



Park Advisory Commission
Monthly Meeting
9.19.2023



Who We Are

- **Project Grow is a community garden organization based in Ann Arbor.**
- **We are a member-driven, 501c3 non-profit.**
- **Primarily volunteer powered collective guided by a volunteer, member-elected board of directors.**
- **Founded in 1972, Project Grow is one of the oldest community garden organizations in the US.**
- **Celebrated 50 years in 2022.**



Our mission: Project Grow provides the space, education and inspiration to make organic gardening accessible to all





What We Do

Since 1972, Project Grow has offered: Garden space rentals





Cummins Family Harvest Crops

Ann Arbor News, July 12, 1973

Early sites included:

- **County Farm Park**
- **Zion Lutheran Church**
- **Greenview**
- **Marshall Road in Scio Township**
- **Dixboro School/
Freeman Center**

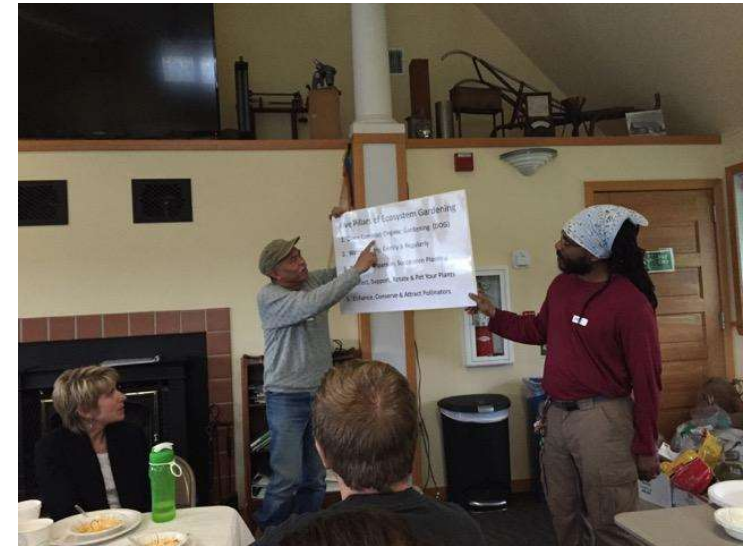
Many have disappeared but previous sites were at EPA, Divine Shepherd on Nixon, Mitchell School, Dicken School, Arrowwood, and at the site of Skyline HS.





What We Do

Since 1972, Project Grow has offered: Education



Seed Saving 101

September 26, 2023 7:00PM –
8:30PM
via Zoom

Add to Google Calendar

Add to Outlook, iCal, etc.

Collecting, saving and trading seeds is a thrifty as well as an entertaining way of obtaining a rich variety of flowers and vegetables. This class will introduce you to seed collecting basics, seed saving as well as how to organize and share your own seeds and gain access to free, low cost, and plentiful seed resources available. Those who register and attend the class will receive a bounty of online seed resources, as well as learn from an authoritative source, Michael Lordon (he/him) of the Organic Seed Alliance. JOIN US for an informative evening of info about collecting, saving, storing and exchanging this precious earth resource, our planet's seeds.

Ages: 18 - Adult



What We Do

Since 1972, Project Grow has offered: Events



Seed Share



Heirloom Plant Sale





What We Do

Garden Space Rentals

- Applications for garden plots available January 1st of each year.
- No two sites are alike – number of plots, plot sizes, soil types, and site features are different at each site.
- A full plot (\$130) \approx 750 sq ft
- Half plots (\$80) \approx 375 sq ft





What We Do

Garden Space Rentals

- **Rental always includes:**
 - **Water**
 - **Tools, hoses**
 - **Help with garden site maintenance - overall upkeep**
 - **Education and gardener support - about 1/3 of the gardeners are new every year**
 - **Liability insurance protecting the landowner**
- **Rental may include:**
 - **Tilling**
 - **Perimeter fencing**



What We Do

Garden Space Rentals

- We offer reduced fees to gardeners that need help affording the space.
- Gardener fees are our primary revenue source.
- Online plot registration begins January 1 of each year. Returning gardeners are given until February 1st to renew.





Project Grow 2023

22 sites consisting of annual & perennial plots and raised beds provide 324 plots and 70 raised beds.

Sites range in size from 5 plots at Wines to 80 at County Farm.

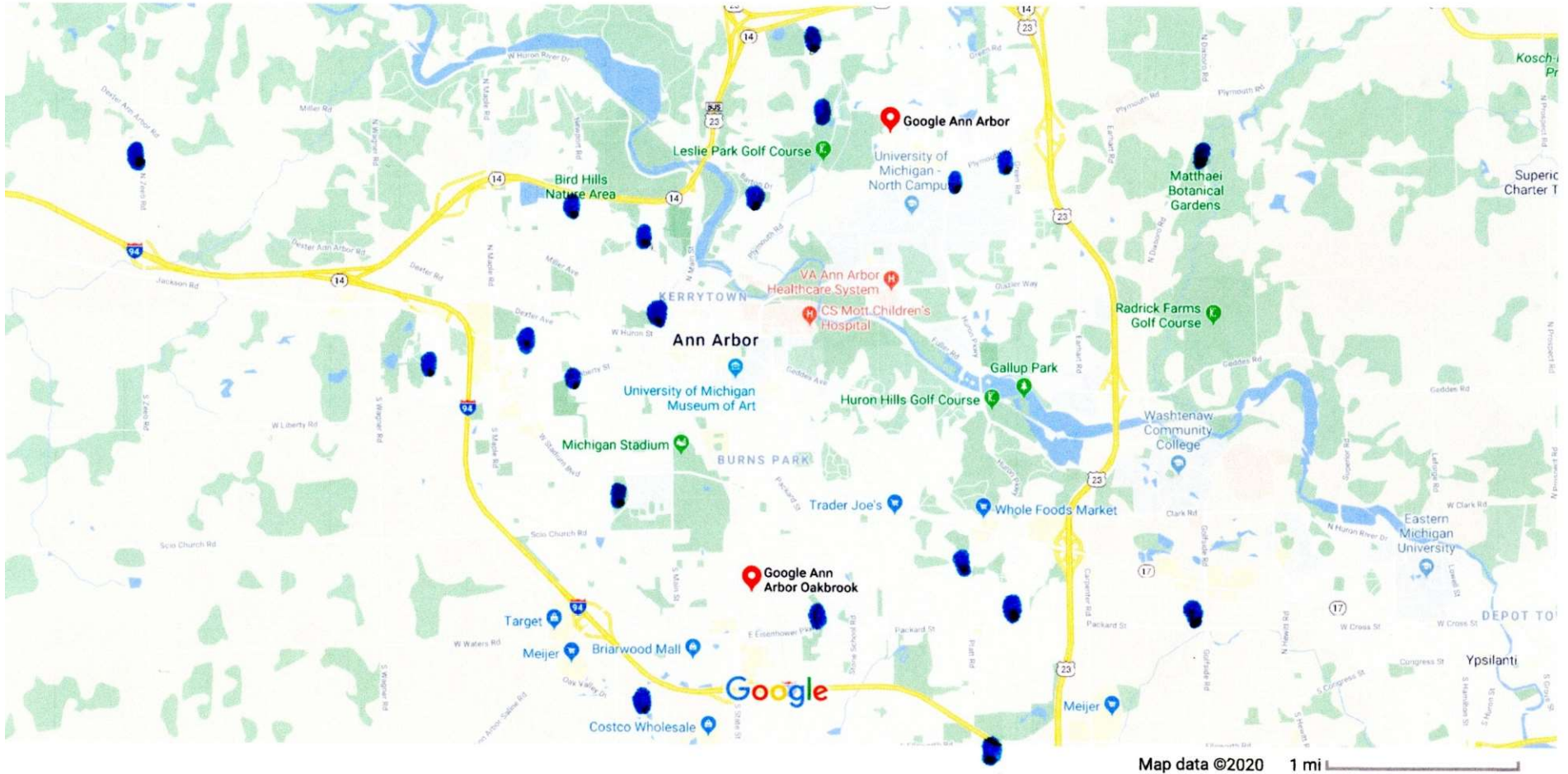
City wide there are 460 gardeners registered for 2023.

City parks provides 73 gardeners space at 5 sites.

Landowners include City of Ann Arbor Parks, Washtenaw County, AAPS, churches, non-profits & private landowners.

22 sites throughout town provides the space, education, and inspiration to make organic gardening accessible to all.

Google Maps google maps





City of Ann Arbor Parks Partnership

City of Ann Arbor Parks Sites

Buhr Park – 8 full plots: supports 12 gardeners in half & full plots.

Hunt Park – 22 half plots: supports 23 gardeners in half plots.

Leslie Science & Nature Center – 36 raised beds; 26 have the sun exposure needed: supports 17 gardeners in 21 beds.

West Park – 16 half plots: 12 gardeners all in half plots.

Northside Park & Community Center – 9 half plots: supports 9 gardeners.



City of Ann Arbor Parks Partnership

City of Ann Arbor Parks Support

Parks services support the gardens with site maintenance including mowing, trimming, compost & materials disposal.

Project Grow primarily utilizes Ann Arbor parks sites for meetings, public events and gatherings. We have never been disappointed with the facilities, staff or amenities provided and have had great experiences at each meeting or event.

Parks administrative and support staff are always available to advise and assist with all physical properties issues at the sites (downed trees, rain gardens, boundary adjustments, vagrancy at sites).



Funding

Project Grow is a very small organization. We have one part-time employee and run on about \$55,000 per year. This is only possible with the huge support of volunteers.

The majority of our budget comes from plot fees, with the remaining parts coming from the plant sale and donations.





Project Grow facilitates organic gardening with a variety of plot types that accommodate diverse gardeners







Registration: January 1

Seed Share: Starts in late February

Plant Sale: May

Tomato Tasting: August

Season Ends: 3rd Saturday October

**For more information or to sign up
for the newsletter go to:
projectgrowgardens.org**

