

2008 COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

Recreation Park, West Middle School & Midtown Community Gardens

Welcome to Organic Community Gardening in Ypsilanti!

Three nearby gardens are open to the public as rented community garden space:

- Midtown Community Garden: All raised beds, located near the corner of Congress & Normal St.
- Recreation Park Community Garden: Located behind the Ypsilanti Senior Center on Congress St.
- West Middle School Community Garden: Located behind WMS on Mansfield St.

Membership in all community gardens is open to anyone, and people of all ages and experience levels are encouraged to participate. **Participants must register and will be assigned a garden plot in which to grow organic vegetables, flowers, and fruit.**

If any potential participants have special accessibility needs, Growing Hope may be able to accommodate them with raised beds. Please read all of the information below carefully before submitting a registration form.

REGISTRATION AND FEES:

Participants in the RPCG, Midtown or WMS gardens are required to register by March 5 for gardening space. Registration forms are available on the NPNA website (www.normalpark.org) or by contacting one of the following garden organizers. Forms may also be turned in to these individuals:

Lisa Bashert (483-6420, 909 Grant St., wombbat@umich.edu),

Jessica Faul (483-4690, 101 North Wallace Boulevard, jfaul@umich.edu)

Lesley Chace (480-1005, 807 N. Congress St., lesley@ypsisoaplady.com).

Both full size (approximately 8 X 16') or half size (8 x 8') plots are available. A sliding fee of between \$5.00 – 30.00 is required for a half plot, and \$10.00 – 50.00 for a full plot. Each person or family registering for a plot will be assigned to their choice of half or full plot; multiple families may not share one plot. Registration fees pay for ongoing garden maintenance needs such as compost, hoses, stakes, lawn bags and other supplies. The fee is due at the time of registration. Checks should be made payable to Growing Hope with "community garden" written in the subject line.

ORGANIZATION:

Membership: Members will act as partners in the process of managing the gardens over the growing season. Members are asked to attend monthly meetings, at which we will discuss current garden issues, trouble-shoot any problems, tend communal beds, and maintain the overall garden and its perimeter. Each garden has at least one steward who helps with problems. Members also are part of a gardening communication network, either via phone or email.

Garden Stewards: Garden stewards are volunteers who help manage the gardens. Stewards plan and run community garden meetings, help troubleshoot problems, etc. Members are encouraged to become garden stewards and manage some part of the community garden. Each garden has at least one steward.

Volunteer Hours: All gardens participate in the "Plant a Row for the Hungry" (PAR) program in 2007. At least 1 plot in each garden will be planted with vegetables and herbs for PAR; all produce harvested from these plots will be donated to Food Gatherers. Members of all gardens are required to spend a minimum of 5 hours over the gardening season to maintaining the PAR plots and the overall garden (paths, perimeter, etc.).

Plot Assignment: Based on the number of people interested in participating, garden beds will be allocated for individual or shared use. In the event that we have more applicants than we have space for, we may have to conduct a lottery to fairly allocate available plots.

GARDENING RULES/REGULATIONS:

Rules and regulations are meant to ensure the enjoyment of gardening for all participants.

PICK ONLY WHAT YOU PLANTED.

Maintenance of overall garden: • Keep paths between beds and around garden clear • Pick harvest from plot in a timely manner – avoid rotting produce in your plot! • Put all trash in dumpster, and compost in compost pile only • Straighten fence as needed • Notify garden steward immediately of vandalism, theft or gardening problems

Maintenance of individual beds: • Garden organically (no chemical fertilizers or pesticides) • Pick harvest from plot in a timely manner – avoid rotting produce in your plot! • Keep bed free of weeds and trash • Refrain from growing invasive species (especially in the mint family) □ Keep trellises, etc., in locations that will not shade other plots • Limit bed enclosures (mini fences) to 18" • Clear fences, trellis, etc. from beds by fall garden clean up day

Water Use: • Gardeners are strongly encouraged to use mulch to conserve water • Replace hose when done watering • If water restrictions apply, water only on approved watering days • If using a sprinkler, member MUST be in attendance entire time
Building and Parking Use: • Use Senior Center and Dawn Farm parking spaces sparingly. If using the parkinglot to load or unload garden equipment, use spaces far from building doors, and/or move car promptly after unloading.

Tools and Equipment: • Hoses are communal and should be maintained by all gardeners; the hose should be returned to its designated spot after each use • Other gardening equipment will be supplied by individual participants
Other: • Please make arrangements to have someone tend your plot if you are away for over 5 days • Notify garden steward if you are unable to garden your plot • Pets are not allowed in the garden • Children are very welcome at the garden, but should be accompanied by an adult • All members are expected to participate in the fall garden clean-up

Questions? Contact Jessica Faul (483-4690, jfaul@umich.edu), **Lisa Bashert** (483-6420 or wombbat@umich.edu) or **Lesley Chace** (480-1005 or lesley@ypsisoaplady.com).