

Leslie Science & Nature Center

Adopt-A-Garden Program

Program Description: The Leslie Science & Nature Center's Adopt-A-Garden Program provides a way for members of the community to participate in the beautification and maintenance of our gardens and to enhance visitor experience at the center. The Adopt-A-Garden Program also helps us to strengthen ties with our community and bring fellow gardeners together towards a common goal.

Why Adopt-A-Garden? Volunteer gardeners can use their creativity and show off their gardening skills to the thousands of visitors who frequent our site during the summer months.

Who can adopt?

Individuals (18+)

Families

School/Community Groups

Local Businesses

How does the program work? There will be no fee to Adopt-A-Garden! 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 your own plants, but there will be reimbursement up to a certain amount depending on the garden you choose. We envision that we will pick a Saturday in late April 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 2019.

Gardener's Responsibilities:

- Rearrange and maintain existing plants
- Purchase and plant new plants
- Weekly weeding and upkeep
- Deposit compost and waste into the correct receptacles

Leslie Science & Nature Center Provides:

- Spring clean-up
- Compost/waste disposal
- Water and mulch
- Tools available upon request
- Custom painted stone with adopter's name in garden
- Reimbursement for plant purchases

Adoptable Gardens

Large –

1 - Circle Drive Garden
\$80 reimbursement

Medium –

2 - Critter House Garden
\$70 reimbursement

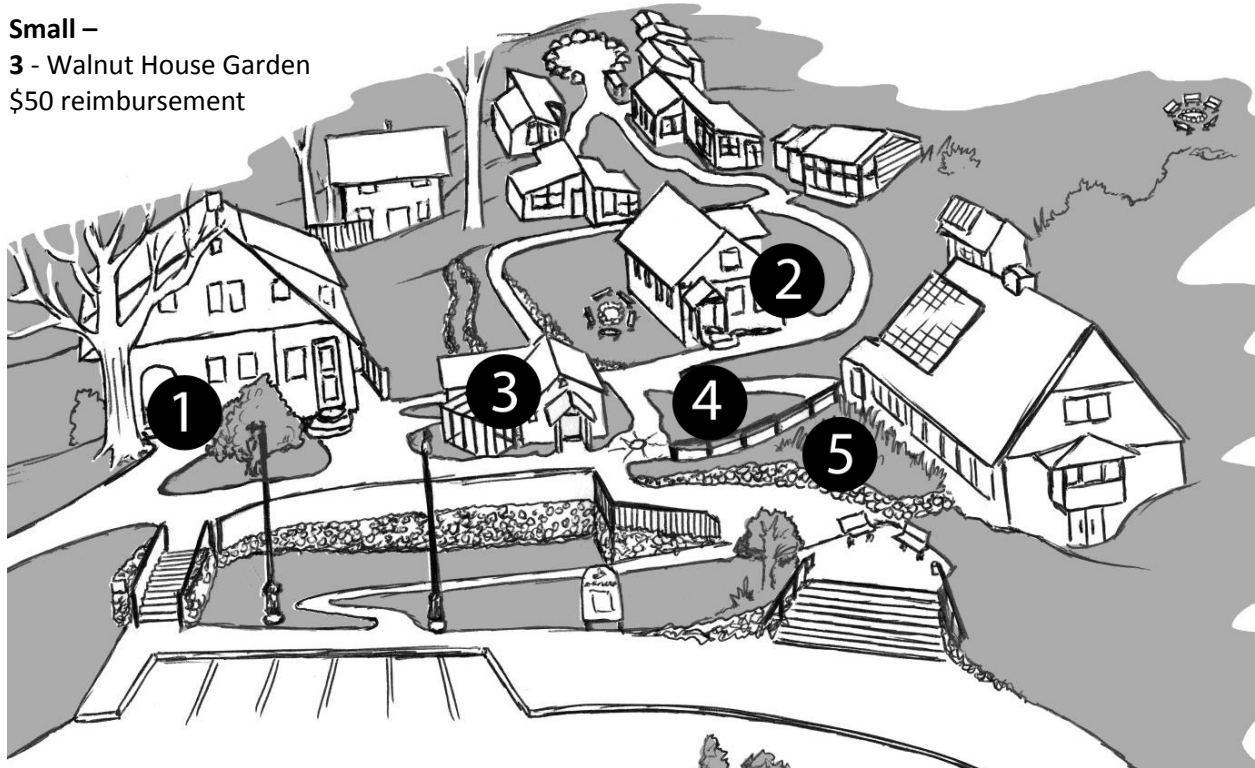
Small –

3 - Walnut House Garden
\$50 reimbursement

Native Plant Gardens (weeding and maintenance only)

4 - Large garden between Energy House and Walnut House

5 - Large garden on hillside next to Energy House



Garden Assignment

Gardens are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Volunteers may choose from a list of available sites. Garden sites will be assigned after the Application Packet has been reviewed and submitted to the coordinator. Otherwise, the garden will remain open for adoption.

Once a site has been assigned, it is assumed the adopter 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 adopter at their site or working in one of our native gardens. Our native gardens are maintenance only and are not assigned to any one volunteer. However, you will still have to fill out an application and submit it to the coordinator if you wish to work in them.

Activities & Expectations

Upon adoption, each volunteer will be asked to provide a list of plants they would like to purchase as well as a brief outline of their plans for their garden to the coordinator. 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. Volunteers 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. 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.

Each garden is allotted a certain amount of money that can be used to reimburse volunteers for plant purchases. In order to receive reimbursement for plant purchases you will need to submit your receipts to the coordinator.

Volunteers will have access to the gardening tools here at LSNC when the coordinator is on duty. You are welcome to bring your own tools, however LSNC is not liable for any broken, lost or stolen equipment.

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 month passes with little to no activity at a garden site and the garden appears neglected, attempts will be made to contact you 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.

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 be 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

**Leslie Science & Nature Center
Adopt -A- Garden Program
Application**

Organization Name

Contact or Individual's Name

E-Mail

Phone Number: _____ (home/work/cell)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ #1-Circle Garden

_____ #2- Critter House

_____ #3- Walnut House

_____ #4-Large garden between the Walnut House and Energy House.

_____ #5-Large garden 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 send this completed application to: tbrockman@lesliesnc.org or 1831 Traver Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

If you have any questions please send an email to: tbrockman@lesliesnc.org or call (734)-997-1553