

2017 COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

Recreation Park, Midtown, & Normal Park 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.
- Normal Park Community Garden: Located behind the former Ypsi Middle School 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 Normal Park gardens are asked to register by **March 15, 2017** for gardening space. Registration forms are available at the Ypsilanti Senior Center, on the NPNA website (www.normalpark.org) or by contacting one of the following garden stewards. Forms may also be turned in to these individuals.

Midtown: Tanya Andrews (tanya@growinghope.net) or Erica Bloom (erica@growinghope.net)

Recreation Park: Jamie Berlin (207-381-6055, jberlinn@gmail.com)

Normal Park: Jessica Faul (734-483-4690, jfaul@umich.edu)

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. The fee is due at the time of registration. Each person or family registering for a plot will be assigned to their choice of half or full plot; multiple families may share one plot. Registration fees pay for ongoing garden maintenance needs such as repairs, compost, hoses, stakes, lawn bags and other supplies. Checks should be made payable to Growing Hope with "plot fee" 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 occasional meetings and work parties, 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 and email.

Garden Stewards: Garden stewards are volunteers who help manage the gardens, usually with the participation of a garden council. Stewards plan and run community garden meetings, help troubleshoot problems, etc. Members are encouraged to serve on the garden council or as a steward 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. 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. In addition, **8 volunteer hours** per year are required at work parties and helping to tend the PAR plot, as described below.

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 conduct a lottery to fairly allocate available plots.

GARDENING RULES/REGULATIONS:

PICK ONLY WHAT YOU PLANTED.

Building and parking use: • Use lot parking spaces sparingly. If using the parking lot to load or unload garden equipment, use spaces far from building doors, and/or move car promptly after unloading.

Maintenance of individual plots: • Planting may begin after Early Bird Work Day (usually in mid-April)—your plot **MUST** be planted by **June 10, 2017** • Garden organically (no chemical fertilizers or pesticides) • Keep plot of weeds and trash • Refrain from growing invasive species (especially in the mint family) • Pick produce from your plot in a timely manner – avoid rotting vegetables in your plot! • If veggies go unharvested for more than two weeks, expect that they may be donated to Food Gatherers • Make arrangements with the Garden Plot-Sitter if you will be out of town for more than one week • Keep trellises, etc., in locations that will not shade other plots • Limit plot enclosures (mini fences) to 18" • Clear fences, trellis, etc. from beds by fall Closing Day (usually the end of October).

Care and protection of community garden: • Keep paths between plots and around garden clear • Pick harvest from plot in a timely manner – avoid rotting vegetables in your plot! • Put all trash in dumpster, and compost in compost pile only • Members of the community garden are required to spend a minimum of 8 hours over the gardening season to maintaining the PAR plots and the overall garden (paths, perimeter, etc.), as follows: **members are expected to participate in the Early Bird Work Day in April or Opening Day in May, fall Closing Day in October AND sign up for at least one Work Party during the season. In addition, every member may be assigned to tend the PAR plot (weeding, watering, and harvesting) for one week during the summer.**

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: • Notify garden steward if you are unable to plant your plot by **June 10** • Pets are not allowed in the garden • Children are very welcome at the garden, but should be accompanied by an adult.

Unauthorized picking: • It is in the nature of a garden open to the public that some unauthorized picking will take place – expect it • Please report serious problems with theft to the garden steward • If you find someone picking, ask them to stop and explain that plots are rented by families.

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.

Questions? Contact **Jessica Faul** (483-4690, jfaul@umich.edu) or **Jamie Berlin** (207-381-6055, jberlinn@gmail.com).