

Manchester Community Garden

Application and Plot Guidelines

The community garden, built with funds from 5 Healthy Towns Foundation, is located on Manchester Community School property between Klager Elementary and the High School, adjacent to the athletic field. This is a project maintained by the Manchester Mens' Club

The garden opens around Memorial weekend and closes around November 1st. Watering is done on a timer. ***We highly recommend the use of UV stabilized weed block pinned down between rows. UV weed block is meant for gardens, regular weed block is meant to be covered by mulch and “dissolves: when in the sun in a few weeks.*** UV weed block can be used multiple years

Contact information

Name Gardeners	
Email of Gardeners	
Telephone of Gardeners:	

There will be four Garden Plot sizes available: Place an “X” next to your choice – or put a number to indicate if you would like multiple plots. We are buying weed block and pins in bulk if you’d like to add that to your

	Description	Cost
	Large plot 20’ X 20’ tilled garden	\$50
	Large Plot 20 x 20’ + 60 ft of weed block + 60 pins	\$75
	Medium plot 10’X10’ tilled garden	\$25
	Medium Plot 10 ‘ x 10” tilled garden + 40 ft weed block +40 pins	\$40
	Small raised bed 4’ X 4’ garden	\$15
	Raised bed 4x8 x 4ft high garden	\$30
	Extra 20 ft of weed block + 20 pins	\$8

	I would like to donate to the Community & School garden Project which provides gardening education to students, free plots to CRC clients, repairs for gardens I am donating \$ _____
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Contact the Garden Coordinators: Dutchgardenpartner@gmail.com,
call or text 734-323-4640.

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Questions? Contact us at dutchgardenpartner@gmail.com or call Ruth 734-323-4640

Plots can be reserved by submitting a check payable to **Manchester Community Schools** with this application and a signed copy of the 2nd page.

Send Application and check to Ruth VanBogelen, 680 Wald Strasse, Manchester, MI 48158

Contact the Garden Coordinators: Dutchgardenpartner@gmail.com,
call 734-428-9461 or call or text 734-323-4640.

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Please read the following Gardening Agreement and sign below.

Gardening Agreement

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 understand that if I don't not keep weeds under control, I will be given one (1) warning by email or letter (USPS) . If I have not taken care of weeds within 2 weeks of this warning I understand my plot will be weed whipped to prevent light blockage and weed seed spreading to other 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. 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 November 1, 2019.
7. Complete a gardening survey at the end of the growing season.
8. 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.
9. I understand that if I leave water running at the garden plot when I am not there, I will be charged \$25 per incident. I understand that watering of the garden is done with automatic timers which are set to provide sufficient water to the garden plots. Manual water should rarely be needed.

NOTICE: This project pays for Village Water so it is VERY IMPORTANT not to leave water running. And if you see a leak contact us immediately at 734-428-9461 or 734-323-4640.

Signed: Primary Gardener _____

Signed: Other Gardeners: _____

_____ --

Date: _____

Please mail signed application and this agreement and check made out to Manchester Community School, 710 E. Main St., Manchester, MI 48158

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PLOT RULES AND GUIDELINES:

Fertilizer and pest control measures which may be used in the garden plots are those which are accepted by major organic certification agencies. 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). Power tools such as a rototiller are allowed

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, row cover 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

Watering is done with timers to all areas of the garden. If you need extra water, garbage cans with water is available and a manual watering method is available.

NOTICE: This project pays for Village Water so it is VERY IMPORTANT not to leave water running. And if you see a leak, contact us immediately at 734-428-9461 or 734-323-4640 .

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., should be removed from the garden. All tomatoes and diseased or once infected materials from your plot and discard **at home** or put on the off-site compost pile. A compost pile for these items is available just south of the garden behind a gravel pile.

Parking and Land Use at Garden Site

1. Make sure gates are all closed when you leave the garden

2. Dogs and other pets are not permitted within the gardens.
3. Please remove and dispose of all trash at home
4. Hours of Operation are dawn to dusk

Contact the Garden Coordinators: Dutchgardenpartner@gmail.com,
call 734-428-9461 or call or text 734-323-4640.