



\$40 Garden Plot = 10' x 20'
\$20 Half-plot = 10' x 10'
\$45 deposit for volunteer hours & fall cleaning

Plot fees pay for city water bill, irrigation system, repairs, updates, topsoil, mulch, , labor (if necessary), and garden materials (wood, hardware, fencing, tools, hoses, gas for power tools, etc.)

Organization Goals:

1. Help community members become productive gardeners who learn through experimentation.
2. Help bring community members together with shared love of gardening.
3. Effectively use our limited and valuable space.
4. Grow and harvest food to eat.
5. Plant and care for our soil to keep it fertile and weed-free.

Garden Organization

PSCG is a volunteer-run organization that rents garden plots to community members. It is organized as a nonprofit corporation with the State of Michigan. It is managed by two volunteer co-directors: Sarah Cheney & Elena Busova. A garden committee of 4-5 gardeners assists the co-directors. All gardeners are responsible for maintenance of the garden as a whole and their individual plots.

Qualifications & Rental Process

1. Plots are available for any individual or family to rent, although Houghton residents are given priority on the waiting list because PSCG receives funding from City of Houghton.
2. Gardeners must agree to terms as explained in the handbook and commitment form. Failure to comply with rules will result in warnings, requests for changes, and possible loss of plot and fees.
3. It's helpful for gardeners to live close enough to walk to the garden.
4. We encourage new gardeners to rent half plot their first season: "A happy gardener is a successful gardener!"

Fees & Deposits:

1. Full plots are 10'x20' and \$40 each season, half plots are \$20 each season.
2. A \$45 deposit is collected as a post-dated check. Deposit checks are returned when gardeners have completed their volunteer hours and cleaned their plots by the second Sunday in November.
3. PSCG is committed to making gardening accessible and affordable to all community members. Please contact one of the directors or a committee member if you need financial assistance for fees or gardening supplies.

Volunteer Requirements

1. 10 volunteer hours are required for full-plot gardeners and 5 hours for half-plot gardeners.
2. Gardeners are responsible for tracking and communicating their hours either by filling out and submitting the [online Volunteer form](#) or by emailing Erin or Sarah before the end of the gardening season. Monthly reporting is welcome and encouraged!
3. If you are unable to complete your hours due to illness or difficulties, please discuss it with a committee member or garden director.

4. The majority of work can be accomplished within the required volunteer hours; however, there are times when the garden needs gardeners to help beyond the required hours.
5. "Garden Work Parties" are scheduled each month of growing season (June – October).
6. Examples of volunteer opportunities at garden site include:

building, weeding,	leadership, kids' gardens,	plant sale, fundraising,
composting, planting, fence	weed trimming, shed	harvest party
work, mowing,	cleaning,	

Garden Plots

1. **Plant-by date: Sunday, June 5th**
 - a. Cool-season crops (peas, lettuce, spinach, onions, radish) often can be planted in mid-May depending upon the weather.
 - b. "Plant-by" means to have begun both working in your plot and planting seeds and starts. We have a short season and must begin on time to yield good harvests.
 - c. We will reassign plots that have not been worked in and planting started by June 5th. Plots will go to the next person on waiting list or be assigned to gardeners as a communal plot.
2. **Clean-by date: Sunday, November 13th** -- this ensures you'll be ready for spring or for the next gardener.
 - a. \$45 deposits will be returned to all gardeners who clean plots and fulfill their volunteer hours.
3. You are responsible for maintaining your garden and pathway around your plot.
4. Amend your plot soil with leaf compost and composted chicken manure from Erickson's Feed & Seed in the spring. Apply the chicken manure throughout the season by sprinkling around your plants.
5. Please do not waste space by planting too few seeds or plants. Efficient, complete use of space will offer you a bigger harvest and also reduce weeds. Consider donating extra veggies to Omega House hospice—they love receiving fresh veggies and prepare them in their kitchen.
6. If you leave town for more than a couple days, please arrange for someone to help with garden tasks to keep your plot weed free and well-harvested. Ask fellow gardeners or hire someone (hired help who are not gardeners will need to sign contract and agree to garden rules).
7. During the gardening season, the garden coordinators will monitor plot usage. When plots are untended (under-planted, weedy, un-harvested) gardeners will be contacted and asked to take care of the plot by a certain date (two-week notice). If the plot continues to be untended, it will be up to the discretion of the garden committee to decide about plot re-assignment to a gardener on the wait-list or designation as a communal plot.
8. Be respectful of your plot neighbors. Keep invasive, vining, and spreading crops confined to your own plot. Respect other gardeners plot space and shared pathways. Be careful where you place taller plants, which will shade neighbors' plots. Taller plants are best planted on north side (canal side).

Water & Irrigation System

1. We pay for city water and receive a city grant to help cover the costs. We water communally with a water-saving irrigation system. This efficient process works well with the windy and dry conditions of this site and will ensure success for all.
2. Seeds should be hand-watered with garden hoses to ensure successful germination. The irrigation system is not sufficient for early-season seeds. And it is not turned on until the 1st week in June.
3. We are all responsible for the irrigation system; please be careful not to damage lines in your plot; do not use tools near the lines—move lines first. Please notify directors if you see leaks or problems.
4. Please treat hoses carefully and return hoses to holders when finished watering.

5. Please be environmentally sensitive and help avoid wasting water.

Plants

1. The majority of your plot should be planted with vegetables for eating.
2. If you have questions or concerns about specific plants or planting techniques, please contact a director or committee member. We are more than happy to offer one-on-one assistance with plant selection and planting.
3. Products grown in plots (vegetables, herbs, flowers) may not be sold.
4. Harvest your vegetables in a timely manner. If you are unable or have too much, please use a "Harvest Me" sign from the tool shed and send an email to all gardeners with details.
5. Perennials and invasive species are not allowed in plots (herbs and strawberries are exempt).
6. Consider planting annual flowers as these help attract butterflies, bees, and beautify our garden.
7. Vining plants such as zucchinis and squash must be controlled. Containers planted on inside fence are a good alternative to wasting space in your plot.
8. Take care not to shade your neighbor's plants (and your own) with tall plants and tall structures, such as sunflowers, corn, etc.
9. If your plant looks sad or scary, please remove it so that disease doesn't spread. We may remove it for you if we see something that could infect others.

Pathways

1. Weed and grass reduction is critical! Clean and neat paths help reduce weeds in all our plots.
2. Keep the common paths around your garden weeded and/or mulched and clear of debris and vines. For safe walking, help keep paths level, rock free, and wide for walking.
3. Use the tool shed for extra items you want to leave at garden.

Composting

The snow fencing compost bins at top of garden are for leaves, grass clippings, and chopped up plant material. Please do not put plants with diseases in the compost pile!

Organic Gardening & Chemicals

1. We are an organic garden. No insecticides, pesticides or herbicides may be used. Copper sulfate for mildew is the exception.
2. We strongly recommend amending your plot soil with organic matter such as pelletized chicken manure ("Chick Magic") and leaf compost (both can be purchased at Erickson's Feed & Seed). The manure can be spread often throughout the season; it's non-burning and plants love it.
3. Synthetic fertilizers (such as miracle-gro) are prohibited because these contain ammonium phosphate and other chemicals that can be toxic to soil and plants. It is prohibited in certified-organic farming.
4. Pyrethrin and Safer Soap are allowed, read directions and apply carefully.
5. Organic "slug-icides" include: copper wire, diatomaceous earth, or beer. Copper is most effective.

Tool Shed

1. The tool shed and all the tools are for gardeners to use. The combo lock is GR33K.
2. Tools must be stored in shed after each use.
3. Shed must be locked each time you leave the garden.
4. Please help keep the shed clean and organized.

Garden Security & Safety

1. We lock garden gates at start of harvest season because we have had problems with theft in the past.
2. Please quickly report problems to garden directors.

Miscellaneous

1. No dogs or cats allowed in garden, even on a leash. Keep your animals tied up outside the fence if you wish to bring them.
2. The public is welcome to visit our garden, so we need to keep pathways clear, and be good role models for gardening.
3. Smoking is prohibited in the gardens. Tobacco can transmit a virus to tomatoes.
4. Loud radios are prohibited. Please consider headphones for your neighbor's peace and quiet.
5. Closely supervise your children; help them learn respect for gardening and boundaries. Keep children off of garden structures and equipment at all times.
6. "Pack it in—Pack it out." No garbage service is available. Please take trash home for disposal.
7. Resolve differences in a neighborly way. Contact the garden directors for more serious difficulties.
8. Use our garden email list: pscgl@mtu.edu to ask questions, inform others of problems, share tips, offer advice.

Contact Information

Garden Committee:

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