



At the end of last season, we were excited by the idea of two new gardens starting in Meridian Township in 2015. Both groups, Haslett Middle School and St. Paul Lutheran Church did launch gardens this season, after attending GP's Garden Leader's Training in late winter, bringing two new unique growing spaces to the Township. It is great to see both sustainability at Meridian's existing gardens, as well as thoughtful expansion to fill needs.



Okemos International Garden at Central/Cedar Creek

Okemos International had a significant changeover of gardeners this past season. A significant portion of the longtime Meskhetian Turk gardeners are now gardening at a private home lot nearby. This turnover and opening of newly available lots brought in about a dozen new gardeners, many international graduate students, some with families. It was a mix of those that were new to gardening and many who had gardens in their home countries and were eager for a chance to grow here. In fact, the garden was so popular, we had to reduce the size of a few plots to fit everyone in that was interested. Steady communication with the apartment manager continues to help facilitate collaboration. Even after connecting with the school principal



and the president of the PTA in the winter of last year, there is a lack of current interest in the school garden plots. We continue to maintain good relations with Okemos Public Schools to perform tilling and we also hosted a spring garden clean-up with MSU students.

Marsh Pointe Garden

Marsh Pointe Garden had a transitional year after their long-time garden leader moved. Luckily, with their well-organized leadership team in place, which meets monthly, transition was smooth, with Linda Bryce and Jim Coty now leading the garden committee. Their committee had to work with a new facilities manager to resolve an



irrigation issue, but was still opened by Memorial Day. This year, they decided to plant some small fruits and also received a 10 yard load of compost in early May for the veggie plots.



Edgewood Village Community Garden

A new staff person at Edgewood brought about big improvements to the garden this season. Container gardening was a big hit, with over 100 tomato plants being grown in 5 gallon buckets. A new brick paved walking path was also built and multiple work days were hosted. Participation began to falter a bit mid-season, but the new leader, Rebecca Taylor, gave the gardeners a big influx of plant starts, help and encouragement and reported that the garden was a big success in the end. The new garden leader attended Garden Leader's Training in the winter and visited the Resource Center on multiple occasions to borrow tools and receive cover crop seeds, plants and veggie seeds.

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Grange Acres

Grange Acres had *another* large expansion this season and required a 35 yard load of compost and service to get this going this spring. They continue to grow and expand access for the seniors on site. We again set up 'VIP' hours for Grange Acres gardeners to pick up supplies at the RC during the season.



Wardcliff Garden



Wardcliff again had about 100 gardeners this year in 65 plots. Wardcliff continues to be community focused with many gardeners donating produce to area pantries. Garden Leader, Martin Chivers, spoke this year at our Garden Leader's Training about their success and experiences.



Northwind Community Garden

Northwind had another successful season! A leadership change brought the very positive and well organized Sandy Firestone to serve as garden leader, as well as a couple gardeners to attend GLT. Monthly potlucks and proximity to local businesses makes this garden a hub of activity throughout the season. GP provided



a dozen yards of compost as well as a couple deliveries of straw bales for mulching. The garden serves a diverse group of gardeners, who have a true sense of community.

Haslett Middle School



The HMS garden was spearheaded by a group of teachers, who attended GLT and started the garden with the mission to teach science and serve as a service learning project for students to grow and donate produce to their local food bank. Both the Student Council and the Builder's Club were involved in garden start-up process. The garden received 10 yards of compost as well as other startup supplies from GP.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

After starting with a small growing space in 2014, 14 members of the St. Paul Lutheran Church launched their community garden this year to support their on-site church pantry. The garden was tilled, composted, fenced and mulched. Also very importantly, the garden really brought the group together to define their collective goals and mission and they continue to meet on the first Sunday of each month to continue committee work.

