

LANSING COMMUNITY FLOWER GARDEN

I am very proud to invite you to the new Community Flower Garden located in the center of town, just south of the Clock Tower Plaza along the Pennsy Greenway.

Lansing's Community Flower Garden has grown from the seed of an idea to teach Lansing residents, both young and old, about various species of flowers and native plants.

The idea for the community garden stemmed from my desire to teach residents about a wide array of plant species and native vegetation that grows well in a variety of different conditions. The goal of the community garden is for residents to see what kind of species grows best in different environments. Residents can then take their knowledge of the characteristics of the plant species and put it to use by creating their own garden in their own backyard.

Carolyn Scofield of Water's Edge Aquascaping donated her expertise in designing the placement of shrubs, bushes, flowers and native vegetation for the flower garden. The placement of the vegetation was determined with consideration of the walking path that runs through it as well as how well some of the various flowers tolerate standing water. Decorative boulders are strategically placed throughout the garden, inviting visitors to sit and enjoy the scenery.

The area for the Flower Garden was chosen by John Wilson, Director of the Lan-Oak Park District. Mr. Wilson, who grows wildflowers on the properties within the park district, thought this plot of land would be ideal to self-water and help to beautify the area near the bike path and clock tower. It also has convenient adjacent parking.

As materials become available, a portion of the parking lot next to the garden will be paved and several picnic benches will be installed. Soon enough, people in the downtown Lansing area can come and enjoy their lunch outdoors near the garden!

We currently have one scout Troop that has volunteered to make a bird house, but we are looking for additional persons to make up to three more for the garden. Public works will be happy to mount them in the garden.

The Community Flower Garden will be a continuing 'work in progress.' The garden is open to the public and will be tended to by volunteers with a 'green thumb.' The second Saturday of each month, residents are invited to help plant, clear away, and clean up the garden, as well as bring favorite flowers to plant.

These dates for the year 2010 will be:

March 13, 2010, April 10, 2010, May 8, 2010, June 12, 2010, July 10, 2010, August 14, 2010
September 11, 2010, October 9, 2010

On these days, residents are invited to bring their own flowers, small bushes, or other plants to contribute to the garden. Carolyn and I will be available to help residents find safe and healthy spots for their plants.

The Community Garden will not succeed without the community's contribution! Visit the community garden and volunteer your expertise, energy and enthusiasm to watch this garden grow!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Trustee Nancy Lucas. You can reach her at her place of business, Lansing Dairy Queen at 708-895-5670

SPONSORS

Many local business donated time and materials to the flower garden. AMERICAN LAWN helped to prep the area with weed killer and fertilizer; WITVOET & COMPANY donated the dirt; WOOD RECYCLERS donated the two colors of mulch; WATER'S EDGE AQUASCAPING INC., donated the expertise of landscaping for the flower garden and numerous plants; Dean Peters and Dave Jansma of JANSMA'S FARMSTAND donated flowers and a variety of native grass; DAIRY QUEEN OF LANSING donated additional plants, evergreens and flowers; LAN-OAK PARK DISTRICT donated the use of space; And last, but certainly not least, LANSING PUBLIC WORKS donated man power and equipment to spread the dirt and mulch and help with planting. They dug the small trench surrounding the garden and filled it with rock in order to slow the water down to better water the flower garden. When it doesn't rain, Mr. Tim Watkins, Superintendent of Public Works, sends the watering crew out to be sure the newly planted garden takes root. **Thank you to all who made this garden possible!**

***ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO COME AND ENJOY
THIS PEACEFUL LITTLE AREA WE CREATED!***

