



Meridian Township Community Gardens Update 2012

from the Garden Project of The Greater Lansing Food Bank

Thank you for the support for community gardens and a healthier food system you have shown over the past two years. 2012 was another successful year for Meridian Township community gardens; below are a few highlights of activities from the Meridian sites.

Grange Acres Community Garden (new in 2012)

The Garden Project was able to work with residents and staff at Grange acres as well as other community members to plan and install a new garden at Grange Acres apartments. The population of seniors on a tight budget at Grange Acres has been very



enthusiastic about the garden. There was room for 20 gardeners this season with a combination of in ground and raised bed gardening. However, we understand that there is an interest/ waitlist of nearly 40 more people who are hoping to garden in 2013. Thus, we be helping them plan for and implement garden expansion plans to meet this demand for gardening space in 2013.

Edgewood Village Community Garden

Now in its second season, Edgewood Village continued its success in serving residents of this large apartment complex – both seniors and families. The garden features 30 small plots, including 6 raised beds and a large children’s section that serves kids in the Edgewood’s programming. Improvements this year included adding compost and buying wheelbarrow and other tools that will be easier for senior gardeners to handle.



Okemos International Garden at Central/Cedar Creek

Over 25 families lovingly tending their plots in this super productive garden on Central School property. Improvements this year included a larger water storage tank, hoses, and compost. This garden continues to be a key gathering spot for members of the Meskhetian Turk community in Meridian Township.

Northwind Community Garden continued as a strong community of gardeners who celebrated the growing of food with potlucks, workdays and an active list serve. This year the adjacent business Play offered some programming in the garden, and the owner of this business cited the garden as one of the reasons she chose the location for her business. Improvements this year at Northwind included the addition of more rainwater catchment, the addition of new tools and hoses, a new larger shed, and the addition of numerous new plants in the common spaces such as blueberries and perennials.



Wardcliff Garden was full of neighborhood gardeners excited to grow together. Improvements this year included reinforcements to the deer fencing, compost and new hoses. They have also continued their donation section, donating over 200 pounds to the Haslett Food Pantry and MSU Student Food Bank.



Marsh Pointe Garden has continued to meet the needs of Marsh Pointe residents and also continued their relationship with a local scout troop in order to help build and meet the physical needs of larger projects. This year they were one of



the stops featured on the Haslett Garden Tour put on by the Haslett Beautification Association.