adds organic matter to the soil, and reduces weeding. Don't let weeds catch you in July and August! BACG recommends 4-5 bales of hay per full plot, 2-3 bales per half plot and 1 bale per quarter plot. Gardeners at Myrtle Street and Baird Park should consider sharing bales, as plots are small.

Please note: BACG is not responsible for lost or stolen hay after it is delivered to the site.

Description	Quantity	Cost	Amount	Please complete the registration form, sign the gardening agreement, and mail with check to: BACG Burlington Parks & Recreation 645 Pine Street, Suite B Burlington, Vermont 05401 Garden plots are non-refundable and cannot be reserved without payment. Questions or information? Call the BACG office at 863-0420 or www.enjoyburlington.com
Full Plot		\$55.00	\$	
Half Plot		\$37.00	\$	
Quarter Plot		\$20.00	\$	
Starr Farm No-Till Fee		\$10.00	\$	
Hay Bales		\$4.50	\$	
Non-Burlington Resident Fee		\$5.00	\$	
Scholarship Donation	(tax deductible)		\$	
Total Amount Enclosed			\$	

Archibald & Riverside Neighborhood Gardens



Grow Team ONE coordinates two neighborhood gardens in the Old North End: the Archibald Neighborhood Garden on Archibald Street, across from H.O. Wheeler School, and the Riverside Neighborhood Garden on Intervale Avenue, behind the 699 Riverside Avenue apartments. Gardeners work with a team of mentors who hold gardening and wellness workshops at the sites. Space for the gardens has been provided by the Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties and the Burlington Housing Authority. The independently run gardens are sponsored by Burlington Parks & Recreation Department with support from Intervale Compost Products and guidance from Friends of Burlington Gardens. Gardeners who are interested in plots at the neighborhood garden sites or want to get involved, contact Grow Team ONE:

Phone: (802) 598-3139

E-mail: growteam@yahoo.com

Website: growteamvt.com

Gardening Education Opportunities

Organic Gardening 101 Saturday, March 20, 9:30 am-12 pm at the Miller Community and Recreation Center. Jim Flint will present an interactive workshop for beginning and intermediate vegetable gardeners. Check-in begins at 9:00 am Jim is executive director of Friends of Burlington Gardens and the Vermont Community Garden Network. Free seed packets will be available for all participants. *To register for this class please call Burlington Parks and Recreation at 864-0123 or register online at www.enjoyburlington.com \$15 (\$20 non-resident)*

Community Gardening 101 Wednesday, March 31st, 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm at 645 Pine Street. These two short sessions are perfect for first time gardeners or gardeners new to the community garden program. Participants will learn the ins and outs of community gardening in Burlington. Program rules and regulations will be reviewed and questions will be answered. At the end of each session, time will be allowed for participants to register for garden classes. *To register call the BACG office at 802-863-0420 FREE*

Compost Alive Wednesday, April 14th, 9:30 am-11:30 am at the Miller Community and Recreation Center. Learn about the many ways you can turn leaves, grass clippings, old newspapers and kitchen scraps into nutritious compost for your garden. We'll talk about different ways to compost (heaps, bins, tumblers), learn easy "recipes" (mixing greens and browns) for speedy results, and the many uses for your "black gold" and "compost tea" – all while mixing up a sample batch. Taught by Laurie DiCesare *To register for this class please call Burlington Parks and Recreation at 864-0123 or register online at www.enjoyburlington.com FREE*

The Community Teaching Garden offered through Friends of Burlington Gardens (FBG), is a program designed to help beginning gardeners learn how to garden organically. The 20-week hands-on program runs from mid May to late September. Participants learn how to garden organically in individual raised beds and also make a volunteer commitment to use their gardening skills in service to the community. *Applications for the CTG Class of 2010 are available from FBG at www.burlingtongardens.org or call the office at 802-861-4769*

Red Wagon Plants Offering a diverse selection of seedlings and fruiting plants as well as on-site workshops. Look for their plants in local retail outlets around Burlington. *Check the website at www.redwagonplants.com for more information on upcoming events or call 802-482-4060*

Burlington Permaculture This grassroots non-profit is dedicated to community-building through networking, education, urban agriculture and celebration. Currently, they are hosting their third annual winter workshop series with over 15 events devoted to skill-building, self-reliance and community empowerment. *Find out more at the website burlingtonpermaculture.googlepages.com To join our e-mail list, contact us at burlingtonpermaculture@gmail.com*

Gardener's Supply Company Bringing you a diverse course selection, covering a variety of topics from seeds and soil to garden design and organic lawn care. Pre-registration with Gardener's Supply Company is required. *For more information check out their website at gardeners.com/seminars-and-events*



Burlington Area Community Gardens
Burlington Department of Parks & Recreation
645 Pine Street, Suite B
Burlington, Vermont 05401
www.enjoyburlington.com
802.864.0123
TTY# 802.863.0450

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

BACG Registration Form and Welcome Packet Enclosed **Sign up ASAP!**

Registration forms are accepted on a first come first serve basis and are entered by the date that they are received. Returning gardeners—be sure to sign up by March 1 to ensure the same plot assignment from last year.

Garden Questions For great tips on gardening and composting or to become a Master Gardener, call the Master Gardener hotline 1-800-639-2230 or visit uvm.edu/mastergardener

Other Community Gardens BACG is a current member of the American Community Gardening Association, so check out their website which has great resources: www.communitygarden.org

Burlington Parks and Recreation

The Burlington Area Community Gardens are run by the Burlington Parks and Recreation Department. Visit the website: www.enjoyburlington.com



Membership Conference

ACGA



AMERICAN
COMMUNITY
GARDENING
ASSOCIATION

The ACGA Membership Conference brings hundreds of individuals together from across the United States, Canada, and abroad, who are engaged in all aspects of gardening and greening. The conference includes hands-on workshops, keynote speakers, a film festival, and garden visits. As a member of ACGA, you will receive notice of upcoming conferences via your newsletter, on the listserv, and by conference registration brochures.

31st Annual ACGA Conference
August 5-8, 2010 Atlanta, Georgia