GREATER LANSING
foodbank
GARDEN PROJECT

2015 Lansing Area

Community Garden

Resource Guide

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GREATER LANSING foodbank GARDEN PROJECT

Preface

Community gardens have the potential to improve quality of life by beautifying neighborhoods, bringing people together, and spurring community development. They provide fresh, healthy food—even in areas that lack access to fruits and vegetables—allowing families to grow high quality food for very little money. Gardening enables new generations to learn where food comes from, conserves natural resources, and creates opportunities for exercise, therapy, recreation, and more.

For all of these reasons, The Garden Project of the Greater Lansing Food Bank wants to continue our efforts to support and catalyze community and school gardens in the greater Lansing area, as we have been doing since 1983. We have compiled this guide in order to share our knowledge of local resources, as well as to recognize the tremendous resources throughout our community that can be found with a bit of creativity and determination.

Please note many of the resources compiled in this guide were provided during our Garden Leaders Training sessions. See the *How to Start and Run a Community Garden* section for more information on Garden Leaders Training. We recognize that new resources might emerge and listed resources may disappear; we welcome your input to improve this guide. We have tried to check with many of the sources we cite. **However, we make no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information or whether each resource is still in operation as described. We advise calling to confirm these resources.**

We're glad to see your interest in community gardening, please let us know if you have questions or comments.

The Garden Project Staff

The Garden Project of the Greater Lansing Food Bank
(517) 853-7809 | gardenproject@greaterlansingfoodbank.org
www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org
www.facebook.com/TheGardenProject

What is a community garden?

Any piece of land gardened by a group of people.

"It can be urban, suburban, or rural. It can grow flowers, vegetables or community. It can be one community plot, or can be many individual plots. It can be at a school, hospital, or in a neighborhood. It can also be a series of plots dedicated to "urban agriculture" where the produce is grown for a market."

—American Community Gardening Association

How to Start and Run a Community Garden

The Garden Project

The Garden Project of the Greater Lansing Food Bank offers **Garden Leaders Training Sessions** each year that provide much of the basic information needed to start a new garden or step up at an existing garden. The Garden Project may also be available to provide consultation and support such as plants, tilling, workshops, and more to new gardens that are forming in Ingham, Eaton, Clinton , Clare, Isabella, Shiawassee & Gratiot Counties.
gardenproject@greaterlansingfoodbank.org
(517) 853-7809
www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org

A hands-on exercise during Garden Leaders Training.

Start-Up Guides

Please note: This guide is intended to provide ideas and listings of local resources; it is not a full community garden start-up guide. We took this focus, in part, because there are a number of excellent resources produced in other communities that can provide a step-by-step framework for starting new gardens; a few of them are listed below.

University of Missouri Extension—*Community Gardening Toolkit*
(573) 882-7216 | extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=MP906

Gardening Matters—*Twin Cities: Community Start-Up Guide*
(612) 492-8964 | www.gardeningmatters.org/sites/default/files/startupguide.pdf

American Community Gardening Association—*Community Garden Start-up Resources*
(877) ASK-ACGA (275-2242) | https://communitygarden.org/resources/community-garden-start-up-resources/

University of California Cooperative Extension—*10 Steps to Starting a Community Garden*
(323) 260-3407 | https://communitygarden.org/resources/10-steps-to-starting-a-community-garden/

Other Gardeners
Others who have gardens in your area or elsewhere can be a valuable source of information. If there is a garden club or association in your area, consider approaching them.

Neighborhood Organizations
It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with some organizations in your neighborhood. Doing so can provide countless resources: from volunteers to potential funding options and more.

Neighbors
Make sure you reach out to folks who might be interested in your garden, particularly those that are in eye-sight of the garden. Some of these people might bring experience from other communities or other projects that can benefit your garden planning process. Others may be able to provide anything from tools to keeping a watchful eye over the garden when no one else is around.

Community Gardens are about Community
Unfortunately, we have seen too many that have not reached their full potential because the garden has rested on the shoulders of only one or two individuals. **We strongly encourage there to be a group involved from the beginning stages of forming a vision right through the process of gardening**. The most successful gardens involve a group or community of people in the planning, building, seeding, and harvesting of the garden.

Members of the leadership team at Mt. Zion All Nations Bible Church's Eden project address gardeners and volunteers at their harvest celebration.

"A dream you dream alone is only a dream.

A dream you dream together is reality."

—John Lennon

Garden leaders working together to harvest the garden.

Land and Liability

Potential Sources of Community Garden Land

- Municipally owned property (i.e. parks)
- Churches
- School district property
- County treasurer (foreclosed properties) See *Ingham County Land Bank* below
- Private landowners (ask them or contact The Garden Project for leads)

Ingham County Land Bank (ICLB)

The Ingham County Land Bank manages hundreds of properties throughout the Lansing area, including over 150 vacant lots available for gardening and beautification. The list of vacant properties can be accessed by contacting ICLB.

Current Use of the Site:

One important thing to consider is how the site is currently used. Putting a community garden at the edge of a baseball diamond that is still used will not work; however, putting a community garden in a park that has a surplus of open space and does not seem to be frequented for play or paths might work really well.

ICLB is able to lease the parcels for a small annual fee, provided you perform year-round care of the property. The land bank may also be able to provide the gardeners with some resources.

ICLB Garden Program Coordinator John Krohn:
(517) 267-5221 | jkrohn@ingham.org

Orchard Court Community Garden sits on an ICLB parcel.

Negotiating Land/Lease Agreements

The Garden Project can help in negotiating land agreements. We have simple leases that we use with private landowners and have negotiated land agreements with municipalities and other public entities in regards to the use of community garden space.

Liability Insurance

This is sometimes a concern of landowners in thinking about allowing community gardening on their site or sometimes with people involved in running a program that do not want to incur individual liability. Typically, opening a liability policy will run $500–$1,000 for a community garden.

The Garden Project maintains a liability policy for a number of the gardens we work with and if the goals of a new garden fit within our scope of work we may be able to add additional gardens on to our policy.

ELF garden was formed with the help of The Garden Project negotiating a land agreement.

Policy

Policy and gardening do in fact go hand in hand. Policy impacts where we can grow food and install gardens, how we go about entering into lease agreements, whether gardens on public property are protected, and many more aspects of community gardening. We encourage you to look over these resources and think about ways to impact policies to further your garden and the gardening/good food movement in your area.

Urban Tilth—Policies, initiatives, and information to grow urban foodsheds
www.urbantilth.org/our-projects/public-policy

Gardening Matters—Research and Public Policies
(community gardening, advocacy, research, and public policies)
www.gardeningmatters.org/resources/read

National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity—
Seeding the City: Land Use Policies to Promote Urban Agriculture
http://changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/Urban_Ag_SeedingTheCity_FINAL_%28CLS_20120530%29_20111021_0.pdf

ACGA—*Take Action; Advocacy*
https://communitygarden.org/programs/advocacy/

NeighborSpace—Find great ideas and resources for engaging more local support for your community garden or park
http://neighbor-space.org/guidebook-for-neighborspace-gardeners/

Public Health Law Center– *Community Garden Policy Reference Guide*
http://publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/PHLC%20Community%20Garden%20Policy%20Guide%202012_0.pdf

Okemos International Garden
uses 55 gallon drums to store water &
burlap bags to smother weeds

Funding

City of Lansing Mayor's Grants
These grants are aimed at giving neighborhood and community groups money for projects that enhance the community. Typically submissions are due by late January, with money dispersed in spring. They offer training on how to complete applications if you are new to grant writing. In 2014, the maximum amount that could be applied for was $650 per grant. We encourage you to write your own grant directly. We can help you get your grant ready in a number of ways, including providing examples from previous years.
http://www.lansingneighborhoods.com/ (Go to Programs -> Mayor's Grants)

Home Depot, Lowes, Target, and Other Stores
In the past, these stores have considered requests for funding or gift cards for community organizations. Don't be afraid to contact other stores in your area. Many companies commit to donating a certain amount of money or supplies to local groups each year and wait to be contacted. Submit your request early in the year and give yourself plenty of time as this can be a lengthy process that may require some persistent follow-up.

Michigan Nutrition Network (MNN)
Several youth programs that focus on gardens and nutrition have received MNN funding. Please note that this funding can cover program expenses such as staffing, but little in the way of gardening supplies.
http://www.michigannutritionnetwork.org/

Fiskars
The Project Orange Thumb grant offers up to $2,000 worth of tools and other garden related materials. http://www2.fiskars.com/Community/Project-Orange-Thumb

We encourage you to first think about what you need funding to purchase. Sometimes it is easier to seek in-kind donations of the specific items you need. For example, you could approach a hardware store for a donation of tools or solicit community donations of used tools. These methods can often be more fruitful and productive than working to get funds to purchase tools. That said, funding may sometimes be necessary and the following are potential resources.

Grants.gov
This is a free, easy-to-use website that allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all federal grant-making agencies.
www.grants.gov

There are a variety of other funding resources not included here. If you would like to discuss a specific project you are looking to fund, we would be glad to help you access other resources.

Capital Region Community Foundation
Offers several grant opportunities including those that fund capital improvements. Their main granting cycle requires submissions in April. They also have several special funds; one is for projects that benefit 12–18 year olds and involve them in the grant process through their Youth Action Committee (YAC) with grants accepted in February. Another is a mini-grant specifically for teachers to fund environmentally focused projects, such as gardens, and is due in the fall.
(517) 272-2870 | www.crcfoundation.org

KidsGardening.org
A website that lists a number of grants for youth gardening projects with deadlines that range throughout the year. They also maintain an electronic newsletter you can sign up for that includes a lot of great information, including new grant announcements.
www.kidsgardening.org/grants-and-awards

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
SARE strives for "an enduring American agriculture of the highest quality...by investing in groundbreaking research and education." They offer a variety of grants along with providing a lot of other information on their website.
www.sare.org/grants

Other
The Garden Project is a member of the American Community Gardening Association and regularly gets updates on different charitable giving programs and corporate sponsorships. We will send out those that look promising to garden leaders if they are interested in trying to apply for funding.

Including Our Neighbors grant advisory committee meeting.

School Garden Grants

National Farm to School Network
This lists funding opportunities. The link below is the link to their Michigan page. Resources and other information can be found by clicking on "Michigan Resources."
http://www.farmtoschool.org/our-network/Michigan
http://foodsystems.msu.edu/activity/info/farm_to_school

Grant Wrangler Funding Directory
A free grants listing service that makes it easy for teachers to find funding. To see the full list of funding opportunities, and to subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter, visit the link here: www.grantwrangler.com

Don't forget to seek local sources of funding and in-kind support for your school garden project. Many projects work by creatively using school budgets and partnering with community members and businesses for donations and grant support. Please note that some of these are national and highly competitive.

National Education Association
NEA grants provide opportunities for teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff to engage in high-quality professional development and lead their colleagues in professional growth.
www.neafoundation.org

Toshiba America Foundation Grants
The Toshiba America Foundation seeks to support projects designed by classroom teachers to improve K–12 science and mathematics education. As many as 75 grants of up to $1,000 each will be awarded to K–5 classrooms, and many more, some as high as $25,000, will be awarded to grades 6–12. Application deadlines: Oct. 1 for K–5; year round for 6–12 projects under $5,000; and Feb. 1 and Aug. 1 for 6–12 projects over $5,000.
http://www.toshiba.com/taf/

Soil Related

MSU Soil Testing

This is a local source that provides testing for nutrients, pH levels, and more for around $12–17. **Check with The Garden Project as we often have free test kits available for area community gardens.**
(517) 355-0218 | http://www.msusoiltest.com/
**There are also home soil test kits available at hardware stores for purchase.

University of Massachusetts Amherst Soil Testing

A standard soil test costs $10 and includes pH levels, many nutrients, heavy metals, and more. This would be an especially important test if you aren't sure what was located on your site in the past. Heavy metals, such as lead, are a serious concern at some sites, especially if children will be gardening or eating produce from the garden.
(413) 545-2311 |
https://soiltest.umass.edu/ordering-information

Make Your Own Compost

Producing compost on-site is one of the best ways to ensure a sustainable supply of rich compost as a way to make your soil healthier. Bins can easily be made or purchased. Consider shipping pallets, salvaged wood, garbage cans, existing fencing, and concrete blocks or urbanite. You can also purchase an Earth Machine or similar backyard composting container. Even if you don't have a backyard, you can still easily produce quality compost. Vermicomposting, or composting with red wiggler worms, is a simple way to compost with little to no odor or pest concerns. There are many resources online to help design a compost system that will work for you. www.HowtoCompost.org is a good place to start.

Prospect Place Pocket of Peace Community Garden's compost bins.

MSU Compost

Compost is available through the MSU Surplus Store. Trucking is not provided by MSU. For more information about the MSU Surplus Store, including contact information, please see the *Building Materials* section.

Before You Start You Should Know

Soil amendments are generally sold or donated by the yard. One yard is equal to about the amount one pickup can carry or 8-10 full wheelbarrow loads. This applies to relatively light materials such as compost or woodchips. Expect to carry about half as much in a pickup with heavy materials such as soil or gravel.

Landscaping and Lawn Service Companies

Contact a local landscaping or lawn service company to see if they have an excess of leaves in the fall. You may do these companies a favor by taking material that they normally pay to dispose of. Look in a phone book, check local listings, or consider making a posting on a website such as lansing.craigslist.org under farm and garden services.

Local Stables

If you know of local horse farms or stables, it is worth checking into whether they have aged manure available; you will probably want manure that has been aged at least one year (more is better) as fresh manure might "burn" your plants with its abundance of nitrogen. It is also good to ask whether they might be able to help you load a truck if they have a tractor.

Straw and Hay Bales

These are usually available to purchase from farms in outlying areas or at times through The Garden Project for approximately $2.50-$3.00 per bale. We may also set up a larger bulk purchase, so please let us know if you are looking to get some and we may be able to coordinate the purchase.

Burlap Bags

You might find a variety of uses for 2x3 foot burlap bags in your garden; from lining pathways to covering composted materials. Paramount Coffee is one local company that may be able to provide used burlap bags for your garden. Garden Project often has their bags available to share. Let us know how many you need; we may be able to deliver!
Paramount Coffee: (517) 372-5500 | 130 N. Larch St., Lansing

Professional Trucking

Many trucking companies are available; check the Craigslist website and the phone book for listings. They often offer large scale trucking that starts at $200 and moves forty yards of material (sometimes to multiple sites). You can also request smaller loads, with just a couple yards of compost. (But then often the delivery fee will cost more than the compost itself.)

5 yards of compost being delivered to the GP Demonstration Garden.

Tree Services, Municipalities, Road Commissions and Waste Management

Tree service companies will often provide woodchips free of charge if they can conveniently dump at your site. Expect to get about 5–9 yards when they empty their truck of chips. Please note we do not recommend using wood chips on the garden area but rather on pathways, around raised beds, and around ornamental areas. If you need a smaller amount, let us know and we may be able to find a pile you can collect from.

Smith Tree & Landscape Services
(517) 321-3553 | www.smithtree.com
Mike's Tree Services
(517) 712-6464 | mikestreeservices.com
Eagle Lawn & Landscape
(517) 819- 2284
Cronkright's Tree Services
(517) 393-4301
Dollar Tree Service
(517) 882-1552
Majestic Tree Service
(517) 669-7311 | www.majestictree.com

Note: This is not a comprehensive list of area tree services, but rather a small sample. Try an online search for "Lansing Tree Service" and see which ones are nearest you.

Curbside Yard Waste

The City of Lansing recycling coordinator reminds us that once yard waste is brought to the curb it is in the public right of way and is fair game for taking. Pick up brown bags of leaves from your neighbors or others. Mix it together with your compost, lay it on the ground for actively composting mulch, or use it to put your garden to bed in the fall. Grass clippings may also be useful to collect curbside, but be aware that you do not want to use clippings from lawns that have been treated with chemicals. So, be wary of collecting them curbside unless you know the person does not treat their lawn.

Mason Elevator Co.

This company sells non-organic products such as fifty pound bags of triple phosphate, as well as some organic amendments like alfalfa meal. Also, they provide cover crop seeds.
(517) 676-1016 | 104 South Lansing Street, Mason

Also see Horrocks, Superior Growers Supply, and Van Atta's in the *Seeds and Plants* section.

Water

Water is a vitally important resource to help ensure gardening success. Responsible and conservative use of water will help limited water supplies go further and will also benefit your plants.

Low-cost/Low-tech Water Options

- Mulch heavily to hold in the rain and soil moisture.
- Build up the organic matter in the soil to act as a sponge.
- Have gardeners haul water from home in containers.
- Create a rain harvesting system with tarps and funnel into barrels. Look online for additional rain harvesting ideas.
- Use rain barrels to collect water from an adjacent building.
- Learn watering strategies to conserve water: soil shaping, deep infrequent watering, etc.

Northwind Community Garden rain water catchment.

Sources of Rain Barrels/Water Storage

- Garden Project often has 55 gallon barrels available. Contact us.
- Look on www.craigslist.com.
- Also, try www.freecycle.org, car washes, and food processing businesses.
- There is usually a rain barrel sale hosted by Regional Recycling Coordinating Committee in May. They are Systern brand rain barrels "$120 value for only $49 (tax included)." For more information, please call: (517) 483-4400 or visit: www.lansingrecycles.com.
- DeWitt Barrel sells reconditioned 250 gallon "IBC" totes for $100-$150.
- For general rain catchment instructions, please go to the following link: http://www.wikihow.com/Build-a-Rainwater-Collection-System

More Permanent Solutions

- See if a neighbor is willing to donate water.
- Pay for a meter separator to meter water from an adjacent house or building that has an established water service. We think this might run about $500, but we advise checking with Board of Water and Light or your local water authority to verify.
- Rent an RPZ attachment for the gardening months that allows connection to a nearby hydrant that will allow filling of barrels. Cost is approximately $40–50 per month plus a $250 equipment deposit.
- Establish a water hook up for the garden—usually starts at about $3,000 to connect from municipal water lines.

Seeds and Plants

The Garden Project Resource Center

Your source for seeds! We also have transplants as they become available, usually around Memorial Day but potentially earlier, including cool season crops. Seeds and plants are available to all Garden Project community gardeners and to income-eligible home gardeners in the seven counties we serve. Contact us to register or to see if you are eligible.
517-853-7809 | www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org
(click on *The Garden Project* and then *Resources*)

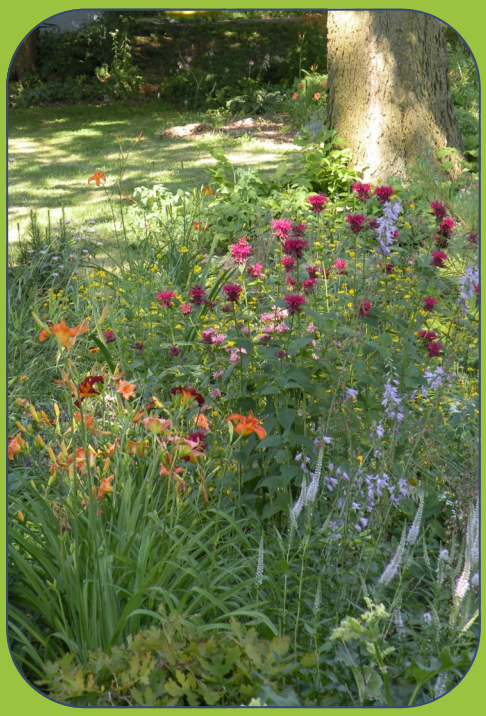
Gardeners select seeds and transplants at the Garden Project Resource Center in Foster Park.

Location: 2401 Marcus St., Lansing, MI 48912
The Resource Center is in Foster Park, at the corner of Marcus and Foster on Lansing's east side. Foster Park is on Kalamazoo St. at Foster St. (between US-127 and Clemens [Aurelius] and between Kalamazoo and Marcus streets). The Resource Center is a beige pair of buildings at the south end of the park.

Availability: The Resource Center typically opens in mid-April with one to four shifts per week depending on the month. Since hours change as the season progresses, please call or visit our website for up to date information. Also, the Resource Center is available by appointment.

The Garden Project Demonstration Garden & annual Perennial Exchange

Contact The Garden Project if you'd like some perennials from the Demonstration Garden during the spring. The Perennial Exchange, where you can select and swap many plants, is typically held in September.



Perennials at the GP Demonstration Garden.

Local Farmer's Markets

Growers often bring herbs, flowers, and vegetables starts in the spring to local farmer's markets. These will be favorite, tried & tested varieties that they can share growing tips on. Always great to ask a farmer!

Local Nurseries

- Horrocks sells various nursery plants, products, soil amendments, and more.
  (517) 323-3782 | 7420 W. Saginaw, Lansing

- Van Atta's sells various nursery plants, products, soil amendments, and more.
  They also offer classes and workshops.
  (517) 339-0182 | 9008 Old M-87, Haslett

Natives & Perennials

Visiting local plant sales are a great source for plants that will thrive in our zone 5 climate.

Eaton Conservation District | http://www.eatoncd.org/plant-sales.html
Wild Ones Mid-Michigan Native Plant Sale | http://www.wildoneslansing.org
MSU Horticulture Department Plant Sale | http://www.hrt.msu.edu/plant-sale-201/
Wild Type Plants in Mason | http://www.wildtypeplants.com/

Seed Suppliers

- Johnny's Selected Seeds is an employee-owned company that provides quality seeds and focuses on sustainable practices.
  (877) 564-6697 | www.johnnyseeds.com

- Some other favorites include: Annie's Heirloom Seeds, Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, Fedco, High Mowing, Kitazawa, Livingston Seed, Pinetree Garden Seeds, Redwood Seed Company, Seed Saver's Exchange, Terrior Seeds & local hardware stores, like Haslett True Value.

Superior Growers Supply

This company provides specialized equipment for seed starting, indoor gardening, and lots of different fertilizers. They have many locations including those listed below.
(517) 332-3688 | 4870 Dawn Ave., East Lansing
(517) 327-1900 | 3928 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing
(517) 393-1600 | 5716 South Pennsylvania Avenue, Lansing
www.superiorgrowers.com

More Seed & Supplier List:

http://ce.ingham.org/Horticulture/SeedsSupplies.aspx

Tools and Equipment

The Garden Project Resource Center

The Resource Center offers a wide variety of gardening tools and equipment for registered gardeners to borrow. Check our website for current seasonal Resource Center hours and list of items available. www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org/programs/the-garden-project/resources/

Garage Sales and Neighbors

Encourage folks cleaning out their garage to donate to your project. Garage sales, estate sales, craigslist, etc. may also be likely places to find garden implements.

Greater Lansing Housing Coalition Mobile Tool Tending Library

Ingham County residents can rent a wide variety of garden, hand and power tools (chainsaws, tillers, drills, etc.) for a minimal deposit– they even deliver!
(517) 372-5980 | www.glhc.org

Tilling

- The Garden Project may be able to provide tractor or walk behind roto-tiller land preparation on a case-by-case basis. **Ask us if you're looking for tilling help.**
- Borrowing/renting a tiller is a possibility. Check with neighbors or neighborhood rental stores (e.g. Haslett Tru-Value—(517) 339-2829).
- Contractors are available to do tilling for a fee; a few are listed below.
  - **Floyd Stokes Jr.** (517) 214-6504
  - **Frosty Acres, Brandon Blain** (517) 896-4188
  - **Knott & Sons Landscape** (517) 694-7502
  - **Land Art Landscaping, Mike Rizzo** (517) 643-0005

On a case-by-case basis, the Garden Project can help smaller community gardens with tilling in the spring.

Building Materials

MSU Surplus Store
This store carries all sorts of stuff that MSU is getting rid of. From farm and garden equipment to raised bed materials to shelving and building materials—you name it, they might have it. Often after spring semester they have good deals on wood from lofts that are useful for raised beds and other building projects.
(517) 355-0364
468 Green Way, East Lansing
www.msusurplusstore.com

Loads of loft lumber.

Viewing Hours— Noon to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
Sale Hours— 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday &
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Friday

Habitat ReStore
Habitat Restore carries a variety of donated home repair and maintenance items. They regularly carry lumber, doors, windows, cabinets, paint, and have been known to carry things like "trex"/plastic lumber, compost, and more. Here are several locations:

Lansing ReStore
(517) 374-6235 | 1941 Benjamin Drive, Lansing
http://lansing.habitatrestores.org/

Clinton County ReStore
(989) 227-0000 | 2352 N. US 27, St. Johns
http://habitatclinton.org/the-restore/

Lansing Haslett ReStore
(517) 999-0488 | 1605 Haslett Rd, Haslett

Williamston ReStore
(517) 655-1872 | 954 E. Grand River, Williamston
http://www.inghamhabitat.org/restore/

Community
Don't forget to reach out to your community for resources. As always, asking neighbors, local businesses, and generally being aware of resources in your community will get you a long way, no matter what project you are working on in your community garden.

Mid-Michigan ReUseIt Network and Freecycle Network
Members of these e-mail lists offer a wide variety of items for free. You can also post for wanted items. | https://groups.freecycle.org/group/LansingMI/posts/all

Fencing
Fencing is site specific and options depend on what type of critters need to be excluded. The Garden Project has had experience helping with the installation of many types of fencing; from bunny fences, to tenax/polypropylene, from to woven wire, to electric. Some companies to check out include, A.M. Leonard (www.amleo.com), Gemplers (www.gemplers.com), Premier 1 (www.premier1supplies.com) and Tractor Supply Company, which has several locations in the area. Call the Garden Project and we will talk over options.

*** Remember, a central rule of fencing is that they are a barrier, not a deterrent.**

Tenax used at the Ingham Co. Family Center Pride Garden.

Electric used at the Lilac Garden in East Lansing.

Woven wire used at the Averill Woods Elementary.

Gardening Education

Let's Garden Lansing
A useful way to inform people about events your garden is hosting. You can also find workshops, classes, and events other garden enthusiasts are hosting. | letsgardenlansing.org

Allen Neighborhood Center (ANC)—Hunter Park GardenHouse
The Hunter Park GardenHouse is a project of ANC, a hub for neighborhood revitalization and for activities that promote the health, safety, stability, and economic well-being of Eastside residents. The GardenHouse is an educational and demonstration project offering a year-round CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), a robust youth gardening project, and classes and workshops open to people throughout the region.
(517) 367-2468
www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org

Improvements to the GardenHouse, making it more accessible.

MSU Extension Master Gardener Program
This is an intensive, 13 week education course in all things gardening. It is typically offered on campus & in surrounding counties, once per year. | http://mg.msue.msu.edu/

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE)—Ingham County
The MSU Extension Horticulture Educator provides commercial and consumer horticulture programming and diagnostic services. MSUE also provides plant and insect pest ID and diagnostic services, soil testing and fertilizer recommendations, bulletins, facts sheets, online instructional videos, and more.
(517) 676-7207 | http://ce.ingham.org/Horticulture.aspx

In addition to programs for adults, MSUE Ingham County also offers extensive programming for kids such as 4-H and Junior Master Gardener programs.

Van Atta's Garden Center
This commercial garden center offers free seasonal gardening workshops, as well as a weekly e-mail with gardening tips.
(517) 339-1142 | 9008 Old M 78, Haslett
www.vanattas.com

NorthWest Initiative (NWI)

The NorthWest Initiative's Food Systems Project's (FSP) mission is to improve access to, availability of, and knowledge about healthy foods in northwest Lansing.
(517) 999-2894 | nwlansing.org

MSU Center for Regional Food Systems

The Center combines the **C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems** and the **MSU Student Organic Farm**, promoting community engagement and scholarly activity focused on community-based food systems. A variety of workshops, as well as tours of the farm and other resources are available from these two groups. The certified organic farm also offers a nine month intensive farmer training program that provides a certificate from the farm and the MSU Department of Horticulture upon completion.
(517) 432-1612 | http://foodsystems.msu.edu/
(517) 230-7987 | www.msuorganicfarm.com

South Lansing Community Development Association

The South Lansing Community Development Association (SLCDA) is working to increase healthy food access to folks on the Southside by partnering with organizations to start community, demonstration, and children's gardens, as well as sponsoring classes to be held at the Southside Community Center (formerly known as the Harry Hill Center).
(517) 374-5700 | southlansing.org

American Community Gardening Association

Check out the website for many useful links, and use it as a tool to learn from and connect with others across the U.S. and Canada. As a member, The Garden Project can help connect you with the advanced features of this site.
www.communitygarden.org

Riddle School Garden is one of many gardens supported by the Youth Gardening Coalition

Youth Gardening Coalition
This coalition is made up of partners from Allen Neighborhood Center, MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, The Garden Project of the Greater Lansing Food Bank, MSU Extension Ingham County, NorthWest Initiative, and South Lansing Community Development Association. The Youth Gardening Coalition provides support, resources, and hosts an annual youth gardening conference.
(517) 676-7300 | https://www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-Gardening-Coalition/191671897515489

Power of We Consortium
This organization provides capacity building resources such as trainings, information on program development, fund development, AmeriCorps and VISTA volunteer member placements, and more.
(517) 887-4691 | www.powerofwe.org

Neighborhood Organizations
Many neighborhoods offer local workshops. Be sure to familiarize yourself with organizations in your area or try checking your local community education offerings. Try www.yellowpages.com to find neighborhood organizations near you.

Greater Lansing Housing Coalition
The HERO (Homeowners Education Resource Organization) educational series offers classes, including gardening, planning, and techniques for home repair.
(517) 372-5980 | www.glhc.org

Online Resources
Many sites have reliable gardening information. Try www.organicgardening.com, www.garden.org & www.gardenatoz.com for Michigan specific information.

MSU Extension
Your university site for many articles on food growing, preserving, and more.
Growing in Michigan site | http://migarden.msu.edu/
www.ingham.org/ce/hort/home.htm & msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/lawn_garden

Volunteers

Youth Groups, Church Groups, and Other Volunteers

The Garden Project is listed with the MSU Center for Service Learning, as well as VolunteerMatch, an online database. If you have a specific request for volunteers, we can check these sources for you and can help recruit a volunteer group for your community garden. Also consider neighborhood high schools or honor societies, Scouts, FFA (Future Farmers of America), 4H groups, the Boys & Girls Club and more. Your neighborhood community center (Letts, Foster, Southside, YMCAs, etc.) is another good source for group volunteer help.

Comcast Cares Day at Orchard Court.

Center for Service Learning

An MSU program that links students with service opportunities.
(517) 353-4400 | servlrn@msu.edu
www.servicelearning.msu.edu

Master Gardener Association Capital Area Chapter

For general information about the local chapter, check out their website.
www.mgacac.wordpress.com

Volunteer Centers of Michigan

An organization that strengthens, develops, and connects volunteer centers throughout the state. Contact them to see what resources they might be able to provide for your garden.
(517) 492-2430 | www.mivolunteers.org

VolunteerMatch

A national website where you can register an event or organization and volunteers will sign up.
www.volunteermatch.org

Comcast Cares Day at Village Summit.

Your Friends, Colleagues, Neighbors, Etc.

A successful community garden relies on people who feel motivated to participate. A good way to encourage this motivation is to carefully cultivate relationships with fellow gardeners &/or neighbors. Try to find consistent, easy-to-handle tasks for a variety of people, instead of a lot of different tasks for just a few people.

For help with cultivating connections, call The Garden Project!

Youth leadership volunteers at the Resource Center.

TIPS FOR ENCOURAGING LOCAL INVOLVEMENT:

- Keep residents informed
- Create ownership by identifying different ways that people can contribute
- Work with businesses to secure their involvement
- Recognize barriers to involvement & identify ways to overcome them

Outreach

Online Forums
Some community gardens will set up an e-mail group (such as Yahoo! or Google groups) or a Facebook group as a way to keep gardeners and community members in touch. If you are not already familiar with these possibilities ask a tech savvy friend or family member or The Garden Project.

Neighborhood Organizations
Many "micro-papers" such as publications put out by community and neighborhood groups will publish a blurb about your project. See Allen Neighborhood Center, NorthWest Initiative, and South Lansing Community Development Association in the *Gardening Education* section of this resource guide for the contact information on other community organizations that publish neighborhood outreach materials.

Media Outreach
It is a good idea to contact the media to let them know about your garden. You may want to reserve this for a special event or to invite the media to the opening or closing of your garden for the year. This could be a good way to get more people involved, and to raise general awareness about your project within the community.

There are many ways to make connections with the media, but one straightforward method is to send a press release to your neighborhood paper or other media outlet that covers your area. Tips on how and when to write a press release and sample press releases can be found on many websites. This is a detailed one that might be a good starting point: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/735/06/

Remember that The Garden Project also has a number of networking options including our annual harvest dinner, perennial exchange, plant distributions, workshops, and more. We want to hear from you! Please keep in touch with us about your challenges, needs, and successes throughout the year. We hope you will participate in any way you can.

An annual Harvest Dinner hosted by The Garden Project.

American Community Garden Association (ACGA)
The ACGA maintains an e-mail listserv of community gardeners across the U.S. and Canada. Their website also has a number of other helpful features.
https://communitygarden.org/programs/listserv/

Lansing Neighborhood Council
This organization aims to coordinate, support, and guide the effort of neighborhood groups in Lansing. It acts as a network for current organizations and can provide support for forming new associations or groups.
(517) 393-9883 | www.lansingneighborhoods.com

Lansing Youth Gardening Coalition
A group of youth garden leaders has come together to create a coalition to provide support and resources to youth gardens in the Greater Lansing area. YGC is looking to reach out to youth who are or want to be part of the youth gardening effort.
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-Gardening-Coalition/191671897515489

And don't forget about LetsGardenLansing.org!

Let's Garden Lansing is a useful way to inform people about events your garden is hosting. You can also find workshops, classes, and events other garden enthusiasts are hosting.

Youth Gardening

Why Should Your School Have A Garden?

What we feed our children and what we teach them about food in school, shapes how they learn, how they grow, and how long they will live.

- In the last 30 years, the percentage of American children who are overweight or obese has tripled
- 23% of all American children face food insecurity
- Only 2% of all children eat enough fresh fruits and vegetables
- The typical elementary school student receives just 3.4 hours of nutrition education each year.

In the face of these challenges, school garden programs can help children grow healthier.

- Children who grow their own food are more likely to eat fruits and vegetables and be more knowledgeable about nutrition
- They are also more likely to continue healthy eating habits throughout their lives

Benefits for Your School and Your Children

School garden programs not only promote healthy lifestyles in children, but have also been shown to improve their attitudes and appreciation for the environment. Gardens serve as great outdoor classrooms for any number of subjects, including science, ecology, math, creative writing, and art. School gardens are wonderful spaces for kids with different learning styles and abilities to work in groups and engaging hands-on, cross-disciplinary education.

Information Courtesy: WHOLE KIDS FOUNDATION

Resources

Here are a few of the resources the *Garden Project* can provide your group:

- In late winter, we offer a series of Garden Leader's Trainings.
- We can provide site visits, consultations, and a connection to the Youth Garden Coalition
- Resources; including tools, tilling, compost, seeds, plants, and volunteers

Our Garden Project encompasses over 100 community gardens, over a third which are youth gardens.

A Few Great Websites for Gardening with Kids:

- http://ecoliteracy.org/downloads/getting-started
  Downloadable, getting started guide
- http://schoolyards.org/design.schoolyard.html
  Tons of pictures, organized by topic
- Organic Gardening Magazine's: Dig-Plant-Grow & OAEC: Handful of Seeds
  Free, quality downloadable curriculum
- http://www.lifelab.org/
  One of the *Garden Project's* all-time favorites
- http://gardening.cce.cornell.edu/
  Plus their blog on how to organize a youth garden program & lessons for educators
- http://collaboratingclassrooms.ath.cx/?garden=/nutrition&section=curriculum
  Michigan MyGarden Nutritional Education Curriculum

Local Organizations That Support Youth Gardens

Allen Neighborhood Center
& HUNTER PARK
GARDENHOUSE
Boys & Girls Club
Greater Lansing Food Bank
GARDEN PROJECT
Lansing Public Schools
MSU Children's Garden
MSU Master
Gardener Association
MSU Extension & 4-H
Northwest Initiative
Southside Community Coalition
Village Summit
Youth Garden Coalition

KID FRIENDLY PLANTS

Spring:
Carrots & Radishes
Peas & lettuce

Summer:
Basil
Cherry tomatoes
Lemon cucumber
Popcorn, squash, & pole beans (aka: The 3 Sisters)

Flowers & Herbs:
Borage
Calendula
Comfrey
Lavender
Marigolds
Milkweed
Mint
Sage
(both culinary & perennial varieties– esp. Pineapple sage...great for hummingbirds)