

# 2024 COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

## Recreation Park, Midtown, & Normal Park Community Gardens

Welcome to Organic Community Gardening in Ypsilanti!

Names & locations of nearby gardens open to the public as rented community garden space:

- Midtown Community Garden (MCG): All raised beds, near the corner of Congress & Normal St.
- Recreation Park Community Garden (RPCG): behind the Ypsilanti Senior Center on Congress St.
- Normal Park Community Garden (NPCG): behind Washtenaw International HS 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, MCG or NPCG gardens are asked to register by **March 31, 2024** for plots. Registration forms are available at the Ypsilanti Senior Center, on the NPNA website ([www.normalpark.org](http://www.normalpark.org)) or by contacting one of the following garden stewards. Forms may also be turned in to these individuals.  
MCG: Roberta Andrews • [robertawandrews@hotmail.com](mailto:robertawandrews@hotmail.com) • 734-891-1988  
RPCG: Lisa Bashert • 734-255-0592 • Mary Burton [mjburtruss@hotmail.com](mailto:mjburtruss@hotmail.com) • Megan Shipley [megan.shipley1@gmail.com](mailto:megan.shipley1@gmail.com)  
NPCG: Julia Grover • [JuliaGrover111@gmail.com](mailto:JuliaGrover111@gmail.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. The fee is due at the time of registration. Each person or family registering for a plot will be assigned 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 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, troubleshoot 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.

Volunteer Hours: All gardens participate in the “Plant a Row for the Hungry” (PAR) program. Extra produce from the community garden (or from a dedicated plot) will be collected for PAR regularly; all produce harvested will be donated to Food Gatherers or the Senior Center. In addition, **8 volunteer hours per summer** are required at work parties and helping to organize the PAR donation.

Plot Assignment: Based on the number of people interested in participating, garden beds will be allocated for individual or shared use. Returning gardeners get first pick. 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 15, 2024** • ALL GARDENS ARE ORGANIC (no chemical fertilizers or pesticides) • Keep plot free of weeds, plastic, and trash • Refrain from growing invasive species (especially in the mint family) • Pick produce in a timely manner – avoid rotting vegetables in your plot! • If veggies go unharvested for more than two weeks, expect that they may be picked and donated • Make arrangements with a 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 in the fall by Closing Day (usually in October).

Care and protection of community garden: • Keep all garden paths and around your plot clear & weeded • Keep plots harvested – rotting vegetables in your plot attract negative attention! • 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 summer to caring for the garden common areas (paths, borders, etc.), as follows: **members are expected to participate in (1) the Early Bird Work Day scheduled in early spring, (2) Closing Day in October AND (3) at least one Work Party during the season. In addition, (4) every member may be asked to organize the PAR donation once during the summer.**

Tools and equipment: • Hoses are communal • Please make sure the hose is neatly returned to its designated spot after each use • Other gardening equipment will be supplied by individual participants.

Other: • Notify a garden steward if you are unable to plant your plot by **June 15** • Pets are not allowed in the garden • Children are very welcome at the garden, but must 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 a garden steward • If you find someone picking, ask them to stop, to leave any veggies already picked, and explain that plots are rented by individual families.

Water Use: • Gardeners are strongly encouraged to use mulch to conserve water • Replace hose when done watering • If you are able, use rainwater from the water tank to lessen the cost of city water • If using a sprinkler, member **MUST** be in attendance the entire time.

Questions? Contact your **Garden Stewards** at individual sites (above, under Registration & Fees).