



A GUIDE TO ACQUIRING WATER



FIRE HYDRANTS

First, you can only use hydrants that have a silver top to them. Next, obtain a letter from your alerperson supporting use of the hydrant with a reducer and key for community gardening purposes. This letter should state the location of the hydrants, name of the party responsible, address and phone number of that person. This letter can be faxed to 314.664.4074. Address the letter to Janet at the Water Department. The phone number is 314.771.4880. You will need to pick up the reducer and key* at the water department located at 4600 McCree.

CITY OFFICIALS

Ask Alderman, Block Captain or NSO if there is funding available for a waterline. This can best be requested with a letter stating the need and specific materials wanted. Be sure to describe the garden's positive impacts and commitment to longevity within the community. This can be a long process full of permit requests and required approvals from city departments on rigid timelines. Persistence and patience are key.

ASK A NEIGHBOR

Property owners nearby might have a faucet on the side of their home easily accessible from the garden. Of course, an agreement should be made with the potential water source supplier to pay the share of water used by the gardeners. This money could come from plot fees collected at the beginning of the season. Be sure to ask if gardeners can freely access the water source on the private property or if the homeowner would prefer to be present to let gardeners onto their property.

RAIN BARRELS

A rain barrel is a large, watertight barrel that is attached to a downspout. The water coming off of the roof runs down the downspout and fills up the rain barrel. If there is a lot of rain, the extra water flows out of the rain barrel through the overflow located at the top of the barrel. The overflow directs the excess water to where it was originally directed by the downspout, for example, to a sewer drain or a rain garden. Rainwater from a rain barrel is chemical-free and great for your plants.

Local Resource:

River Des Peres Watershed Coalition:
<http://www.thegreencenter.org/rdp/>

**Return keys to the City of St. Louis water department by the end of October or face a fee or fine.*