

Leslie Science & Nature Center

Adopt a Garden Program

Purpose

To develop a well-organized Adopt-A-Garden Program that mobilizes a corps of volunteer gardeners to plant and maintain beautiful gardens around Leslie Science & Nature Center.

Why Adopt-A-Garden?

Help improve the outside appearance of our grounds. Required maintenance levels cannot be maintained by Leslie Science & Nature Center.

Who can adopt?

Families

School/Community Groups

Local Businesses

Individuals

How Will the Program Work?

There will be no fee to adopt-a-garden! Maintenance efforts will be up to each person/garden. At the moment, most areas are overgrown. It will be left up to you to decide if what is currently planted should remain or be removed. You can plant your garden as you would like to see it. Flowers, shrubs, perennials, annuals, etc. will be completely up to you. (You will be required to purchase the plants you choose to add, but nothing is required). We envision that we will pick a Saturday in May where those who are interested can work together for the initial phase, however, the garden is yours to maintain. If the date chosen doesn't work for you, you can work on your garden at any time. Weeding and providing general maintenance to your area will be the main goal. Your garden will be yours from May through October 2016.

Garden spaces available to adopt:

Large-

#1-Circle Garden

Medium-

#2-Area in front of the Critter House

Small-

#3-Two small plots outside of the Walnut House

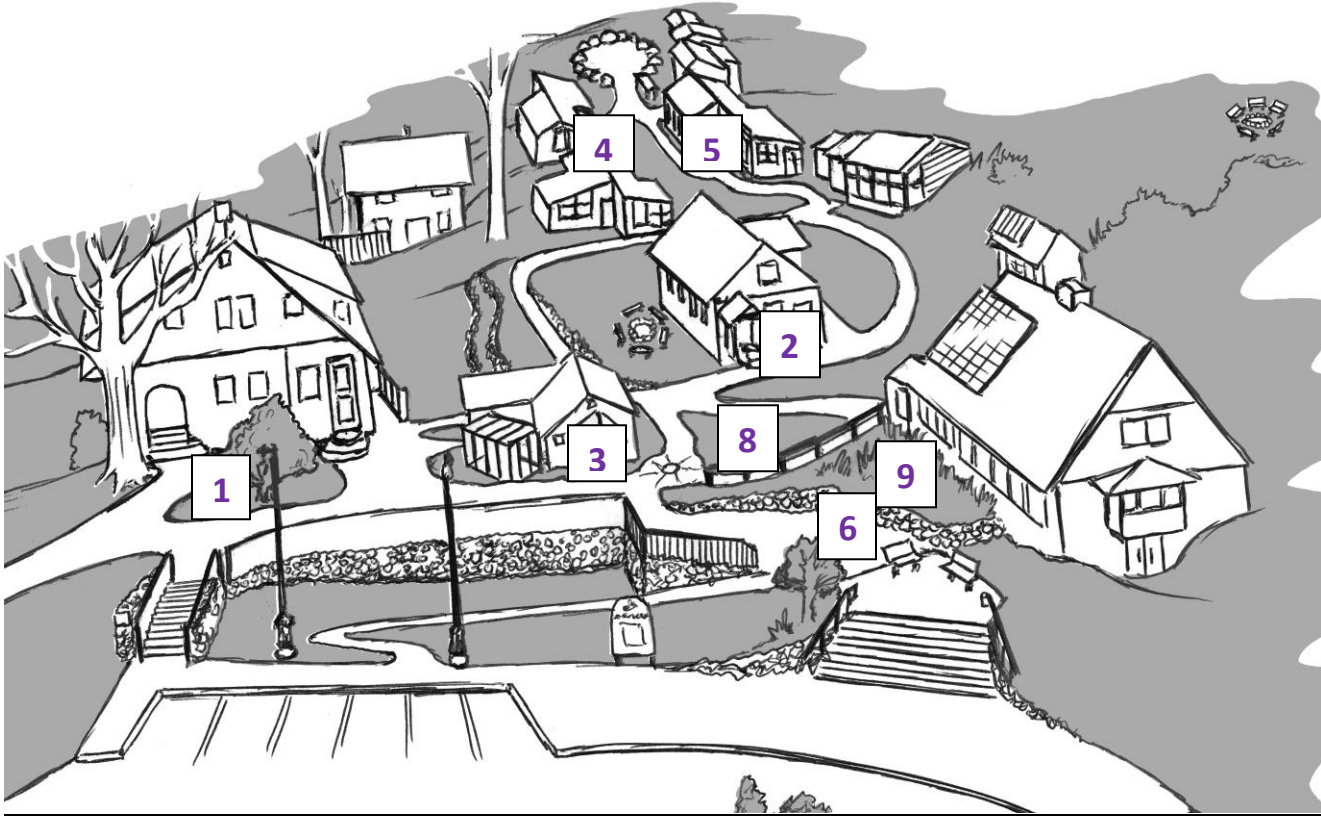
#4 & #5- Areas around the raptor enclosures- 2 different plots

#6- Plot at the top of the stairs along wall of the Energy House

Native plants only, weeding and maintenance only-

#8-Large plot between the Walnut House and Energy House.

#9-Large plot on hillside in front of Energy House



Garden Assignment

Volunteers are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Gardeners may choose from a list of available sites.

Garden sites will be assigned after: the Guidelines and information packet have been reviewed and the confirmation sheet is returned to the coordinator. Otherwise, the garden will still be open for adoption.

Once a site has been assigned, it is assumed the gardener will continue maintaining and planting the site until the coordinator is informed otherwise. The expected season of maintenance is May 1- Oct. 15th

If you do not wish to take on the full responsibility of a garden site, perhaps you would be interested in assisting another gardener at his/her site. Your interest and availability can be matched with another gardener.

Activities & Expectations

Upon site adoption, each gardener will be asked to provide a copy of the garden plan to the coordinator. This can be a simple drawing of your plans, along with a list of plant material. At the moment, most areas are overgrown. It will be left up to you to decide if what is currently planted should remain or be removed. You can plant your garden as you would like to see it. Flowers, perennials, annuals, etc. will be completely up to you. (You will be required to purchase the plants you choose to add, but nothing is required). Gardeners are encouraged to be creative with garden planting but be aware that there are many challenges in gardening public areas (i.e., drought, animals, pedestrian traffic, etc). Maintenance efforts will be up to each person/garden.

Gardeners are encouraged to plant densely. A standard rule calls for twice as many plants as you would plant at home. For success in your gardening efforts, try to pick plants that are appropriate to the site conditions of your garden (i.e., tolerates drought, shade/full sun, etc.)

In order to keep the gardens looking beautiful, gardeners should spend at least one hour per week watering, trimming, edging and deadheading. Gardeners are encouraged to have all clean-up and planting done by May 30 or earlier and to keep the garden planted all summer. LSNC will support grants and donation requests with prior LSNC approval.

Gardeners will need to supply their own tools to garden their sites. Gardeners will also need to purchase their own plant materials.

If circumstances require you to take a temporary leave from your garden (i.e., health problems, extended travel, pregnancy, etc.), please notify the coordinator. We will try to find an assistant to maintain your site during your absence.

If an entire summer passes with little to no activity at a garden site and the garden appears neglected, attempts will be made to contact the gardener to determine the situation. It will be at the discretion of the coordinator to assess the situation and possibly reopen a garden for adoption, if necessary.

LSNC Assistance

LSNC can provide gardeners with a number of services to support gardening efforts. Services include:

Compost curb side pick- up

Mulch

Water, hoses, and nozzles

Chemicals Policy

Pesticide usage is not permitted by volunteers.

To inhibit weeds, we prefer you use natural, biodegradable methods, such as mulch.

Regarding fertilizer, we prefer you use biodegradable, natural substances such as compost. Any additional use of fertilizers, such as slow release, non-toxic fertilizers, should be used sparingly and approved by LSNC.

The following are excellent resources on this topic: www.msue.mus.edu/oakland/hortag.html

The Garden Hotline (MSU Extension Service) – 248-858-0902

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Adopt a Garden Program

Application

Organization Name

Contact or Individual's Name

E-Mail

Phone Number: _____ (home/work/Mobile)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ~ _____ Zip: _____

Rank in order your top 3 desired locations of gardens to adopt:

- _____ #1-Circle Garden
- _____ #2-Area in front of the Critter House
- _____ #3-Two small plots outside of the Walnut House
- _____ #4 - Areas around the raptor enclosures
- _____ #5- Areas around the raptor enclosures
- _____ #6- Plot at the top of the stairs along wall of the Energy House
- _____ #7- Raised beds outside of the Critter House
- _____ #8-Large plot between the Walnut House and Energy House.
- _____ #9-Large plot on hillside in front of Energy House

I understand and agree to the responsibilities of the Leslie Science & Nature Center Adopt-a-Garden Program. I/ we will faithfully maintain our adopted gardens throughout the 2017 season from May- October 15, 2017.

Signature

Date

Please return to karen@lesliesnc.org or 1831 Traver Rd. Ann Arbor, MI

Please feel free to call 734-929-2331

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Garden Plan

The Adopt-A-Garden Program would like to keep a record of each gardeners' plan in order to better understand the types of plant material that are planted on the grounds each year. This will also assist us in case you need to take a leave of absence or need to retire your garden. This can be a simple sketch with a list of plant material. Mail To: LSNC 1831 Traver Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105. For questions, please call or e-mail Karen Rendell at 734-929-2331 or karen@lesliesnc.org.

Garden Site:

Gardener(s):

Plant Material List:

Sketch of garden:

