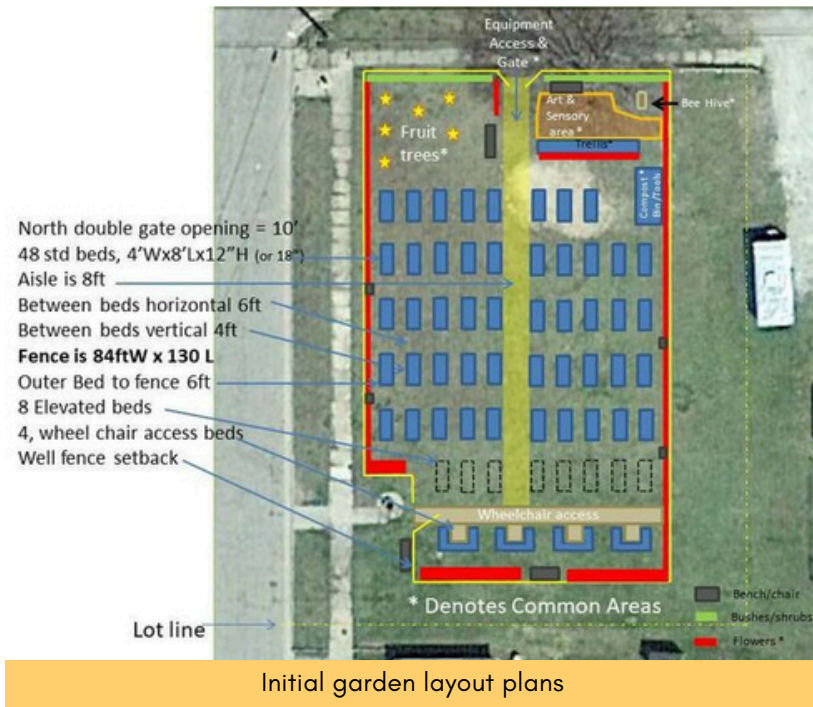


Manistique Community Garden

2023 PROJECT SUMMARY



Initial garden layout plans

PLANNING

Spearheaded by the GFWC Manistique Women's Club, planning began in the early spring of 2023 to transform a vacant city lot into a community garden. The goal was to provide a space where residents could grow their own food, discover a sense of community, engage in physical activity, and enjoy the outdoors. Other organizations soon became involved in the planning and idea sharing, including 4-H, the Girl Scouts and Scout, and the Kiwanis Builders Club; in partnership with the Women's Club, these groups formed the Manistique Community Garden Group (MCGG). Letters of requests for sponsors were sent out, quotes obtained for materials, and a preliminary contract for bed rentals created.

FUNDING & CONTRIBUTIONS

A \$4,000.00 grant was awarded to the MCGG from the Schoolcraft Conservation District (SCD), as well as a \$1,000.00 grant from the Sustainable Forests of the UP and another \$1000.00 grant from Central Marine Logistics. Besides those mentioned above, several groups and community individuals donated their time and/or money to bring this project to fruition. Hartman Excavation donated 100 yards of soil and several loads of wood chips. The local tree service and Cloverland Electric Co. also donated wood chips to use for ground cover in the lot. Barr Realty Co. donated several hours to help construct the fence, as did a group of employees from UP Paper.



Check presented from the SCD



Wood chips donated by Manistique Fence & Tree LLC

VOICES OF SUPPORT

"A great community project. Thank you!"
- Steve

"A wonderful opportunity for the community. Many thanks to those who are working hard to make it happen."
- Char

"A great way to get a nice garden. Good job Manistique!"
- Cindy

"How wonderful! I wish more places would do something like this."
- Leslie

"What a huge beneficial project! Love the way it's turning out and the wonderful volunteer help to better the community and including ALL in your plans to accommodate."
- Deborah



The Barr Team from Keller Williams Real Estate puts up fencing

MAKING OF

Building began in May, with labor volunteered by community groups and individuals alike. A fence was erected around the garden border, wood chips were spread on the ground, and—most importantly—beds were constructed. 60 beds were made in total: 48 standard-sized, eight with an elevated height to accommodate persons with mobility challenges, and four wheelchair accessible. With the support of the SCD, a composting bin was also installed and several fruit trees planted. The garden opened to the public in early June.



Materials for standard beds



Compost bins being constructed



Volunteers spread wood chips



Wheelchair accessible beds put in



COMMUNITY USE

30 beds were rented out during the first planting season. Among these were multiple beds reserved by the Senior Citizen's Center. During field trips to their beds, with the help of aids, these seniors were able to get activity outdoors and light exercise as they planted and grew foods they shared at the center and even used in their October Potluck meals. A portion of unreserved beds were used to grow food for the local food pantry.

LOOKING AHEAD

The success of the garden's first year promises good things for the future. The MCGG looks forward to continuing to expand the garden, including by establishing a pollinator garden, Arts & Sensory area, and shed for tool storage. The hope is that the garden will continue to benefit the Manistique community for decades to come.



Girl Scouts clean beds at end of season

BEFORE AND AFTER

