

Manchester Community Garden

2016 Garden Guidelines

The community garden, which is sponsored by the Manchester Wellness Coalition and 5 Healthy Towns is located on Manchester Community Schools property between Klager Elementary and the High School, adjacent to the athletic field. Plots are available to residents in the Manchester Community School District. Plots will be available late May for planting.

Contact information is requested for all adults gardening in the community garden. Note – plots can be shared. One person will be the Primary Gardener but all others (who live at a different address) planning to share the garden space should be listed. Water, hoses and some tools will be available at the garden site.

Name of Primary Gardener:	
Name of Other Gardeners:	
Address of Primary Gardener:	
Email of Primary Gardener:	
Email of Other Gardeners:	
Telephone of Primary Gardener:	
Telephone of Other Gardeners:	

There will be three Garden Plot sizes available: Place an "X" next to your choice – or put a number to indicate if you would like multiple plots.

	Description	Cost	Recommendation
	Large plot 20' X 20' tilled garden	\$40	For experienced gardeners anticipating to spend necessary time for weeding and maintaining the garden.
	Medium plot 10'X10' tilled garden	\$15	For gardeners with some experience
	Small raised bed 4' X 4' garden	\$10	For beginner gardeners & those preferring a raised garden area
	Raised bed 4x8 x 4ft high garden	\$20	Garden for those with physical limitations

Or, if you don't want a plot yourself, consider donating to our school gardening program.

	Garden Sponsor	\$40	Help buy supplies for our school program. Volunteers garden with about 100 preschool students and 250 Klager students each year.
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Questions? Contact us at dutchgardenpartner@gmail.com or call 428-9461 and ask for Andy

Dutchgardenpartner@gmail.com

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Plots can be reserved by submitting a check payable to Manchester Community Schools and send to MCS, 410 City Road, Manchester, MI 48158 with this application, or payment can be made when a plot is assigned to the Primary Gardener.

Date Payment Received _____

Please read the following Gardening Agreement and sign below.

As a Manchester Community Garden gardener I agree to...

1. Abide by the Manchester Community Garden gardening guidelines.
2. Take steps to maintain and improve the soil in my plot using organic gardening methods and agree to use only organic gardening methods in my plot.
3. Keep my plot and pathway adjacent to it well maintained and free of weeds. Use of weed block is allowed and encouraged to keep weeds under control. I recognize that if I do not keep my weeds under control I will be given a warning and if there has been no change in two weeks my plot will be weed whipped to prevent light blockage to surrounding plots.
4. Notify one of the garden coordinators (dutchgardenpartner@gmail.com) immediately if I cannot for any reason maintain my plot. Failure to notify may result in forfeiture of the plot.
5. Begin gardening in the community garden only after the garden has been staked out and officially opened.
6. Weigh the produce I harvest on the scale provided at the garden and record the results.
7. Clear my community garden plot of all non-organic material (fencing, rocks, strings, wires, stakes, etc) and shred or remove all woody plant debris no later than the end of the day Saturday, October 18th.
8. Complete a gardening survey at the end of the growing season.
9. Accept that the Manchester Community School and the Manchester Community Garden accepts no liability for persons or property in the garden and to sign this Hold Harmless Agreement.

Signed: Primary Gardener _____

Signed: Other Gardeners: _____

Date: _____

Please mail signed agreement and check made out to Manchester Community School, 410 City Road, Manchester, MI 48158

<input type="checkbox"/>	I would be interested in a mentor on how to start and maintain a garden
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like more information about how to garden organically
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like ideas about how to use a raised bed garden
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am interested getting help with gardening but live too far from this garden area

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Manchester Community Garden hopes you enjoy your community garden experience and would like to encourage you to garden in socially and environmentally responsible ways. Fertilizer and pest control measures which may be used in the garden plots are those which are accepted by major organic certification agencies. In general, soil fertility is maintained by creating optimal conditions for soil biological activity through processes like crop rotations and the maintenance of soil organic content. Judicious use of organic and natural mineral soil amendments is also practiced, and in some cases processed mineral fertilizers may be acceptable for short-term use. Guidelines for permissible gardening practices and land use practices are given below:

Weed Control

Herbicides of any kind are **prohibited** in the garden plots, as they are hazardous to human health, may kill or damage desirable crops, drift into neighboring gardens, or persist in the soil. Hoeing, mulching, and hand weeding are recommended. (e.g., no Round-up can be used).

Insect Control

Synthetic insecticides are **prohibited** in the garden plots. Preferred control methods are crop rotation, hand picking of insect pests, introduction of predator species, such as ladybugs, companion planting, soil solarization, and biological controls, e.g. *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a bacterium that controls cabbage worms. As a last resort, natural botanicals (e.g., rotenone and pyrethrum that break down quickly and do not leave harmful residues in the soil) may be used. (e.g., no Seven dust can be used)

Disease Control

Most problems can be controlled if you maintain a healthy soil, choose disease-resistant varieties, water judiciously, and remove diseased plants from the garden.

Fertilizers and Soil Amendments

Commercial inorganic fertilizers (e.g., 5-1-5, Miracle Grow) are **prohibited**. Products of plant or animal origin (e.g., compost, leaf mold, livestock manure, blood and bone meal, cover crop, fish emulsion, kelp meal, liquid seaweed and commercial organic fertilizers are acceptable. Natural mineral fertilizers (e.g., greensand, granite dust, ground limestone) are also acceptable. Gardeners are strongly urged to add as much organic material (e.g., compost, leaf mold, and manure) as possible to their plots to maintain soil fertility.

Non-acceptable Plants

Manchester Community Garden cannot allow plants with the following characteristics to be grown in any of the gardens:

- Invasive species (e.g., mint, comfrey)
- Trees, bushes or other woody perennials
- Illegal or dangerous plants

Watering the garden areas

Abide by the directions and rules for watering.

End of Season Community Garden Closing Information

1. Remove all fencing, cages, stakes, string, plastics and all other non-organic material from your garden and take them home with you. Do not place trash in water barrels. Remove rock borders and large rocks and put them in designated rock piles.
2. Pull out all plants that have tough stalks or long vines, such as sunflowers, corn, pumpkins, etc., and cut them into 12 inch pieces. These can be spread around your site, to be plowed under later in the fall. Similarly, chop all non-infected plant materials into 12 inch pieces and spread around your plot. Please do not leave them in piles or throw them outside the garden perimeter. If you have un-used bales of straw, spread them throughout your plot.
3. Remove all tomatoes and diseased or once infected materials from your plot and discard **at home**.

Parking and Land Use at Garden Site

1. Park vehicles only in designated areas
2. Dogs and other pets are not permitted at the garden site
3. Please remove and dispose of all trash at home
4. Hours of Operation are dawn to dusk