

# PROGRAM INFORMATION



Greencorps Chicago is the city of Chicago's community gardening and green industry job training program. We offer two community garden assistance programs: Plant Distribution Days and the Garden Assistance program, and the Green Industry Job Training program. Our mission is to promote environmental stewardship and improve the quality of life by establishing natural spaces that are safe, healthy and sustainable through hands-on involvement with trainees and community partners. We do this by creating awareness, building commitment, developing expertise and providing the resources necessary to create community gardens and green spaces. Greencorps Chicago, established in 1994, is a program of the City of Chicago Department of Environment in partnership with WRD Environmental.

## Greencorps Chicago offers the following programs to eligible participants:

**Garden Certification:** All community garden groups must be certified every five (5) years to remain eligible for any Greencorps Chicago community gardening programs. Organizations working in a public space including schools, faith based institutions, libraries, public housing communities and block clubs may participate in our community gardening programs. Certification includes a complete certification form, photos of the garden and a letter of permission to garden on the site from the property manager or owner for a minimum of five (5) years.

**Plant Distribution Days:** Five times a year, Greencorps Chicago distributes seeds, vegetables, annuals, perennials and bulbs free of charge to community organizations throughout the city. Any community garden in Chicago may apply for this program. See the reverse side of this page for details.

**Garden Assistance:** Assistance is available for community garden groups in the form of horticultural expertise from staff, installation and maintenance help from our job trainees and garden materials including plants, soil and tools. Gardens must participate in educational workshops focused on community garden and group sustainability. Workshop topics covered are garden design, installation and maintenance, community group organization, recruitment and retention. Additional resources may be available for school projects in the form of classroom materials and training. To apply for Garden Assistance, the group must complete an application and certification, the garden site must be on a public space and the community group must attend the workshop and provide volunteers on the work day(s). This is a competitive application based program. Due to the high demand of requests, we can not guarantee acceptance into this program.

**Green Industry Job training:** Each year between February and March, Greencorps hires 70 adult Chicago residents into our job training program, one of the few of its kind for the green industry. The on-the-job training they receive includes horticulture / landscaping, tree care, environmental health and safety, weatherization, electronics recycling, academic improvement and professional development. Our industry partners host internships for the trainees throughout the season, preparing them for permanent job placement. Please call us for recruitment information.

**To obtain an application for any of our services, or for more information, please call (312) 744-8691 or e-mail us at [greencorps@cityofchicago.org](mailto:greencorps@cityofchicago.org).**

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Richard M. Daley  
Mayor  
City of Chicago



Suzanne E. Malec-McKenna  
Commissioner  
Department of Environment

# 2010 Greencorps Chicago Distribution Day Schedule and Rules

EVENT	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	EVENT DATE
Seeds	Friday, March 5	Saturday, March 13
Vegetables	Friday, May 7	Saturday, May 15
Annuals	Friday, June 18	Saturday, June 26
Great Perennial Divide	Friday, September 10	<u>Drop off</u> Saturday, September 18 <u>Pick up</u> Saturday, September 25
Bulbs	Friday, October 15	Saturday, October 23

## Eligibility

- All gardens must be certified with Greencorps Chicago prior to registration for an event. Contact Greencorps at (312) 744-8691 or greencorps@cityofchicago.org to find out more about Garden Certification.
- All public groups and organizations such as schools, libraries, houses of worship, public housing communities and block clubs are eligible to participate.
- Private, residential gardens and individuals are NOT eligible to participate in the distribution days for seeds, vegetables, annuals and bulbs.
- Residential gardeners are eligible to participate in the Great Perennial Divide ONLY IF they donate plants to the distribution day.
- All plants obtained through these distribution events MUST be planted on public property or in community gardens accessible to the public.

## Rules

- Pre-registration is required. To register, pick up an application from your local library or ward office, visit our website at [www.cityofchicago.org/Environment/](http://www.cityofchicago.org/Environment/) or call the Greencorps hotline at (312) 744-8691 to be placed on our mailing list. Registration forms are available six weeks prior to each event's registration deadline.
- Registration cards must be received on time, filled out completely and legibly.
- No on site or late registration allowed.
- You must arrive on time and attend the full presentation to receive plants.
- Only one registration card per garden, only one set of plants per garden.
- Individuals may pick up plants for only one garden.
- Plants are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis after the presentation
- Plants must be used in community garden listed on the registration card.
- Participants must cooperate with Greencorps staff, follow staff directions and follow all distribution day rules.
- Failure to comply with any of the above rules may result in dismissal from the current event without plants and/or suspended eligibility from future events.

## Distribution Locations

On your registration card, you must select one location to pick up plants. You may not switch locations on the day of the event.

**North:** North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski (4000 West)

**South:** St. Ailbe's Church, 9100 South Stony Island (1600 East)

**Central:** Chicago Center for Green Technology, 445 North Sacramento Blvd. (3000 West)

**Central:** (Great Perennial Divide ONLY): Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 North Central Park (3600 West)

**Please note:** the Vegetable Distribution Day is offered at only two locations, the Chicago Center for Green Technology and St. Ailbe's.