

Detroit Abloom Plot Farmer Pledge

What you can expect from us:

- 1) All the materials you will need to maintain your plot, including topsoil, compost, water, wood chips, and straw, will be provided for free.
- 2) We will be flexible in accepting your two hrs. of weekly volunteering.
- 3) There will always be five shovels, five garden rakes, two leak rakes, and four wheelbarrows in the shed or other designated areas. The shed is always unlocked but close its doors carefully by lifting and lowering the peg. Bring your own hand tools.
- 4) The porta-potty key is hidden on a hook. Please lock it after each use.
- 5) You are welcome to use the pavilion with your family or friends anytime it is not in use, and you are always welcome to enjoy the gardens as you like.
- 6) If you need gardening tips, don't hesitate to ask fellow plot farmers or Tom and Nancy.
- 7) You will receive occasional emails from us with updates about plot farming and the larger Detroit Abloom project.
- 8) To protect everyone's crops, Tom regularly uses three have-a-heart traps to catch mammals (mainly squirrels, rabbits, and raccoons) and relocates them to wooded areas in Detroit.

What we can expect from you:

- 1) Keep your plot well maintained and weed free throughout the season (put weeds on top of compost piles) and have neatly shaped and edged beds and paths. Keep paths the width of a garden rake and brimmed with wood chips. Mulch your plants with a thick layer of straw to retain moisture and protect the soil. Please do not use plastic (only wood, metal, and twine) to create infrastructure features such as bean teepees and vertical gardening.
- 2) Take the time to make an attractive sign (around 2 feet long and 12-18" wide) to designate and personalize your plot. Stake into the ground and keep level.
- 3) Please honor Detroit Abloom's overarching principle of compassion for all living beings by not consuming flesh (meat, fish, or eggs) on our premises.
- 4) Arrange with Tom to make a plan for your two weekly volunteer hours.
- 5) Visitors from around Metro Detroit and beyond will explore the Detroit Abloom gardens, Wellness Garden activities, and Kids Abloom Discovery Garden throughout the season, so please be kind and welcoming to anyone you may meet.
- 6) Regularly harvest your produce and arrange with fellow farmers to care for your garden if you are away for lengths of time.
- 7) Please use water from the hoses sparingly (no sprinklers) and only use natural methods (no chemicals) to control insect pests.
- 8) You will need to grow or have someone else grow vegetable seedlings for your plot. You can also buy seedlings from the market but try to grow mainly (if not all) heirloom varieties that are healthier than hybrids and can be pollinated by insects.