

Garden in a Box

INFORMATION PACKET



Thank you for your interest in the 2016 Garden-in-a-Box project! Neighbors with limited income, limited mobility, or who are new to gardening are eligible to apply. Currently, there are 128 boxes in circulation in Lansing's Eastside neighborhood, and there are 20 more boxes available this year.

From Allen Neighborhood Center, participants will receive the following, free of charge:

- One 2ft x 2ft raised garden bed filled with soil; installed by Youth Service Corps members.
- Seeds or transplants of desired plants (see space requirements); Youth Service Corps members will help with planting.
- Additional home gardening assistance, as requested, through our Yard Call program.

In exchange, our program requirements are:

- Participants attend orientation on **Saturday, May 21st, 12:30pm-1:30pm**, at the Hunter Park GardenHouse (if you cannot attend, participants must contact the Gardening Educator to re-schedule).
- Participants complete and return a pre and post-season survey. Your feedback is really important and helps us to continue to offer programs like this for others.
- Participants complete a photo release form (photo release is optional).
- Participants devote regular time to caring for, watering, and weeding your garden; this will make sure you get the best harvest out of your garden!
- Participants help promote gardening to neighbors, family, and friends.

Planning Your Garden

We will work with each individual to choose plants that will maximize your space and gardening success. Some plants are better suited for planting during cooler months, such as salad greens and spinach; others, such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplants, need warmer weather to thrive. It's important to keep this in mind when planning your garden.

Youth Service Corps will bring the plants/seeds and soil to plant together with you. Depending on what you choose to grow, you can expect to spend a few hours each week tending to your garden.

Gardening Assistance

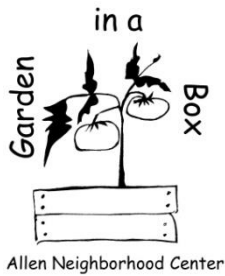
If you have any questions about gardening, or want to schedule home gardening Yard Calls, contact Alex at: 517-999-3913, gardeningeducator@allenneighborhoodcenter.org or stop by the Allen Neighborhood Center (1611 E. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48912).

Gardening Workshops

The Hunter Park GardenHouse offers many food & gardening education workshops throughout the year. These are open to the public, and there is a \$5-10 suggested donation. A list of workshops can be found at: www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse/workshops
To RSVP for a class, contact Alex at 517-999-3913, gardeningeducator@allenneighborhoodcenter.org

About Youth Service Corps

Youth Service Corps, a job and life-skills training program for youth ages 11-17, focuses on food and nutrition awareness, healthy lifestyle choices, a sense of place, and civic responsibility. Through the Garden-in-a-Box project, Youth Service Corps members learn basic carpentry, horticulture, and community engagement skills, and Eastside neighbors gain access to small-scale gardening education. As a long-standing part of Allen Neighborhood Center's Youth Service Corps program, the Garden-in-a-Box project was developed by youth to help address issues of food security in the neighborhood.



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APPLICATION

We may receive a greater number of applications than we have boxes, so we will need to consider the following criteria. Please note that this application does not guarantee you a box. The first 20 *eligible* applicants will receive their box in May or June.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Street Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check any that apply.

- I am in a low-income household.
- I am a senior, or I have limited mobility.
- I am new to gardening.
- I live within the 48912 zip code.

How did you find out about the Garden-in-a-Box program? (Circle all that apply)

- Allen Neighborhood Center website
- The Eastside Neighbor newsletter
- Active Neighboring News e-newsletter
- Allen Neighborhood Center
- Breast Health Club postcard
- Facebook
- Other _____

Please circle the items you are interested in growing in your 2'x2' box:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| • Tomatoes | • Spinach |
| • Peppers (spicy or sweet) | • Collards |
| • Salad lettuce mix | • Kale |
| • Carrots | • Chard |
| • Radishes | • Basil |
| • Summer Squash | • Cilantro |

**only one plant per box*

Please indicate which dates and times you will be available to have your box delivered. (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <u>Monday, May 23</u> | <u>Wednesday, June 8</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3:45-5:45pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 3:45-5:45pm |
| <u>Wednesday, May 25</u> | <u>Monday, June 13</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3:45-5:45pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 10am-12pm <input type="checkbox"/> 5:30-7:30pm |
| <u>Wednesday, June 1</u> | <u>Friday, June 17</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3:45-5:45pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 10am-12pm <input type="checkbox"/> 5:30-7:30pm |
| <u>Monday, June 6</u> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3:45-5:45pm | |

I wish to join the Garden-in-a-Box project. I have read and understand the program outlined in the Garden-in-a-Box Information Packet.

I will attend the Orientation on Sat. May 21, 12:30-1:30pm (if I cannot attend, I will reschedule with the coordinator).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please fill out the application and mail in or drop off to our office. Please keep a copy for your records. You will be notified if you are accepted into the program.

Allen Neighborhood Center
 Attn: Garden-in-a-Box Project
 1611 E. Kalamazoo Street
 Lansing, MI 48912

If you have any questions, please contact Gardening Educator, Alex Bissell at (517) 999-3913 or email gardeningeducator@allenneighborhoodcenter.org