



2009 Garden Registration

"Project Grow Community Gardens provide the space, education, and inspiration to make organic gardening accessible to all."

Project Grow is a private non-profit organization that enables urban residents to garden in an environmentally and socially responsible way. We provide community garden plots, education, and other resources to empower adults and children to achieve a higher quality of life through responsible use of soil and plants. Project Grow gardening is a community project that promotes ecological awareness, self-reliance, and a greater understanding among people of different ages and social backgrounds. The Project Grow office is located at the Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, projectgrowgardens.org.

Financial contributors to Project Grow include: the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, community residents and local businesses. Garden plot registration fees only partially cover costs associated with maintaining the garden sites. Project Grow welcomes your tax-deductible donations.

Project Grow is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Executive Director and Garden Activities and Education Coordinator conduct day-to-day business. Each garden has a volunteer Site Coordinator who serves as a vital link between the gardeners and the organization.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please read this registration first. Then fill out the Garden Application and Survey. Don't forget to sign the Gardening Agreement. Mail Application, Survey, and check (payable to Project Grow) to: Project Grow, 1831 Traver Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

RETURNING GARDENERS: The plot you gardened last year will be reserved for you until March 15th, so be sure to return your application form to Project Grow before March 15th.

LOW INCOME GARDENERS: Project Grow wants to make gardening available to everyone regardless of income. Please call (734) 996-3169 if you have questions about our sliding scale fees.

REFUND/CANCELLATION POLICY: Plot registration fees minus a \$5 processing fee will be refunded for cancellations prior to May 15th. No refunds will be given after May 15th.

Garden Site Features for Community Garden Plots

PLOT SIZES: FULL SIZE (approx. 25' x 30') HALF SIZE (approx. 25' x 15').
Both sizes are available at all garden locations.

PLOT TYPES: ANNUAL – These are plowed by Project Grow in the spring and fall.
PERENNIAL – Some sites have a limited number of plots designated as perennial. These are not plowed by Project Grow.

TOOLS: Most sites supply a few gardening tools. Please take care of them.

WATER: Water and hoses are supplied at each site. Please conserve water and take care of the hoses. The cost of water is included in the plot fee.

Garden Site Features for Discovery Garden Plots

PLOT SIZES: All of the Discovery Garden plots are raised container-type beds and most have approx. 24 sq ft. of gardening surface space. The Leslie Science location plots are relatively uniform in circumference, measuring approximately 4'x6'. Plots at the County Farm Park vary considerably but the majority measure 3'x8'.

PLOT TYPES: **EASY ACCESS**– These raised beds are built to accommodate wheelchair bound gardeners. The County Farm Park location has a variety of Easy Access bed styles to choose from. **WISE ROOTS** – The height of these beds vary from two to three feet high and are intended for use by seniors and by those who require minimal bending. Many of the beds at the County Farm Park also have a ledge allowing one to seat while tending the plot. **WONDER SPROUTS** – The height of the beds at the Leslie Science Center are approximately one foot high and are intended for children and their families. Beds at the County Farm Park vary from two foot to three feet high.

TOOLS: Both Discovery Garden sites supply many of the standard gardening tools. Please take care of them.

WATER: Water and hoses are supplied at each site. Please conserve water and take care of the hoses. The cost of water is included in the plot fee.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Your volunteer participation is vital to Project Grow's success! Opportunities are available at each Community Garden site (i.e., plot stake out, maintenance, fall cleanup, composting), at both Discovery Gardens and throughout Project Grow (education, events, newsletter, etc).

LEARN MORE ABOUT GARDENING: Project Grow offers lots of gardening information for new & experienced gardeners in the newsletter, on bulletin boards at the gardens, and at our gardening workshops. We also keep gardeners up-to-date on upcoming events and garden news through our garden email lists and web site projectgrowgardens.org. The Grow office maintains a reference library of garden-related books, periodicals, and supplies of informational handouts.

Gardening & Land Use Policies

Gardeners must employ the organic gardening practices accepted by major organic certification agencies, such as the Organic Crop Improvement Association, in all gardens.

INSECT CONTROL: Synthetic insecticides are prohibited in ALL Project Grow plots. Preferred control methods are: crop rotation, hand picking of insect pests, introduction of predator species, companion planting, soil solarization, and biological controls, e.g. *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a bacterium that controls cabbage worms. As a last resort, natural botanicals, i.e. rotenone and pyrethrum (that break down quickly and do not leave harmful residues in the soil) may be used.

WEED CONTROL: All herbicides are prohibited in ALL Project Grow plots, as they are hazardous to human health, may kill or damage crops, drift into neighboring gardens, and persist in the soil. Hoeing, mulching, and hand weeding are recommended.

DISEASE CONTROL: Most problems can be controlled if you build healthy soil, choose disease-resistant varieties and remove diseased plants from the garden.

ANIMAL CONTROL: Exclusion of animal pests is the recommended and preferred treatment when dealing with animals in garden plots.

FERTILIZERS & SOIL AMENDMENTS: Commercial inorganic fertilizers (i.e. 5-10-5, MiracleGro, etc.) are not permitted. Products of plant or animal origin, i.e. compost, leaf mold, livestock manure, blood and bone meal, cover crops, fish emulsion, kelp meal, liquid seaweed, and commercial organic fertilizers are acceptable. Natural mineral fertilizers, i.e. greensand, granite dust, and ground limestone are also acceptable. Gardeners are strongly urged to add as much organic material (i.e. compost, leaf mold, and manure) as possible to their plots to maintain soil fertility.

PLOT RENTAL: Project Grow does not guarantee that a plot will be available for every applicant. The Project Grow Director has discretion to rent one or more plots to a gardener, based on the availability of plots and gardener's compliance with Gardening and Land Use Policies.

PROHIBITED PLANTS: The following plants may not be grown in any of the gardens without written permission of the Director (list available from the office):

- Invasive species such as mint, comfrey, etc.
- Trees, bushes, or other woody perennials
- Illegal or dangerous plants

PERENNIAL PLOTS: A limited number of plots are available for year-round gardening. These gardens require more attention and care than annual plots, so only gardeners who have gardened at least one year with Project Grow, and who have demonstrated respect for all policies may apply for a perennial plot. Perennial plots must be well maintained throughout the year; non-organic and dead organic material must be removed in the fall. Perennial plants may remain. These plots are not plowed by Project Grow, so perennial gardeners can begin gardening earlier in the season and harvest later into the year.

MEMBERSHIP FEE: Project Grow requires a one time **\$20 membership fee per Community Garden plot**, payable with Registration. Discovery Garden plots do not currently require a membership fee.

Garden Site Locations & Descriptions

AIRPORT: Located near the Ann Arbor Airport, with entry from State Street south of Ellsworth Road. Black loamy soil with a pH of 7.0. Metered city water. 14 plots.

BUHR: Located behind Allen school in Buhr park. 8 plots. Water supplied by Allen school.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Located on the corner of Packard and Golfside Roads on property loaned by Catholic Social Services. Clay loam soil. Water supplied from a hose at the CSS building. There are 10 plots.

COUNTY FARM: Located on Platt Rd. near Washtenaw Ave., in Washtenaw County's 145-acre County Farm Park. Three main sections: Community Garden Section A); Community Garden Section B has loam soil with a pH of 6.8; and Discovery Garden providing raised beds intended for use by children, seniors, and wheelchair bound gardeners. Water provided by the County Parks Department. Approximately 80 Community Garden plots and 30 Discovery Garden plots.

CLAGUE: Located on **Bluett Rd**, on property loaned by Clague Middle School. Clay loam soil with a pH of 7.4. Limited water supplied from a hose at the school and stored in barrels at the garden site. 6 plots.

FOOD GATHERERS: Located off of Carrot Way (nearest cross road Dhu Varren) on the property of Food Gatherers. Soil is somewhat course with clay and a PH of 7.8. Water is provided by a nearby city metered hydrant. 8 plots

GREENVIEW: Located on Greenview St. near Scio Church, on Ann Arbor Public Schools property. Heavy clay (most plots have amended soil) with a pH of 7.4. Metered city water. Approximately 40 plots.

HILLSIDE TERRACE: Located off of Jackson road this garden is located on the property of the Hillside Terrace Retirement Residence. 10 plots. Metered city water.

LAKWOOD: Located at the end of Galake behind Lakewood Elementary School, on school property. Clay loam soil. Water supplied from a hose at the school. 10 plots.

LESLIE SCIENCE: This location hosts a Discovery Garden and is located on the grounds of the Leslie Science Center off of Traver Road. 35 plots.

MITCHELL: Located on property loaned by Mitchell Elementary school on Fernwood. Soil is clay loam. Water supplied from a hose at the school. 6 plots

MATTHAEI: Located on property loaned by the Matthaei Botanical Gardens North Dixboro Road. 20 potential plots, 12 currently worked. Water is supplied by a well at MBG.

Gardening Agreement

(please save for future reference)

As a Project Grow gardener, I agree to:

1. Abide by the *Project Grow Gardening and Land Use Policies*.
2. Take steps to maintain and improve the soil in my plot.
3. Keep my plot and the pathways adjacent to it, well maintained and free of weeds.
4. Notify the Project Grow office immediately if I cannot maintain my plot for any reason during the rental period.
5. Begin gardening in my Community Garden only after plots have been officially staked out in the spring and/or in my Discovery Garden only after plots have been officially assigned in the spring.
6. Clear my community garden plot of all non-organic materials (fencing, large rocks, string, wire, stakes, etc.) and shred or remove all large or woody plant debris, no later than the end of the day on October 18th, 2008. I understand that if my Community Garden plot is left in a condition unsuitable for plowing, or if a perennial plot is left in a condition that does not comply with the perennial policy, or if my Discovery Garden plot is left with either non-organic or organic materials without permission of the site coordinator, I may forfeit the right to garden with Project Grow in the future.
7. Observe the specific guidelines for my garden site (received with plot rental confirmation).
8. Accept that Project Grow assumes no liability for persons/property in the gardens.

Failure to garden in accordance with this Gardening Agreement may result in immediate expulsion from the garden or forfeiture of future right to garden with Project Grow.