

Yet, for folks in the neighborhood who want to try growing food on their own, we're building a number of new garden beds. If you're interested in one of these beds, let us know as they're available on a first come, first serve basis.

In addition to growing food, there are so many ways to help out in the garden! We'll be building new garden beds, planting the berms bordering both sidewalks with native plants and flowers and continuing to improve our rain garden. If you've got time and energy, we'd love your help! Please feel free to stop by and lend a hand whenever you're able. And whether you choose to garden with us or not, we hope you'll stop by and say hi when we're in the garden. If we can, we'll even send you on your way with a few tasty treats from the garden!



### **Our Mission**

*Off the Grid was established for two reasons: to recognize the value of the community within our friends and family and to aid each other with projects which promote and advance sustainability within our own lives and neighborhoods.*

*We hope that the fruits of our labor will lead to a world in which humans live truly sustainably, free of oppression, exploitation and cruelty, and in balance with all other plants and animals.*

## **GET IN TOUCH WITH US!**

Check-out our blog: [www.offthegridmke.org](http://www.offthegridmke.org)

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**SPRING 2010**

# **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

**RICHARDS & CLARKE STREETS  
HARAMBEE NEIGHBORHOOD**

Last summer, the Off the Grid garden was one of a small number of community garden projects started through a pilot program through the City of Milwaukee which granted gardeners three year leases on city owned lots. With one year under our belts we moved a lot of dirt, learned a lot of lessons and are excited to embark on our second growing season!

The thing we're most excited about this year is getting more neighbors involved with the garden and sharing in the delicious yield of fresh vegetables. To accomplish this, we're going to be doing a number of things. First, we're improving the quality of the soil in the raised beds. In the middle of April a truckload of good soil which we've purchased will be dumped on the garden and we'll use it to replenish garden beds which we built last year as well as fill new beds which we'll be building this spring. The second thing we're changing is how we're gardening.



Instead of dividing up all the garden beds into individual beds grown by different people, the majority of the beds in the Off the Grid garden will be grown collectively by those who want to share in the harvest. It was really fun this winter paging through seed catalogs and picking out veggies that we thought people in the neighborhood, including the neighbor kids, would enjoy--everything from mustard and turnip greens to purple carrots, hot peppers and pumpkins! Check out the inside garden map for a more detailed list of veggies we'll be growing.

*(continued on back)*

# OFF THE GRID COMMUNITY GARDEN 2010 SUMMER PLAN

**1. Rain Garden** -- Planted with native drought and water tolerant plants which by focusing run-off water into this area, limits the water from entering the sewage system.

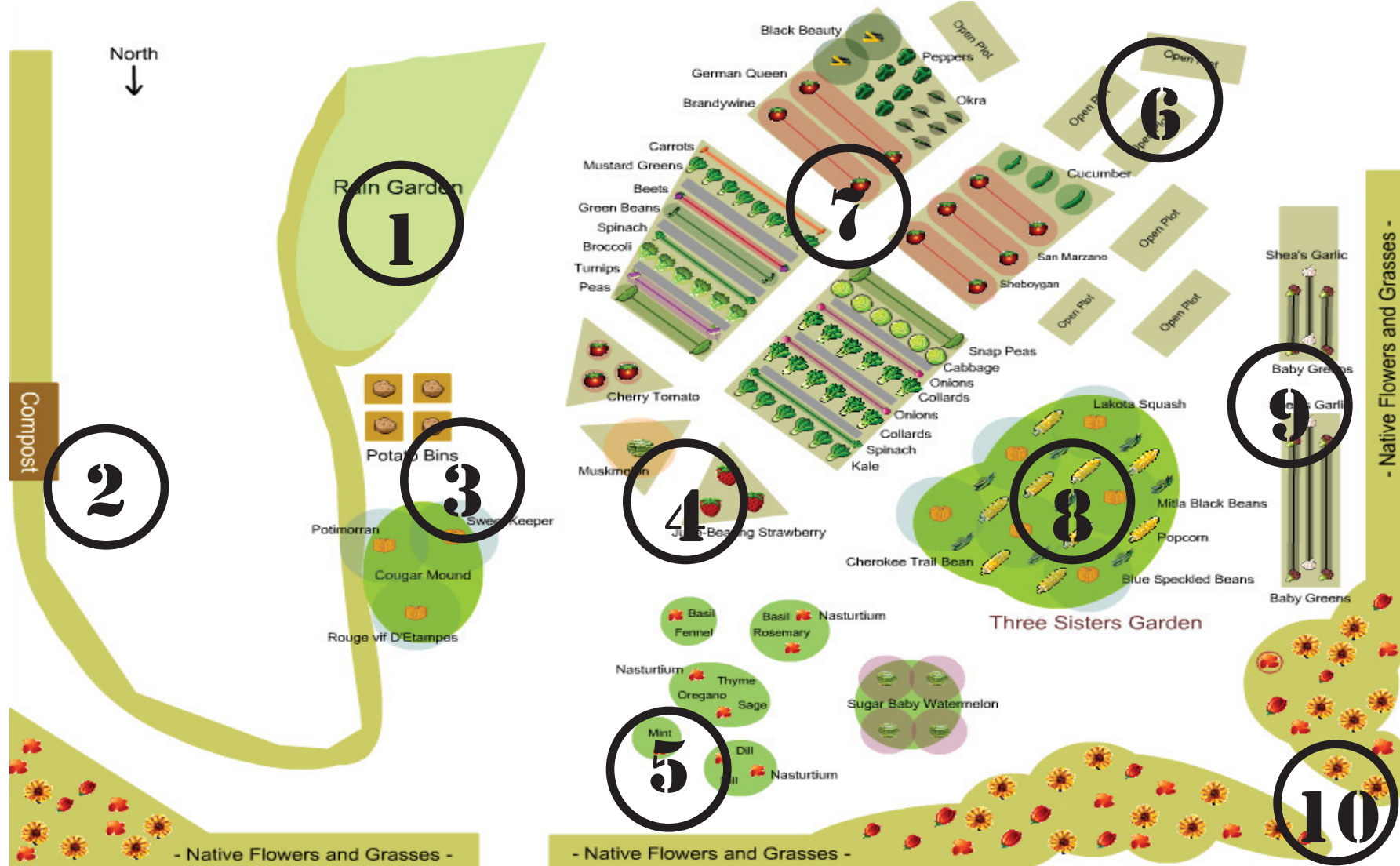
**2. Compost** -- By adding fruit and veggie scraps as well as garden refuse, we're making beautiful soil for our garden while diverting garbage from landfills.

**3. "Cougar Mound" & Potatoes** -- OTG planted pumpkin and squash patch as well potatoes grown in recycled pallet structures.

**4. Triangle Beds** -- OTG planted cherry tomatoes, watermelon and strawberry beds.

**5. Herbs & Edible Flower Bed** -- Planted with an assortment of good tasting herbs, medicinal herbs and edible flowers.

**6. Neighbor Beds** -- Available garden space for neighbors who want to grow their own veggies!



**7. Sharing Beds** -- Planted with lots of veggies including collard, mustard and turnip greens, beets, peas, carrots, broccoli, parsnips, peppers, lettuce and tomatoes. Help us maintain the beds and then help yourself to part of the harvest!

**8. Three Sisters Garden** -- Planted in the Maya tradition with the "three sister" plants all helping each other: corn, squash & beans.

**9. Garlic Patch** -- 5th generation garlic beds.

**10. Flower berms along sidewalks** -- Planted with native flowers and grasses to add some beauty and color to our garden.

**INTERESTED IN GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD?  
JOIN US IN THE GARDEN, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU INVOLVED!**