



Sophia Street Community Garden
 Corner of Sophia and Michael Streets, Manistee, MI
2023 Plot Rental



Sophia Street Community Garden is a volunteer-led program of Manistee Community Kitchen ~ a place where people gather, plant and grow together. We encourage everyone to dig in and grow their own food!

The 4' x 8' raised bed plots are filled with nutrient-rich soil. They can be rented by individuals and organizations for \$30 annually. Gardeners have access to on-site water, rhubarb patch, herb garden, flowers for cutting, compost bins, and horticultural support. Gardeners agree to use organic and natural fertilizers and pest control. All are encouraged to help out with group work sessions whenever possible.

Make checks or money orders payable to Manistee Community Kitchen with "Sophia Garden" as the memo.

Please complete and return this form with your payment to:

Manistee Community Kitchen
c/o Melissa Bradley-Whitman
313 Maple Street
Manistee, MI 49660

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Weesie's Greenhouses Special Offer:
10% savings on plants (up to one flat)
 3691 US 31 South, Manistee
 Just tell them you are a Sophia Gardener at check out.

Preferred Plot location (**limit 2**):

Questions? Contact Melissa Bradley-Whitman, 859.402.6983, melissaannbradley@gmail.com

<i>Item</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Quantity (limit 2)</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>
Plot Rental & all the extras	\$30.00		
Optional Tax-Deductible Donation			
(Financial assistance available.)	Total Enclosed		

My gardening level is (circle one)

First-Timer <i>I've never done this before.</i>	Beginner <i>I've grown a few things.</i>	Intermediate <i>I've grown and harvested food somewhat successfully.</i>	Experienced <i>I could teach a class.</i>
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Please indicate (circle) what types of gardening demonstrations and instruction are of interest to you.

Soil Evaluation and Amendments	Composting	Vertical Gardening	Cool Weather Gardening
Planning and Seed Starting	Seed Saving	Other:	

I have read and agree to the Sophia Street Garden Guidelines. I understand that I could lose my gardening privileges if I do not comply with these guidelines.

Signed _____ Date _____

2023 Sophia Street Garden Guidelines

1. Gardeners will have their plot planted for the entire growing season, with the majority of plants being vegetables. There will be flowers for cutting available in the common area.
2. Each gardener will maintain (plant, water, weed and harvest) their rented plot. If a plot is unkempt, the gardener will be notified about a cleanup plan. If the plot is not cleaned, it will be reassigned or tilled in.
3. Watering hoses and nozzles are provided. When done using the hose, turn off the water at the spigot and wind up the hose on the reel. (The mower appreciates your efforts.)
4. *Organic or natural* fertilizers and pest control will be used as needed.
5. Deer, unfortunately, are regular visitors at Sophia. Guidelines for safe repellents and barriers will be followed (see separate policy for full details). In a nutshell, there are two spray products only that are acceptable. *Plantskydd* is the preferred repellent and will be provided with your rental. *Outta Here* is another approved product. *Fencing is the best* of all options, and it can be structurally simple and inexpensive. Assistance is available if needed.
6. When selecting fencing materials please consider netting size; on occasion small birds have been caught in the netting.
7. The compost bin will be used according to posted guidelines. These are essential for a healthy microbial mix. Finished compost may be used as a nutritious top-dressing in your bed.
8. If a gardener must abandon his/her garden, they will notify Melissa Bradley-Whitman, 859-402-6983, melissaannbradley@gmail.com.
9. Gardeners may harvest crops only from their own plots or from the common areas.
10. At the end of the growing season, gardeners will clear their own plot.
11. Children are welcome in the garden if accompanied by an adult.
12. Pets are welcome if kept on a leash and closely supervised, including cleaning up after them.
13. Any conflicts, cases of vandalism, or problems will be communicated with Melissa Bradley-Whitman, 859-402-6983, melissaannbradley@gmail.com.
14. The garden is family friendly. Smoking, drunkenness, swearing, bullying, and intimidation will not be tolerated and may result in loss of privileges.
15. All gardeners agree to the following: “I understand that Manistee Community Kitchen (MCK) is not responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless MCK, partners, organizations, and sponsors for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or any of my guests.”

