

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION



WELCOME TO THE GARDENS

- **Dedicated volunteers- Over 30 yrs. of volunteering**
- **Thoughtful leadership- self governing with elected board members and committee chairs**
- **Peer interaction and sharing- Individual and Team oriented experiences**
- **Opportunity for growth in horticultural knowledge-Monthly educational speakers, knowledgeable members**
- **Opportunity for community interaction and personal satisfaction-Educational gardens, Plant Sale, Open House, Special Projects**

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Purpose, Mission and Goals

- To provide horticultural support to the MSU Tollgate Gardens
- To help volunteers and visitors to the site increase their horticultural knowledge and enjoyment



Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee

The **TGAC** is the Executive Board composed of elected volunteer members acting as officers and designated chairpersons who work with the designated MSU Farm Liaison and other MSU staff to execute the business duties in order to create a welcoming and productive environment for Tollgate's garden volunteers.



Membership

- All interested gardeners welcome, many are Master Gardeners (MG) or new MG candidates
- “Active” members must complete the Volunteer Selection Process in order to work in the gardens and on projects/events “Supporting” members enjoy monthly membership meetings only
- You can choose to change status and complete VSP at any time
- Recommended membership fee, however all donations accepted and will go towards maintaining the gardens

Activity Highlights

- Tollgate has 19 named educational gardens, some with multiple sub- gardens, most are scheduled for Team and individual gardener activities for maintenance
- Saturday group work activity days based on a calendar developed every year
- E-mail reminder notices are sent to Active members ahead of planned activity
- Teams with Area Garden Leaders(AGLs) and other experienced members lead group activity days scheduled to accomplish garden tasks, programs or events

Resources

- **TGAC, AGL, experienced members!**-These folks have the expertise, familiarity and willingness to share and answer questions.
- **Tools**-Long handled tools, wheelbarrows, tarps and some hand tools. We recommend you bring your own.
- **Garden Binders**-plant list, map, garden planner, To-do lists, AGL contact info.
- **The Farm News Newsletter**-updates, articles pictures, schedules, announcements (also available on web site)
- **Web Site** <https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/volunteering/>
link to volunteer page, newsletters, activity calendar, Farm Liaison contact info, membership form etc.

MSU Tollgate Gardens



The Demonstration Gardens



The Demonstration Gardens

- The area bordering the north parking lot
- Divided into multiple gardens of manageable sizes and different plantings/themes
- Intended as an educational area to view mature and varied plantings of trees, shrubs and perennials
- Features three sitting areas and is frequently visited and viewed
- In need of more creative and dedicated volunteers/teams
- An opportunity for garden design and planting upgrades

Demonstration Garden

- Gazebo and grape arbor and solar fountain
- Featured plantings including spirea, lilac, junipers, crab apples, native plantings and more
- Multi season interest









And so much more.....



THE HOSTA GARDEN



THE HOSTA GARDEN

- Shaded under spruce and black walnut with a central seating area, located between the farmhouse and parking lot, has irrigation
- Many hosta varieties and companion plants in sections
- Late spring mulching, clean up, path maintenance
- Weeding, some deadheading
- Special tool cleaning required due to hosta virus X precautions until further notice
- High deer browse area



FARMHOUSE

- Well planned, planted area, high visibility with experienced team leader
- Needs pruning, weeding, extensive early spring mulching
- Easily divided into separate sections for focused care



FARMHOUSE



HERITAGE GARDEN

- 1800'S style plant selections
- High visibility location front of conference center
- Wide variety of perennial, shrubs
- Needs team for all maintenance of weeding deadheading thinning



HERITAGE



ROCK LEDGE

- Located near stairway to corral
- Drought tolerant and rock garden type plantings
- Bench for a view of the rose garden above



The Rose Garden



The Founders (Rose) Garden

- Dedicated and re-named the Founders Garden in 2024 this is a high visibility, high interest garden with visitors and volunteers. Renovation to replace roses lost to Rose Rosette disease was completed in 2023
- Volunteer team members will learn and grow in knowledge as the garden matures
- A mixed planting plan of hardy roses and companion plants
- Once established maintenance includes weeding and deadheading, pest control, pruning throughout the season with fall clean up and winter protection



SHADE GARDEN

- Located between farmhouse and communication center
- Has irrigation and a pathway through shade beneath spruce trees
- A more sunny section to the west-Dry Riverbed
- Experienced team members to guide activities



SHADE GARDEN

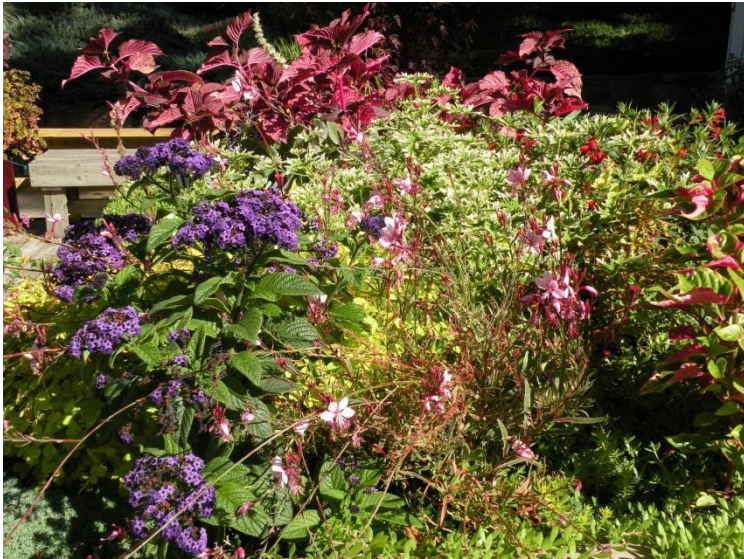


ENABLING GARDEN

- Container gardening with easy physical access
- Planting deadheading of annuals, some container rebuilds
- Knowledgeable team to guide activities



Enabling Garden



ENTRANCE GARDEN

- First garden up the south entrance driveway
- Irrigated
- Wide selection of perennials
- Rock garden, sun and shade areas





OFFICE GARDENS

- Along south driveway in front of Farm Manager/Extension offices
- Could be divided into sections looking for additional team members
- Has grasses, shrubs, perennials, brickscape path/patio
- Weeding, deadheading, annual planting for color
- Brick paved walkways



OFFICE GARDEN



RAIN GARDEN

- Designed and implemented jointly with Novi Beautification committee
- Takes runoff from communication center
- Variety of plantings
- Needs weeding, deadheading



RAIN GARDEN

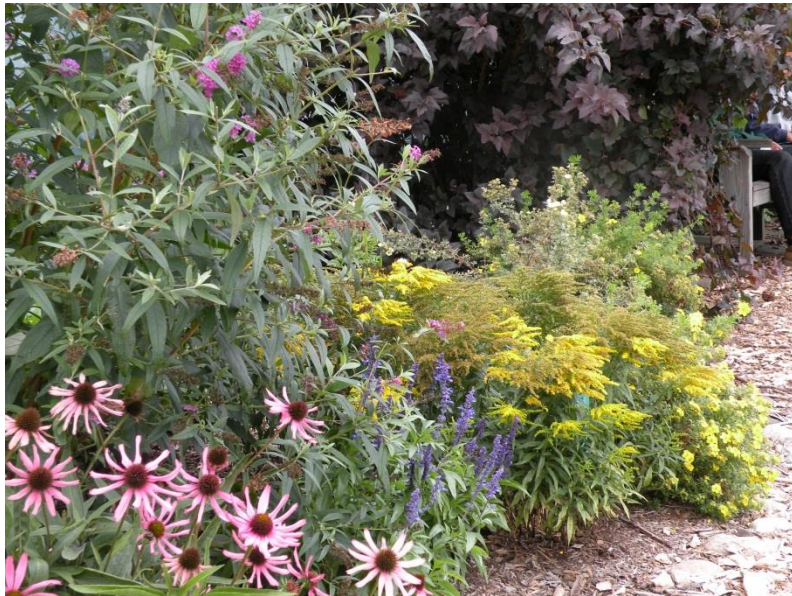
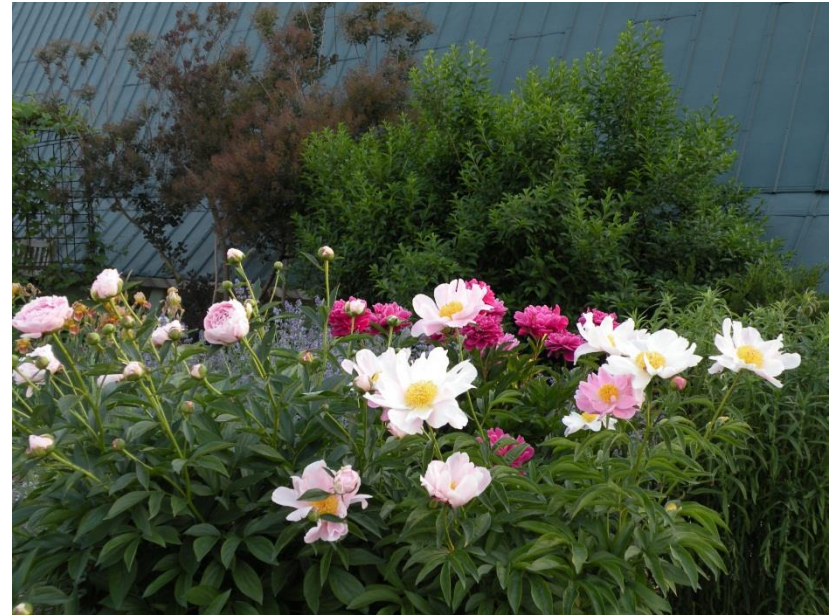


XERISCAPE

- Located at large barn south and east sides
- Dry tolerant plantings perennials and shrubs
- Needs weeding, deadheading, pruning
- Has experienced team leader



Xeriscape



CHILDREN'S GARDEN

- Has multiple small garden areas
- Mostly perennial, some annual plantings
- Children themed in plant selection
- Needs team members



CHILDREN'S GARDEN



NURSERY

- Holding area for plant sale
- Shade and sun areas, irrigated
- Weeding and plant material assessment
- Intense spring activity, later season maintenance
- Has a creative and successful team to split the tasks, lots of opportunity for improving plant knowledge



Spring Plant Sale



PLANT A ROW (PAR)

- Productive, large vegetable garden. Fenced, irrigated.
- Established team
- Needs multiple members for tasks throughout the season
- All harvest to local food bank

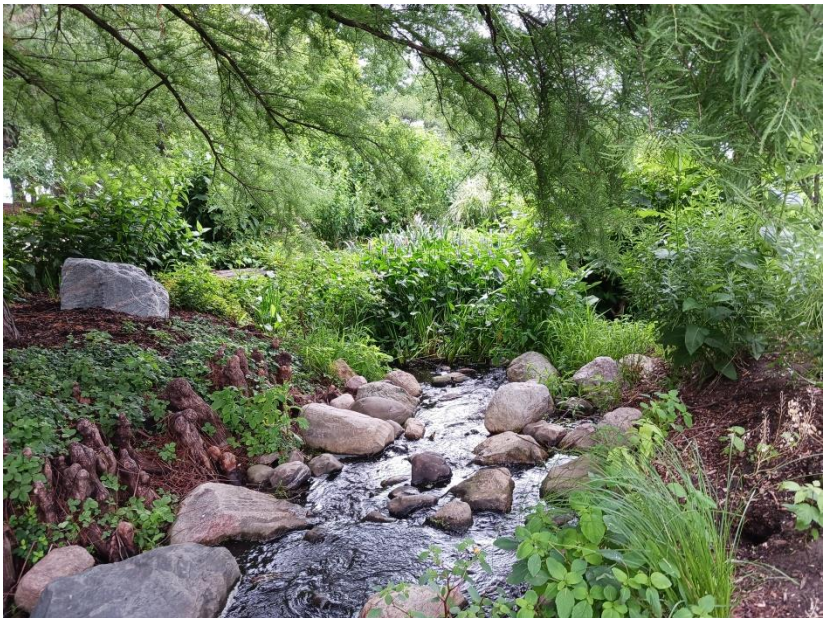




CONSTRUCTED WETLAND-POND

- Large area to divide into smaller sections
- Established paths, deck, garden beds
- Variety of plantings
- Needs control of invasive growth and planting ideas
- Has dedicated leader





12 MILE GARDEN

- Corner of 12 Mile and Meadowbrook
- Contains signage for site and raised bed garden
- Grasses, shrubs and perennials
- Remote site



Sakura Garden



Sakura Garden

- Established in cooperation with Oakland county and local Japanese business/community
- Features a variety of blooming cherry trees, a tea house and surrounding garden bed
- Needs early weeding and mulching





For Questions or Info



MSU Farm Liaison to the Garden Volunteers

Destiny Pearson

pears278@msu.edu

Web site-

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/volunteering/>

Renee Cottrell, President Tollgate Garden Volunteers

rmcottrell4@att.net