

ADA VILLAGE KIDS' GARDEN

2018

“From seed to harvest to table...the complete garden experience!”

Information and Registration Packet

****With 4-H Junior Master Gardener Certification****

Many Thanks to our Sponsors, Donors and Partners!



Ada Township Parks and Recreation Department

P.O. 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI 49301

Phone: 616-676-0520 fax: 616-676-5870 e-mail: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

www.adatownshipmi.com

ADA VILLAGE KIDS' GARDEN

2018 General Information



The Ada Village Kids' Garden engages area youth, ages 9-12, in vegetable gardening, healthy lifestyles, business and service. Youth will work in the garden, receive classroom instruction and be involved with the Ada Farmers' Market. Activities include planting, maintaining the garden, harvesting crops, selling produce at the Farmers' Market and making donations to local food banks. Youth will also be certified as 4-H Junior Master Gardeners (JMG) through the MSU Kent County Extension.



Location and Staffing:

The Garden is located next to *The Community Church* at 7239 Thornapple River Dr. in Ada. Activities take place at the Garden, the church building and the Farmers' Market. Instructors are staff from the Parks & Recreation Department and volunteers from the MSU Master Gardener Program. Parents and past *Gardeners* may also volunteer to help.

Schedule:

The Ada Kids' Garden program is offered on **Tuesdays from April 17 to September 25**. A detailed schedule is outlined in the next page. We encourage youth to attend all sessions, but realize that other activities or family obligations may cause some absences.

The Three-Season Schedule correlates with school schedules and summer break.

Spring:	April 17 – June 5	4:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Summer:	June 12 – Aug. 21	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *
Fall:	August 28 – Sept. 25	4:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



***Summer Market Days:** Garden kids sign up for at least 3 days in the summer to sell their garden produce at the Ada Farmers' Market, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Parents are needed to help at the Market booth.



Junior Master Gardener (JMG) certification: JMG is an international youth gardening program designed to encourage a love of gardening & an appreciation for the environment (www.jmgkids.us).

Fees: **\$140** April through Sept. - Includes instruction, supplies, snacks, JMG certification & book.
\$130 For second year Gardeners

Discounts and Scholarships:

Ada Township residents can receive a 10% discount on their total fee. Scholarships may be available to cover part of the program fee. Applicants must be enrolled in the reduced/free lunch program at their school.



To Register submit registration forms and payment prior to the start of the session:

By mail to: Ada Township Parks and Recreation Dept., P.O. Box 370, Ada, MI 49301
In person at: Ada Township office at 7330 Thornapple River Dr.
or Ada Park office at 1180 Buttrick Ave.


*Payment by cash, check or money order, payable to Ada Township.
*Please complete one form for each child.



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ADA VILLAGE KIDS' GARDEN

Schedule & Topics

-  **Indicates days when **parent help** is especially needed, although parents are welcome to help any time.
■ Indicates **Market dates** - Gardeners sign up for at least 3 days: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. shifts.

Spring

April 17- June 5 4:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

-  April 17 Garden planning, organic gardening, start indoor seed plantings
 **April 24 Soils, water and composting: guest speaker, soil testing, spread compost
 **May 1 Planting prep: put up fences, mark rows
 **May 8 Plant cool season crops
 May 15 Field Trip to Koetsier's Greenhouse
 **May 22 Plant warm season crops
 May 29 Plant growth and development: make seed balls, dissect a plant
 June 5 Environmental horticulture/ecology- monarch butterflies & milkweed



Summer


June 12- Aug. 21 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

- **June 12 Food justice/food pantry, guest speaker, garden planning, spread mulch
 June 19 Landscape horticulture/garden planning: tour Farmers' Market
■ June 26 Visit by beekeeper, harvest/prepare produce, sell at Farmers Market.
■ July 10 Harvest/prepare produce, sell at Farmers' Market
■ July 17 Insects, beneficial and pests; plant diseases: harvest & sell at Market
■ July 24 Harvest & prepare produce, sell at Farmers' Market
■ July 31 Native plants, harvest/prepare produce, sell at Farmers' Market
■ Aug. 7 Harvest/prepare produce, sell at Farmers' Market
■ Aug. 14 Fruits & nuts: taste a variety, make a healthy snack, harvest & sell at Market
■ Aug. 21 Harvest/prepare produce, sell at Farmers' Market




Fall

Aug. 28- Sept. 25 4:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

-  **■** Aug. 28 Vegetables & herbs, harvest/prepare produce, sell at Farmers Market
 Sept. 11 Healthy eating/cooking, harvest garden produce and cook with it
 Sept. 18 Harvest produce, prepare garden for the winter
 Sept. 25 Garden close out, pull out garden plants, remove structures, prepare for winter



■ Ways that parents can help:

-  *Have Gardeners dressed for working outside - clothes and shoes that can get muddy, rain gear, layers.
 *Participate in "Parent Help Days" - see schedule on next page.
 *Sign up as a "Parent Volunteer" at the Farmer's Market booth - summer shifts 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 *Assist on non-scheduled days to help weed and water the garden.



