

**Dexter Community Garden**  
**2015 Plot Application**

*Garden plots measure 20x20'. Half plots measuring 10x20' are also available. Raised beds with heights of either 3' or 4' also exist and are intended for those whose mobility may be impaired.*

Contact information is requested for all adults gardening in the community garden.

Name of primary gardener: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of other gardeners: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of primary gardener: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of primary gardener: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of other gardeners: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone of primary gardener: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone of other gardeners: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place an "x" for your plot preference:

Full plot \$80 (including \$20 refundable deposit)\* \_\_\_\_\_

Half plot \$50 (including \$20 refundable deposit)\* \_\_\_\_\_

Raised Bed plot \$20 ( including \$5 refundable deposit)\* \_\_\_\_\_ (please circle 3' or 4')

\* Commitment deposit will be refunded upon completion of the garden clean up work.  
Please read the Gardening Guidelines for information.

Total payment received \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date Payment Received \_\_\_\_\_

Dexter Community Garden welcomes donations, which ensure the sustainability of this program: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Gardening Agreement

1. As a Dexter Community Garden gardener I agree to abide by the Dexter Community Garden gardening guidelines.
2. Take steps to maintain and improve the soil in my plot using organic gardening methods and agree to use only organic gardening methods in my plot.
3. Keep my plot and pathways adjacent to it well maintained and free of weeds.
4. Notify the garden coordinator immediately if I cannot for any reason maintain my plot. Failure to notify may result in forfeiture of plot.
5. Begin gardening in the community garden only after the garden has been staked out and officially opened.
6. Clear my community garden plot of all non organic materials (fencing, rocks, string, wires, stakes) and shred or remove all woody plant debris no later than the end of the day *Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>*.
7. Complete a gardening survey at the end of the growing season.
8. Accept that the City of Dexter and the Dexter Community Garden accepts no liability for persons or property in the garden and sign a Hold Harmless Agreement.

Signed: Primary Gardener \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: Other Gardeners \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail signed agreement and check made out to the City of Dexter,  
8140 Main St.,  
Dexter,  
MI 48130

**INDEMNIFICATION, HOLD HARMLESS/RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT**

To the fullest extent permitted by law, I agree to defend, pay on behalf of, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Dexter, its elected and appointed officials, employees and volunteers and others working on behalf of the City of Dexter any and all claims, demands, suits, or loss, including all costs and attorney fees connected therewith, and for any damages which may be asserted, claimed or recovered against or from the City of Dexter, its elected and appointed officials, employees, volunteers or others working on behalf of the City of Dexter, by reason of personal injury, including bodily injury or death and/or property damage, including loss of use thereof, which arises out of or in any way connected or associated with my **participation in the Community Garden.**

CAUTION: This document release liability, results in assumption of risk, and provides for indemnification and hold harmless of the City of Dexter by Participant. Please read carefully before signing.

CITY OF DEXTER

PARTICIPANT:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Participant

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Return an executed copy of this document to:

Courtney Nicholls  
City Manager  
8140 Main Street  
Dexter, MI 48130

Fax# 734-426-5614  
[cnicholls@DexterMI.gov](mailto:cnicholls@DexterMI.gov)

## **Dexter Community Garden Gardening Guidelines**

Dexter Community Garden hopes you enjoy your community garden experience and would like to encourage you to garden in socially and environmentally responsible ways. Fertilizers and pest control measures which may be used in the garden plots are those which are accepted by major organic certification agencies. In general, soil fertility is maintained by creating optimal conditions for soil biological activity through processes like crop rotations and the maintenance of soil organic content. Judicious use of organic and natural mineral soil amendments is also practiced, and in some cases processed mineral fertilizers may be acceptable for short-term use. Guidelines for permissible gardening practices and land use practices are given below:

### **Weed Control**

Herbicides of any kind are **prohibited** in the garden plots, as they are hazardous to human health, may kill or damage desirable crops, drift into neighboring gardens, or persist in the soil. Hoeing, mulching, and hand weeding are recommended.

### **Insect Control**

Synthetic insecticides are **prohibited** in the garden plots. Preferred control methods are crop rotation, hand picking of insect pests, introduction of predator species, such as ladybugs, companion planting, soil solarization, and biological controls, e.g. *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a bacterium that controls cabbage worms. As a last resort, natural botanicals, i.e. rotenone and pyrethrum (that break down quickly and do not leave harmful residues in the soil) may be used.

### **Disease Control**

Most problems can be controlled if you maintain a healthy soil, choose disease-resistant varieties, water judiciously, and remove diseased plants from the garden.

### **Fertilizers and Soil Amendments**

Commercial inorganic fertilizers (i.e., 5-1-5, Miracle Grow, etc.) are **prohibited**. Products of plant or animal origin, i.e. compost, leaf mold, livestock manure, blood and bone meal, cover crops, fish emulsion, kelp meal, liquid seaweed, and commercial organic fertilizers are acceptable. Natural mineral fertilizers, i.e. greensand, granite dust, and ground limestone, are also acceptable. Gardeners are strongly urged to add as much organic material (i.e. compost, leaf mold, and manure) as possible to their plots to maintain soil fertility.

### **Non-Acceptable Plants**

Dexter Community Garden cannot allow plants with the following characteristics to be grown in any of the gardens:

Invasive species, i.e. mint, comfrey, etc.

Trees, bushes, or other woody perennials

Illegal or dangerous plants

**Fencing** Fencing is provided around the site for animal control. It is fragile. Do not climb under or over it. Use the gates. Make sure the gates are closed securely when you leave.

**Water** Water is a precious resource. Treat it as such. Make sure any faucet is closed when you leave. This will preserve our hoses, too! Please, no unattended watering in the garden.

**Community Commitment** As a Dexter Community Garden gardener, you are a member of a community. You are expected to make a meaningful contribution of time to your garden community. Garden Work Parties for the Community Garden will be announced at the beginning of the season.

It is expected that everyone will

- clean up their plot at the end of the season following the clean up rules posted below;
- attempt to participate both in awakening (setting up) the garden in the spring, and in putting it to bed in the fall.

Completion of that labor is rewarded with a rebate of your \$20 or \$5 commitment deposit.

Raised bed gardeners are not expected to participate in Garden Work Parties (but are welcome to!) However, you are expected to clean up your plot at the end of the season.

### **End of Season Community Garden Closing Information**

1. Remove all fencing, cages, stakes, string, plastics and all other non-organic material from your garden and take them home with you. Do not place any material in sheds. Remove rock borders and large rocks and put them in designated rock piles.
2. Pull out all plants that have tough stalks or long vines, such as sunflowers, corn, pumpkin, etc, and cut them into 12-inch pieces. These can be spread around your site, to be plowed under later in the fall. Similarly, chop all non-infected plant materials into 12-inch pieces and spread around your plot. Please do not leave them in piles or throw them outside the garden perimeter. If you have un-used bales of hay, spread them throughout your plot.
3. Remove all tomatoes and diseased or once infected materials from your plot and discard at home.

### **Parking and Land Use at garden site**

1. Park vehicles only in designated areas at the garden site and contact program coordinator when parking is necessary outside those areas.
2. Dogs and other pets are not permitted at the garden site.
3. Please remove and dispose of at home all trash.
4. It is unsafe to go into or climb on any of the buildings on the Dan Hoey property (other than the shed designated for tools). Please enjoy the community garden portion of the property but keep away from the structures.
5. Hours of operation for the garden are dawn to dusk.
6. Power equipment is not allowed in the community garden without consent of the program coordinator.

Please contact the garden coordinator with any questions regarding the program : Olga Austin [austin.olga@gmail.com](mailto:austin.olga@gmail.com)