

# Rice Street Gardens Now and in the Future



**Growing Hope and Community** 





#### **Who We Are**



We are 260 families growing our own food

On Rice Street near Roselawn in Maplewood

70 percent of us are recent immigrants, many from Myanmar and Nepal

But we come from all sorts of backgrounds

Rice Street
GARDENS

# We eat better













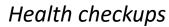
Regular exercise

We are

healthier



Waiting for Covid shots









# Customs are respected











# Families are stronger and it's fun

















# The community learns









# We know people care about us here

Immigrants learn how to live in their new home



Some from refugee camps



become citizens





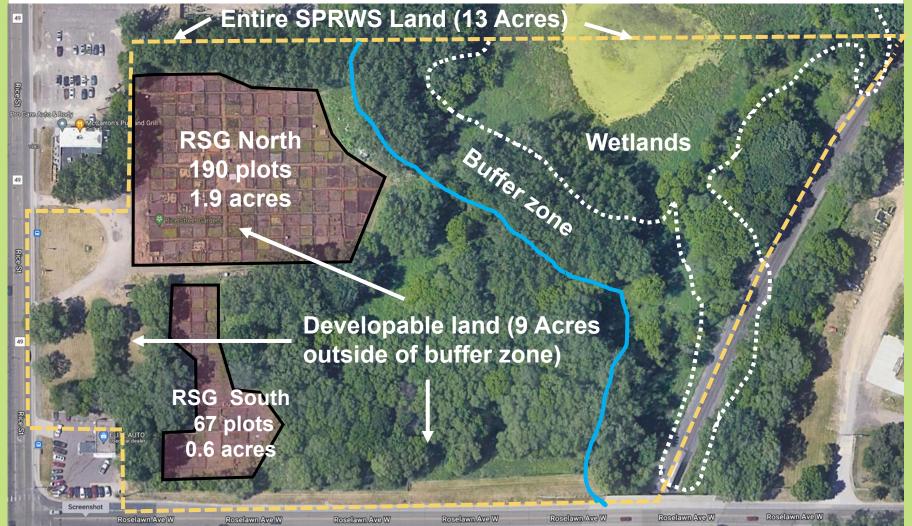
#### **But We Could Lose It All**

- The St. Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) owns the land.
- They have allowed us to use some of the land for 7 years. <u>Thank</u> you very much <u>SPRWS!</u>
- SPRWS is willing to entertain a possible sale or sales, but must recoup a minimum of \$2.5 million, which is the price that the land was purchased for in 2014.

What should we do?



# **Current Land Usage on Site**





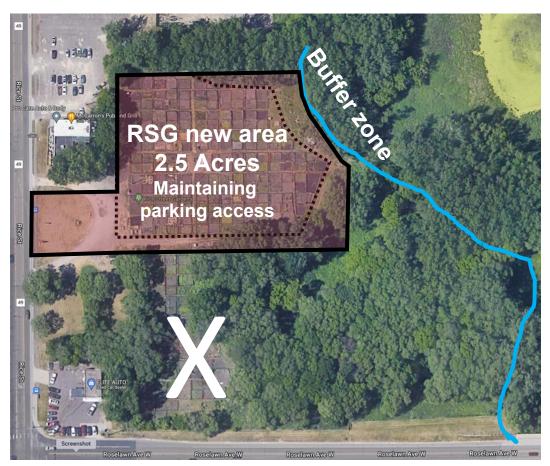
# The Area Also Desperately Needs New Affordable Housing

- Maplewood wants housing, some commercial development, and a community garden on the site.
- The Rice/Larpenteur Alliance (leaders from St. Paul, Maplewood, Roseville, and Ramsey County) wants development while preserving the gardens.
- Developers like Habitat for Humanity, the Rondo Community Land Trust, and others have interest in developing the area and would keep most of the gardens.

## What do we propose?

Rice Street

# **Our Proposal**



Both the gardens and housing are important community assets.

RSG keeps north gardens, about 190 plots.

RSG gives up the south 67 plots, leaving 6.5 acres for housing development





# Here is Where You Come In

We plan to raise \$1M to gain control of the north Rice Street Gardens area.

This will ensure the gardens continue for many generations.

We already have a pledge for \$300,000!



Can you or your organization help?



# Here Are Ways You Can Help

Contribute your <u>tax-deductible</u> donation to:

- -Website: <a href="https://ricestreetgardens.org/preserve-RSG">https://ricestreetgardens.org/preserve-RSG</a> (PayPal or credit card)
- -Go-Fund-Me campaign: <a href="https://www.gofundme.com/f/preserve-rice-street-gardens">https://www.gofundme.com/f/preserve-rice-street-gardens</a>
- Rice Street Gardens—Preservation Fund
   545 Tomlyn Avenue, Shoreview, MN 55126-6047
- -Let us know about others who might be interested in helping us preserve the gardens for the community: ricestreetgardens@gmail.com

# Thank you for your interest in Rice Street Gardens



# Discussion about SPRWS and the Rice Street Gardens

- Is the Board willing to consider an offer of about \$1M for RSG to purchase about 2.5 acres probably later in 2023 or 2024?
- We need that assurance to raise funds.
- If we are successful, a negotiation about details would begin.
- We think development of housing/commercial on the entire site will likely be significantly delayed.
- This is a way to begin recouping your money.
- If a larger development begins to develop, the gardens will have some clout in the final layout.

  Rice Street