I. Community Gardens

Research (Malakoff, “What good is Community Greening?”)
There is a wealth of research involving the positive effects of community gardens:

- Ulrich and Parsons propose that modern life overwhelms people with too much stimulation: noise, cars, movement resulting in stress. They theorize that the peacefulness of gardens reduces this stress.
- It’s in our nature. To the prehistoric human, trees and plants signified the availability of water.
- A study by Ulrich found that simply looking at a plant reduces stress, fear, and anger.
- 1985 study found that the most important quality in neighborhood satisfaction was the availability of nearby trees, places to walk, and opportunities to grow plants.
- A study of prison inmates found that people with a window overlooking greenery needed less medical care and had fewer symptoms of stress, such as headaches.
- Mary Honeyman’s study found that people shown urban scenes with greenery recover from stress sooner than people shown urban scenes without greenery.
- Stephen and Rachel Kaplan theorize that nature reduces mental fatigue and gives a restorative change of pace, the feeling of being away from stressful environment. Greenery triggers a “fascination” stimulus that evokes effortless mental activity. This idea was supported by cancer patient study in which patients that spent a long time in the hospital had difficulty focusing and managing their lives after long hospital stays. Patients that started gardening recovered faster than patients that did not.

Community effects of gardens:
- Gardens contribute to a more livable environment. They control temperature, noise, and pollution.
- Positive community image.
- Opportunities for people to work together.

These qualities lead to reduced crime, higher property values, and increased business activity.
Community Garden Start-up Guide (from Gardenworks mn.com)

1. Involve the neighborhood: survey community for who might participate, send out flyers for a community garden meeting. A minimum of 10 member families is recommended.

2. Form a garden group: formalize membership to the garden, elect a president and a treasurer. Set rules and assign roles for members in designing, building, and maintaining the garden. Write up a ‘garden vision,’ a goal for what members want to get from the garden. Establishing an email/phone list is encouraged.

3. Find land: the lot should get 6-8 hours of sun. Access to water is helpful. Soil tests for toxins can be obtained from the University of Minnesota’s soil testing lab for $15-80. (http://soiltest.coaes.umn.edu)

4. Planning the garden: hold 2-3 meetings so that all interested members have a chance to share input. Potential garden layouts are easier to discuss on a map of the site. Planning individual allotment gardens are a good way to encourage long-term involvement.

5. Materials and money: start-up funds will be required but can be offset by donations of plants and tools. Funds can be obtained from membership dues, donations, and fundraisers.
II. Raising Animals

Raising chickens

- Chickens require small animal permits from the Animal Care & Control Program
- Provide a good source of eggs and meat, as well as compost
- Bug and weed control
- Relatively low maintenance: feed, water, and a rare cleaning
- Space required: Henhouse (2-3 sq. ft. per chicken), chicken run (4-5 sq. ft. per chicken)
- Fencing to keep chickens in, predators out

Permitting

The permit process requires:

- Getting the consent of 80 percent of the neighbors within 100 feet of the property where the extra animals or small animals will be kept.
- An inspection of the premises where animals will be kept.
- The fee for a multiple animal permit and for a small animal permit is $30 each. Permits must be renewed annually.
- No permit shall be granted in a dwelling unit on any real estate which contains three or more dwelling units.
- The annual fee for such permit shall be 30.00

Multiple animal permits are required for more than 3 (in any combination of) dogs, cats, rabbits, or ferrets

Where To Get Chicks:

- Local Feed Stores often carry a variety of day old chicks around Spring
- Search our Buy Sell Trade section for members selling hatching eggs or chicks.
- Check our list of chicken suppliers.

Chicken Care After First 60 Days, General Chicken Care [http://www.backyardchickens.com/raising-chickens-basics.php]:

- Flooring - Pine shavings
- Food - chicken layer feed / pellets.
- Treats - Vegetables, bread, bugs, chicken scratch (cracked corn, milo, wheat)
Raising goats

- Keeping goats is not yet allowed in the city of Minneapolis
- Goats can be a good source of milk and meat
- Goats require shelter (16 sq. ft. each) and an exercise yard (250 sq. ft. each)
- Strong fencing is important; it is not uncommon for goats to escape 3ft fencing
- Raising goats for milk also means mating – heat, mating, and pregnancy, raising kids.

Basic Care (sheltercitygoats.com)
Goats need basic care to ensure a good, long, productive and healthy life. Whether you have just 2 pet goats or a large breeding herd, basic good management practices should be a part of your goat ownership. Goats are herd animals and enjoy the company of other goats, so if it is your intention to purchase a goat, be prepared to purchase a minimum of two.

Shelter
Goats should be housed in clean, damp free shelters, not air-tight buildings; they also need to be well ventilated. A sixteen foot square enclosed area per goat is adequate.
Goats need an excerise yard as well measuring at least 250 square feet per goat. They are mountain animals and enjoy obstacles to climb on.

Goats should have sufficient shelter for their size to protect them from the elements. Shade should be provided in summer and protection from winter winds. Remember that goats hate to have rain or snow fall on them. Always provide a way out of bad weather to your goats. These shelters should be bright, airy and clean.

Most goats will eat several times a day, stopping only to rest and letting their rumens process the food. Food must be readily available. Goats will supplement their diets with whatever they can find outside.

Fencing (Goatworld.com)
Electric fencing can work, but one needs to really understand the concept of building a tight electric fence, good corners and good materials. In my opinion, the thicker and tighter the electric fence wire, the better. I have seen fences of three strands of wire adequately contain goats of a certain size. If you have a mixed size herd, i.e., Pygmies, Saanens, Nubians, kids, I strongly feel you may need more strands of wire because the smaller goats will go under or over the very bottom wire while the larger and taller goats may be inclined to jump over the middle or uppermost wire.

The charger itself should be of good quality - many report that solar chargers work well. We personally use a Par-Mac charger that delivers 10kV (10,000 volts) of what is pretty much a "static" electricity shock - pulsating. Also to be included with this type of set-up is a good grounding system that ensures that the fence charger delivers that 10kV at any point in the electric fence line. A poor grounding system will not go very far in deterring a goat from going through it.
An alternative to electric fencing is the use of "cattle" or "hog" panels. These can be used with great success but there are a couple of drawbacks. First, cattle panels come in 16 foot lengths and cost anywhere from $11 to $14 each. The difference between a "cattle" and "hog" panel is the height and the spacing of the squares in the panel. Cattle panels are approximately 5 feet high and each square is approximately 6 inches by 6 inches. Hog panels stand about 3 feet high and while the top squares are 6 by 6, the lower to the ground the hog panel gets, the smaller the squares get.

Personally I have found cattle panels to be highly useful for larger goats while the hog panels are more suitable for kid goats (who can often squeeze through 6 by 6 squares on the larger cattle panels). Conversely, larger goats can (and often will) jump over the 3 foot high hog panels. The other drawback to both cattle and hog panels is that if you have horned goats, they may be likely to stick their head through the 6 by 6 squares and get stuck in them. On the other hand, cattle and hog panels do offer the ability of being able to move a fence-line or goat pen. They are very durable and besides adding a few corner t-posts for support, all that is needed is a bit of bailing wire or bailing string to lash them together. I have even seen and used myself, the smaller hog panels with an electric wire above the top of the panel to deter jumpers.

Another fencing alternative is "woven wire". Personally I don't like this method because for one thing, it becomes a permanent fence for the most part and woven wire also has either 4 x 4, 5 x 5, or 6 x 6 inch squares - again, goats can and do get caught in this set-up. Also, it's a real task to get a woven wire fence tight which is a key to building a good goat fence. But some do use woven wire with excellent results.

Another (and more expensive) alternative is using chain link fencing. This is probably the most secure method there is but then who can afford to fence an acre or more with chain link fencing? This kind of fencing would be ideal for smaller goat pens for breeding, holding, sick or kidding pens.

Two more types of fencing are widely used with great results - again they are more expensive. Wooden and metal fencing. Both types require that you have fence rails of either material spaced just right so the goats cannot slip through them. Best if fashioned after the cattle and hog panels in heigh of railing. Metal tubing is ideal. Wooden is equally effective - the only drawback being that goats will tend to rub and gnaw at certain types of wood - you may be replacing sections of wooden fence railing more often than you'd like to

Minneapolis Ordinance:
74.40. Hoofed animals. No person shall keep, harbor, or maintain care, custody or control over any horse, cow, sheep, pig, or any other hoofed animal any place in the city. This section shall not prohibit hoofed animals from being transported expeditiously through the city.
Keeping Bees

- Beekeeping was recently allowed in the City of Minneapolis with a permit (http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/homegarden/43075517.html?elr=KArksUUUU)
- Can provide up to 100lbs per year of fresh honey, improves the productivity of nearby gardens
- Pollen and beeswax can also be harvested
- Most honeybees do not sting, but beekeeping expertise is required

Beekeeping in Northern Climates Short Course

When: Yearly in March (March 13-14, 2010)
Where: St. Paul campus, University of Minnesota
More Information

This 2 day course provides all the information necessary to keep bees in cold climates. We take you through two years of beekeeping; purchasing and assembling equipment, ordering bees and queens, hiving packages, ensuring colony survival through winter, dividing colonies in the spring, and producing, harvesting, extracting, bottling, and selling honey. We also cover the important basics of disease and mite management and control, emphasizing a reduction in chemical use within bee hives.

http://www.mnbeekeepers.com/

Municipal Ordinance

74.80. Keeping of honeybees.

- The applicant must meet any educational requirements established by the manager and receive the written consent of at least 80 percent of the occupants within 100 feet of the applicant's home and 100 percent of the signatures of occupants next to the applicant's home.
- The application fee for a permit is $100.00. The annual renewal fee is $50.00.

Standards of practice
(1) Honeybee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
(2) Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the colony prior to and so long as colonies remain active outside of the hive.
(5) Each beekeeper shall maintain his beekeeping equipment in good condition, including keeping the hives painted, and securing unused equipment from weather, potential theft or vandalism and occupancy by swarms. It shall be a violation of this section for any beekeeper's unused equipment to attract a swarm, even if the beekeeper is not intentionally keeping honeybees.
(6) Each beekeeper shall enclose their property with a latching fence.
If a colony is kept less than 25 feet from a property line, a flyway barrier at least 6 feet tall is required. The barrier must be dense enough that honeybees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony.

(2) No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of colonies on any lot within the city, based upon the size or configuration of the apiary lot:

- 1/2 acre or smaller: 2 colonies
- Larger than 1/2 acre: 4 colonies
- Larger than 3/4 acre: 6 colonies
- Larger than 1 acre: 8 colonies
- Larger than 5 acres: As determined by the manager of Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.