



Julie Lehman
Garden Project Manager

Janet Hendon
Propagation Specialist

Martha Hentz
Administrator — Garden Project

Matthew Romans
Program & Education Specialist

Stevie Riley
New American Engagement Specialist

Michael Tosto
Resource Coordinator

Michelle Lantz
GLFB CEO

Welcome to the 2024 gardening season! Greater Lansing Food Bank's (GLFB) Garden Project staff is thrilled to work beside you in the season ahead to help your garden grow.

As you know, Garden Project has always been about much more than the number of vegetables grown each season — **it is about creating the opportunity for community members to grow the food they want to eat.** This includes food that is locally grown, food that is culturally familiar to individual diets and food that is healthy and nutritious for our families.

As part of GLFB, Garden Project provides resources and land access so individual gardeners can be self-reliant and so our community has increased capacity to prevent hunger into the future.

Thank you for being a part of this network and this work! We are constantly inspired by your willingness to get your hands dirty and engage. We wish you a happy and bountiful growing season and look forward to being by your side, out in the garden, very soon!



Save the Date
August 6

Join us as we explore local gardens by bus, bike or foot — your choice!

VISIT THE RESOURCE CENTER!

Garden Project's Resource Center offers a variety of resources to local home and community gardeners.

Gardeners must register to use the Resource Center during the 2024 growing season. We encourage you to register online or with the enclosed paper registration form before your first visit of the season.

What's at the Resource Center?

- Tool borrowing library with shovels, hoes, digging forks, broadforks, rakes and more.
- A variety of seeds for warm and cool season vegetables, flowers and herbs.
- A new selection of vegetable seedling transplants each week.
- Educational resources including how-to guides and books.
- At-cost resources like organic granular fertilizer, cover crop seeds, containers, straw bales and row cover.
- Food preservation supplies like canning jars, water baths, dehydrators and cookbooks.
- Friendly, knowledgeable volunteers and gardeners!

Get Involved

The Resource Center runs on volunteers and is a great place to give back. For more information on volunteer opportunities, Resource Center registration and resource availability scan the QR code or email Mike@GLFoodBank.org.



RESOURCE CENTER HOURS

Public open hours begin **April 17, 2024** and run through the end of June:

- **Wednesdays 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**
- **Thursdays 5 – 7:30 p.m.**

TRANSPLANTS

These plants and more will be available at the Resource Center in 2024!

Mid-April:

- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Collards
- Kale
- Lettuce
- Pac Choi

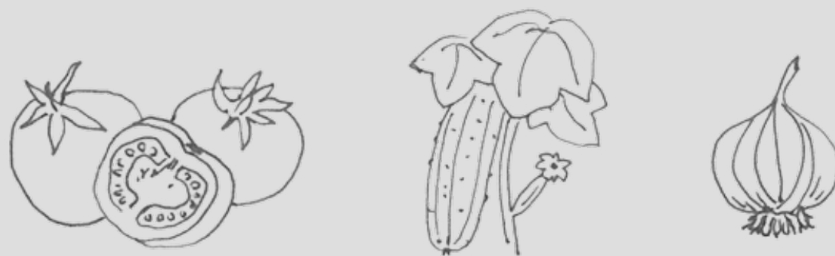
Mid-May:

- Basil
- Eggplant
- Hot and sweet peppers
- Okra
- Tomatoes

Gardening tips

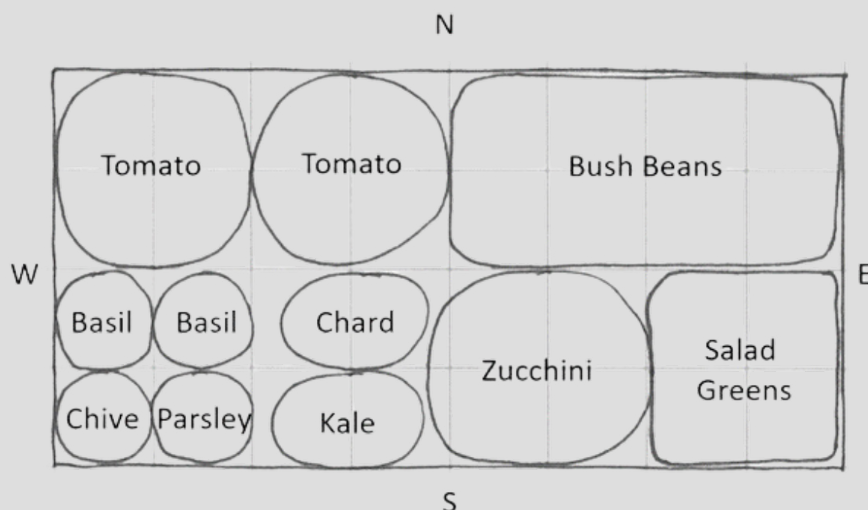
When choosing vegetables for your garden:

- Grow what you like to eat!
 - Grow vegetables that can be expensive to purchase.
 - Grow plants that produce a lot of food and heavy harvests.
- Some excellent options for new gardeners that produce a lot of food in smaller spaces like containers or raised beds are:
- Bush beans
 - Cucumbers
 - Garlic
 - Herbs
 - Hot peppers
 - Kale or collards
 - Lettuce
 - Radishes
 - Summer squash
 - Tomatoes



Just a few seed packets can provide your family with fresh vegetables for months!

- Below is a sample planting map for a 4-foot by 8-foot raised bed. One square in this diagram is equal to one foot.



Get social with us!

 /TheGardenProject

 @GLFBGardenProject

Grow your own food with Garden Project!

There are nearly 90 community gardens in the Garden Project network, each with its own unique personality.

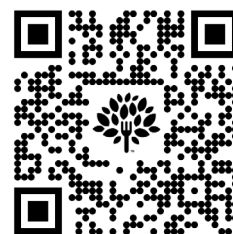
Some serve large refugee populations, others integrate school curriculum, some grow with the intent to donate and others are simply an opportunity for neighbors to gather together.

Types of gardens

- **Grow-your-own gardens** give you the opportunity to eat, give away, donate, preserve or sell your harvest — it's your choice! You do the work; you reap the rewards.
- **Communal or donation gardens** give you the chance to give back and build community.

The registration form included in this newsletter is for the 17 Garden Project-managed gardens in our network.

Scan the QR code below to explore the other community gardens in our network with plots available and their own registration process.



Every season, garden and community is unique! Please share your gardening season with us through social media or by texting photos to (517) 292-0012. You can also sign up for our weekly newsletter using the QR code above.



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**2024 community garden
plot fee:
\$15 per plot**

Garden Project's plot fee — significantly lower than the area market rate of approximately \$50 — along with donations from gardeners like you, allows us to purchase materials and supplies to support gardeners throughout the growing season.

Payment options

- **Scan the QR code** below to pay online.
- Call **(517) 853-7809** to pay via credit card.
- Mail a check payable to "Garden Project" to **P.O. Box 16224, Lansing, MI 48901**



2024 Community Garden Expectations

Maintain your plot.

- Make sure you can dedicate an average of 2 – 4 hours each week to maintain your plot from opening until Oct. 20.
- Plant your garden by June 1. If a plot is not planted by June 1 or is left untended for longer than two weeks during the season, it will be reassigned. **Please reach out to Garden Project if you need help planning or maintaining your plot!**
- Keep your garden plot and its bordering pathways free from weeds, trash and piles.
- Harvest in a timely manner. Ripe produce left in the garden may be donated to avoid spoilage and waste.
- Weed and maintain your plot until Oct. 20.
- At the end of the season, remove all string, stakes, fencing and trash.
- **Please note:** Gardeners who abandon their plots during the season or who fail to properly clean up their plots by the Oct. 20 deadline will be assessed a \$50 fine per plot and will be restricted to one garden plot the following season.

Respect other gardeners and garden plots.

Support your community garden.

- Do not walk through other plots or harvest from them without permission. **Garden theft will result in an immediate loss of gardening privileges for the current and all future seasons.**
- Please report vandalism, theft or unusual behavior to garden leadership committee members.
- Return all borrowed tools in a timely manner.
- The use of garden chemicals is discouraged.
- Service dogs are permitted, but please do not bring pets into the garden.
- Cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs, including marijuana, are prohibited in the garden.
- Follow rules specific to your garden.
- Participate in group workdays and other garden management tasks as needed. Remember, we all have a role to play to help our community gardens thrive!

Pay your plot fees.

- Plot fees are expected to be paid when the plot is assigned and must be paid no later than **June 15**.

2024 Community Gardener Registration

Please print clearly. **One application per household.**
Use this form to apply for a plot in a Garden Project managed community garden or to register to use the Resource Center.

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Gardener first name: Last name:

Mail address:

City: State: Zip code:

Phone #: Email:

What is your primary language?

What other languages do you speak?

If not fluent in English, please list name and contact info for someone to speak on your behalf.

This application is for:

☐ Community garden plot & Resource Center

☐ Resource Center only
(if yes, skip next section and continue to back of form)

Please select ONE of the 17 Garden Project gardens listed below.

If you are a returning gardener, submit your registration by **April 1** to reserve your same plot.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airport | <input type="checkbox"/> Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Court | <input type="checkbox"/> Slater Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Armory | <input type="checkbox"/> Letts | <input type="checkbox"/> Otto | <input type="checkbox"/> Towar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clifford Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Lilac | <input type="checkbox"/> Paradise | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELF | <input type="checkbox"/> North School | <input type="checkbox"/> Risdale | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster | <input type="checkbox"/> Okemos Intern'l | <input type="checkbox"/> Roots Garden | |

Which plot would you like in this garden?

If the garden is full, where else would you be interested in growing?

Please describe any accommodations you may need to help you garden:

If you plan to garden in a second community garden, please list it here:

Garden name:

(application continues on reverse side)

Gardener information

Gardener experience level:

☐ New gardener ☐ Some experience ☐ Very experienced

Gardener age:

☐ Under 60 years ☐ Over 60 years

Do you plan to grow vegetables at your home this year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

How many people, including you, live in your home?

Did you use Garden Project's services last year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, did your diet improve because you gardened last year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, were your grocery bills reduced because you gardened last year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

How important was the garden to you and/or your family's diet last year?

- ☐ More than 50% of our fresh produce came from the garden.
- ☐ 10 – 15% of our fresh produce came from the garden.
- ☐ Less than 10% of our fresh produce came from the garden.

Waiver & Release of Liability I understand the nature and expectations of Greater Lansing Food Bank's (GLFB) gardening and volunteer activities. I acknowledge that there may be certain risks of injury involved. I knowingly and freely assume all such risks and assume full responsibility for my participation. I hereby release and discharge GLFB and its agents from any and all liability, claims, demands or causes of action that I may hereafter have for injuries or damages arising out of my participation in such gardening and volunteer activities. I agree to indemnify, save and hold harmless GLFB, its employees, agents, representatives, affiliates and volunteers of any loss, claim, damage, injury, illness, costs or harm of any kind or nature to me arising out of any and all activities associated which may occur or be incident to my involvement or participation with GLFB.

SIGN BELOW AFTER READING AND AGREEING TO ALL GUIDELINES AND WAIVER & RELEASE OF LIABILITY

Signature: _____

Please mail this form & plot fee to:

Garden Project
P.O. Box 16224
Lansing, MI 48901

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EVENTS

2024 Community Garden Toolkit seminar series

These **free seminars** teach practical skills to help your garden thrive — because every community gardener plays an important role in the success of their garden.

Community building success

- 10 – 11:30 a.m. Sat. March 2 via Zoom OR
- 6 – 7:30 p.m. Thu. March 7 in-person at Foster Community Center

Garden administration & orientation

- 10 – 11:30 a.m. Sat. April 6 via Zoom OR
- 6 – 7:30 p.m. Thu. April 11 in-person at Foster Community Center

Garden maintenance & community building events

- 10 – 11:30 a.m. Sat. June 1 via Zoom OR
- 6 – 7:30 p.m. Thu. June 6 in-person at Foster Community Center

End-of-season activities

- 10 – 11:30 a.m. Sat. Aug. 3 via Zoom OR
- 6 – 7:30 p.m. Thu. Aug. 8 in-person at the Resource Center

Plant Pop-Ups for New Americans

To support our diverse gardening community, Garden Project will host three special Plant Pop-Ups for New American neighbors offering culturally-familiar plant and seed varieties at Hill Community Garden at 5815 Wise Rd., Lansing, MI 48911.

- **Southeast Asia Plant Pop-Up**

အပင်ဖြန့်ချိရေး

9 – 11 a.m. May 18

- **Nepal and Bhutan Plant Pop-Up**

बिरुवा वितरण

Noon – 2 p.m. May 18

- **Africa and Middle East Plant Pop-Up**

توزيع النباتات

Usambazaji wa Mimea

10 a.m. – Noon May 25

For more information, call **(517) 853-7809** or email Stevie@GLFoodBank.org.

Introduction to Gardening workshop series

Learn about the basics of gardening and how to grow food on a budget at one of these **free workshops**.

- **Wed., March 20, 2 p.m.**

Capital Area District Libraries (CADL) — Aurelius
1939 S. Aurelius Rd., Mason, MI 48854

- **Wed., April 3, 1 p.m.**

Online with MSU Libraries

- **Thu., April 4, 5:30 p.m.**

CADL — South Lansing
3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48910

- **Tue., April 16, 5 p.m.**

Bath Township Public Library
14051 Webster Rd., Bath Township, MI 48808

- **Tue., April 23, 1 p.m.**

CADL — Okemos
4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos, MI 48864

- **Mon., April 29, 6 p.m.**

Veterans Memorial Library
301 S. University Ave., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

- **Wed., May 1, 6 p.m.**

Delta Township Library
5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing, MI 48917

- **Tue., May 7, 6 p.m.**

CADL — Leslie
201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie, MI 49251

- **Thu., May 9, 2 p.m.**

Pere Marquette District Library
185 E. 4th St., Clare, MI 48617

- **Thu., May 9, 4 p.m.**

Harrison District Library
125 W. Beech St., Harrison, MI 48625

To explore details on all events offered by Garden Project throughout the year, visit GLFoodBank.org/GardenProjectEvents



P.O. Box 16224
Lansing MI, 48901

Spring notes inside

- 2024 Resource Center information
- Helpful garden tips
- Workshops & events
- Gardener registration information

VOLUNTEER WITH GARDEN PROJECT

Some of the ways you can get involved as a volunteer with Garden Project include:

- Support **seed and plant distributions** at the Resource Center and Plant Pop-Ups across GLFB's seven county service area.
- Help with **garden maintenance** at the Garden Project Demonstration Garden and in neighborhood community gardens.
- Be part of a **garden leadership committee!** Contact Garden Project using the phone number or email below to learn more about how to make your garden and community stronger.
- Teach an **Introduction to Gardening class** at your local library — this opportunity is new this year! For more information, email Matthew@GLFoodBank.org.

Volunteer spotlight: Garden to Go kits

Volunteers counted well over 60,000 packets from a record 58 donors this winter and assembled 6,000 Garden to Go kits containing seeds and gardening tips. These kits will soon be distributed throughout GLFB's network of 140+ partner agencies so gardeners across our service area can benefit from our diverse array of seeds and resources.



Find your next volunteer opportunity by scanning the QR code!

**STAY IN
TOUCH!**

Resource Center address:
2401 Marcus St.
Lansing, MI 48912

Phone: (517) 853-7809
Email: GardenProject@GLFoodBank.org
Web: GLFoodBank.org/GardenProject



/TheGardenProject



@GLFBGardenProject