



# BLANDFORD | nature center

community garden

Interested in growing your own kitchen produce in a local, sustainable manner this summer? Blandford Nature Center is now offering community garden plots for the 2012 growing season to allow you to do just that. We are offering a limited number of plots on a first come, first serve basis. Our plots are 8' x 25' for \$40 per plot. This fee includes:

- Garden space - available from **April 13, 2012 through October 29, 2012 (Weather permitting)**
  - There will be a mandatory meeting for all community gardeners on April 5, 2012.
  - The meeting is from 5:30pm to 7pm and includes a Community Garden member potluck. Be sure to bring a dish to pass for our community building potluck from 6:15 to 7pm.
  - Gardeners can get an up-close look at their plot and get to know other gardeners. The meeting is followed by a meet-and-greet style potluck
- Initial tilling completed by BNC staff prior to April 13 (Weather permitting)
- Access to limited garden tools such as hoes, shovels, and a wheelbarrow
- Combination-Locked tool shed for storage of tools
- Water access and usage
- Compost pile for garden-related organic material
- Public access restrooms
- The opportunity to meet other gardeners, get outside more often, and share ideas, produce, flowers or seeds
- Online discussion forum
- Pre-registration for the 2013 growing season

To reserve your spot, please complete the Community Garden Application and return it, along with your plot fee, by **March 2, 2012** to Jessica Lamden, Community Garden Coordinator. We can not guarantee your spot until your application and payment are received. Once we have received all forms and fees and cleared your background check we will notify you of your garden plot location.

A limited number of 2012 community garden scholarships are available. Contact Jessica for more information.

Jessica Lamden  
Community Garden Coordinator  
1715 Hillburn Ave NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

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616.735.6240.14  
616.735.6255 Fax  
jlamden@blandfordnaturecenter.org  
www.blandfordnaturecenter.org



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## **2012 Community Garden Guidelines, Etiquette, and Application**

*Please read before completing application as submittal of your application verifies your approval and compliance to these guidelines and etiquette.*

Welcome to the 2012 Blandford Community Garden,

Participating in a community garden can be a fun, rewarding and educational experience and an opportunity to share what you know with others and learn new things. Blandford Nature Center staff and volunteers are here to help make this year as successful as possible for you, but we can't do it alone. These guidelines are designed to answer your questions and give you a better idea of where you fit into the gardening community. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call or email:

Jesica Lamden  
Community Garden Coordinator  
jlamden@blandfordnaturecenter.org  
616.735.6240.14

### **A note about the Blandford Farm:**

The Blandford Farm is an educational farm and is shared between various individuals, groups, and programs. This year, along with our community garden, the farm will be host to elementary-aged garden programs, a Youth Farm Team, community workshops, and of course, the Blandford Farm. These farm programs focus on organic gardening, local and community development, and personal growth. While the Community Garden and Blandford Farm are mutually exclusive entities, please treat all gardeners, regardless of age, with the same respect and courtesy you'd expect of them.

### **What Blandford will provide:**

- Large garden tools such as hoes, shovels, and a wheelbarrow will be available for general use in the farm shed. Hand tools will not be available. The tool shed will be secured with a combination lock; you may store your personal tools in this shed at your own risk. Blandford is not responsible for lost or stolen goods.
- Compost pile. This is for garden-related organic matter only. Use designated compost pile only.
- The opportunity to meet other gardeners, spend more time outdoors, and share ideas, produce, flowers or seeds.

### **What may be grown or placed in your plot:**

- Vegetables, herbs, flowers and/or small fruit plants
- Plants or small trees in pots or containers, which you will remove at the end of the season. All containers must fit within the bounds of your plot.
- No perennials or overwintering root vegetables planted in the ground. At this time, Blandford cannot guarantee you will receive the same plot for successive seasons.
- All plants must be legal and for personal consumption or donation only
- No trees or large/permanent structures may be planted or stored on Blandford property
- Stored hoses and watering cans must not spill over or fall into paths or other plots. Items that get in others' way will be removed.
- Regarding theft: Theft of produce or tools is a small but unfortunate occurrence among community gardens. Our deer fence can keep many animals out but not people. To reduce the chance of theft, harvest your produce as soon as it is ripe, and do not leave personal belongings or crops at the garden overnight. Report any theft immediately to a Blandford staff member.

### **Plot guidelines:**

- All plots must be watered, weeded and generally maintained on a regular basis. In addition, all gardeners are responsible for keeping the paths surrounding their plots free of weeds and debris.
- Plants must not grow outside the bounds of your plot (within reason), and may not obstruct any paths or others' plots. This includes knowing how big your plants will get!
- Blandford Nature Center reserves the right to remove any plants or other materials that may interfere with another Community Garden member's plot.
- All plots must be cleared and cleaned by the October 29, 2012 ending date. Any possessions still remaining after October 29, 2012 will become the property of Blandford Nature Center.

### **Acceptable types of fertilizer and mulch:**

- Blandford encourages all gardeners to use natural gardening techniques. Most traditional products you see on the shelf are chemicals, which are toxic to the groundwater and deplete the soil of much-needed minerals and nutrients. These chemical products are prohibited at the Blandford Community Garden. If you're unsure whether a product is suitable for use on your plot, please bring it in and ask a Blandford staff member BEFORE you apply it to your garden.

### **Regarding general conduct and personal responsibility:**

- Feel free to bring things such as chairs, coolers or umbrellas to make your gardening experience successful for you – without infringing upon the rights of others, of course. Keeping your belongings on the grass around the garden is fine (inside the fence), but must not be in the way of any foot or wheelbarrow traffic or the water lines. All belongings that cannot fit inside your plot must be removed from the garden when you leave.
- Personal radios, cell phones or electronic games are not forbidden at the garden, but please keep their use to a minimum. Many people come to the garden to enjoy nature and quiet. All electronics that make noise must be used with headphones.
- Please closely supervise young children and pets at the garden, and never leave animals or children unattended on Blandford property. Please keep dogs **outside** the deer fence and away from the Youth Farm Team's chickens. Please clean up after all children and pets.
- Please supervise children closely in the garden, and never leave children unattended on Blandford property.

## Community Garden Application

Please type or print your answers **legibly** and complete the application in full. All information will be kept strictly confidential. Application and payment due by **March 2, 2012**. Any forms and payments that need to be mailed, mail to Jessica Lamden, 1715 Hillburn Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Checks payable to BNC.

Please note: **A separate background check will be completed for each adult gardener who will be working in the Blandford Community Garden.** The person completing this application will be held responsible for the actions of all gardeners sharing the plot and will consent to all background checks performed. Scholarships are available upon request.

### Personal Information

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last Maiden*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number and Street City Zip*

Cell Phone: ( )- - Home Phone: ( )- -

Work Phone: ( )- - Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is the best way to contact you? \_\_\_\_\_

### Community Garden Information

Have you ever kept a plot in a community garden before?  Yes  No

8'x25' for \$40.00 # of plots

Payment Method:  Cash  Check (payable to BNC)  Visa  MC

CC #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Name on CC: _____
Billing Address (if different then home address): _____

Please list the full names and birthdates of everyone who will be sharing your plot at the Blandford Community Garden: \_\_\_\_\_

When are you most likely to be at the garden? (choose all that apply):

Weekday mornings  Weekday afternoons  Weekday evenings

Saturdays  Sundays

Do you have any special skills or experiences you'd like to share with other gardeners? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Blandford Community Garden? \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Information

Do you have any allergies or phobias (bees, pollen, cut grass, spiders, etc.)? Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: ( )- -

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

### Background Check Consent

Because the Community Garden shares space with the Blandford Farm, an educational tool used by children of various ages, a background check is required for each adult who will be working in the garden. By signing below you hereby consent all those using the garden plot to a full background check and agree to abide by the Community Garden Guidelines and Etiquette.

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

If completing this document electronically, by entering your name above, you hereby consent to the aforementioned clause.