
City of Berkeley Adopt A Garden





OVERVIEW & GOALS

Thank you for your interest in Berkley's Adopt A Garden program!

Our public gardens play an important role in making Berkley a beautiful, welcoming community.

The Adopt A Garden program allows community members to care for these shared spaces and help them thrive throughout the growing season.

By adopting a garden, volunteers maintain and enhance select public planting areas throughout the city. Some areas just need light tasks such as weeding, watering, deadheading flowers, and keeping the garden tidy. Others offer a "blank canvas" for new non-edible plants and flowers, and related maintenance.

This program is built on community pride and the generosity of volunteers who donate their time and energy. Whether you are an experienced gardener or simply someone who enjoys spending time outdoors, your participation helps ensure these spaces remain vibrant, healthy, and enjoyable for everyone who passes by.

Our Appreciation

The City of Berkley is grateful for the individuals, families, and groups who choose to adopt a garden. Your efforts help keep our public spaces beautiful while strengthening the sense of community that makes Berkley special.

As a small token of our appreciation, each adopted garden will feature a sign recognizing the individual, family, or group who cares for it during the season.

How to Sign Up

Scan the QR code below, [click here](#), or email us at: berkley-beautification@googlegroups.com





Expectations & Responsibilities

Who Can Adopt a Garden

The program is open to Berkley residents.

- Individuals and families
- Local businesses
- Scout troops and school clubs
- Community, faith-based, or garden organizations

Garden Care Responsibilities

Adopt A Garden volunteers are responsible for the general care and upkeep of their assigned garden. This may include:

- Planting flowers and/or non-edible plants
- Watering as needed
- Weeding regularly
- Pruning or trimming plants
- Deadheading flowers to encourage continued blooms
- Removing debris or litter
- Maintaining a neat and welcoming appearance throughout the season
- Submitting updates or photos to the Beautification Advisory Committee for inclusion in our scrapbook and other public content sources

Creating a Garden

If the assigned location does not currently have an established garden, the volunteer will be responsible for designing and planting the garden at the start of the season.

Seasonal Commitment

Maintain your garden from May through October the year you sign up.

If you are no longer able to maintain your adopted garden, please notify berkley-beautification@googlegroups.com so we can find another volunteer to take over care of the space.



Garden Guidelines & Planting Recommendations

Plant Selection

Volunteers are encouraged to select plants that are appropriate for the site's growing conditions, sunlight, soil, and available space. We also encourage native Michigan plants and pollinator-friendly species.

When choosing plants, please keep the following in mind:

- Choose hardy plants suited for Michigan's climate
- Select plants that will not spread, vine, or grow too large for the space
- Avoid planting edible plants, which may attract pests and wildlife
- Do not plant invasive species

The Beautification Advisory Committee can provide more specific guidance if you have questions about which plants are best for your garden.

Visibility & Safety

Public gardens are often located near streets, sidewalks, and signage. For safety and accessibility, please ensure that plantings do not interfere with visibility or public infrastructure:

- Do not block street signs, traffic signs, or city signage
- Trim plants so they do not obstruct sidewalks, pathways, or intersections
- Avoid planting anything that could interfere with pedestrian access

Environmentally Responsible Gardening

We encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly gardening practices.

- Do not use pesticides, herbicides, or other harmful or toxic chemicals
- Avoid products that could harm pollinators, wildlife, or the surrounding environment
- Hand weeding, mulching, and natural care methods are encouraged

General Garden Care

To keep gardens looking their best throughout the season:

- Remove weeds regularly
- Trim or deadhead plants as needed
- Remove litter or debris if present
- Maintain a clean and tidy appearance



Additional Information

Process and Expectations Continued

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

Sites will officially be assigned after: the Guidelines and information packet have been reviewed and the confirmation form is completed.

Once a site has been assigned, it is assumed the gardener will continue maintaining and planting the site until the coordinator is informed otherwise.

If circumstances require you to take a temporary leave from your garden (i.e., health problems, extended travel, pregnancy, etc.), please notify berkeley-beautification@googlegroups.com so we can try to find assistance.

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. We will assess the situation and possibly reopen a garden for adoption, if necessary.

What the City and Beautification Advisory Committee Will Provide

We will support the Adopt A Garden program with:

- Plot selection and site approval
- Starter mulch or compost (as available)
- Information on water access nearest your site
- “Adopted by” recognition sign
- Gardening tips and support as needed

Volunteers can also take advantage of the Seed Library located inside the Berkley Public Library to choose from a wide variety of free seeds available.

More Resources

The MSU Extension Master Gardener program is an excellent resource for Michigan Gardeners and can answer questions that arise along the way.

- Online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert/>
- Call the Lawn and Garden Hotline at 1-888-678-3464

Locations



Bacon Park Sign

Found on Webster between Bacon and Phillips. This spot offers partial sun with medium maintenance.



Oxford Park Sign

Found off of Bacon between oxford and Cambridge. This spot offers partial sun and shade with medium maintenance.



Friends Park Sign

Found on Harvard between Berkley and Henley street. This spot offers partial sun and shade with low maintenance. ****Existing Garden****



Angell Park Sign

Found on the corner of Wiltshire and Bacon. This spot offers partial sun and shade with medium maintenance.



Berkley Public Safety Building

Berkley Public safety building is located off of 12 mile road. The garden is found near the front entrance sign. This spot offers partial sun with medium maintenance. ****Existing Garden****

Locations



Community Park Sign #1

Found at the corner of Robina and Cambridge. This spot offers partial sun and shade.



Community Park Sign #2

Found at the corner of Oxford and Robina. This spot offers partial sun and shade in a high traffic area.



Kiwanis Tot-Lot Park Sign

Found on Cambridge street on the north end of the park. This spot offers full sun, a great spot for annuals and flowers.



Lazenby Field Sign

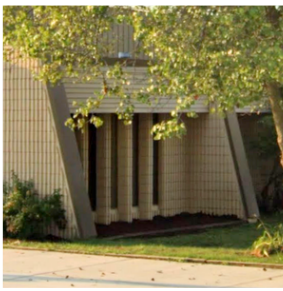
Found off of Oxford near Henley Ave. This spot offers lots of sun in a high traffic area.

Locations



Community Center (North)

Found at the front entrance of the Community Center (to the left). This spot offers partial sun and mostly shade.



Community Center (West)

Found along the west side of the community center building, in the first window cove. This spot offer morning shade with afternoon sun.

Process Overview

01

Please read through this packet to learn about the program, volunteer expectations, and garden guidelines. This will help you determine if adopting a garden is the right fit for you.



02

If you would like to participate, please fill out the Confirmation Form here: [Sign Up Here](#). This form allows you to officially sign up for the program and request the garden plot location you are interested in adopting.



03

The gardening season begins in May. Volunteers will plant, maintain, and care for their adopted garden throughout the growing season, helping keep Berkley's public spaces beautiful and welcoming.



04

At the end of the season, volunteers are asked to complete a final fall clean-up of their garden. This may include removing annual plants, cutting back appropriate perennials, pulling weeds, and leaving the space neat and prepared for winter.

FAQS

Where do I sign up?

You can officially sign up using our confirmation form here: [Berkley Adopt-a-Garden Confirmation form](#). Once we receive your sign up, we will send you an email confirmation to confirm your garden plot.

Who provides the plants and materials?

Unless otherwise specified, volunteers are responsible for providing their own plants and any small gardening supplies needed to maintain their adopted garden. If you need suggestions on plants, please reach out to berkeley-beautification@googlegroups.com for assistance.

Who is responsible for watering?

Volunteers are responsible for watering their garden as needed throughout the season. Rainfall may not be sufficient, especially during hotter summer months.

Can a group or family adopt a garden together?

Yes! Families, friends, and community groups are welcome to adopt a garden together. It's a great way to share responsibilities and enjoy the experience as a team. Local businesses are also welcomed and encourages to participate.

What if I can no longer maintain my garden?

If you are unable to continue caring for your garden, please email the Beautification Advisory Committee as soon as possible so arrangements can be made for another volunteer to take over.

Are pesticides or fertilizers allowed?

The use of pesticides, herbicides, or other harmful or toxic chemicals is not permitted. Volunteers are encouraged to use natural, environmentally friendly gardening practices.

