



## MSU Tollgate Gardens

### CHILDREN'S GARDEN Garden Collection



The front of the Children's Garden greets visitors with a flush of color. The mural on the fence was designed and painted by Tollgate volunteer, Irene Fahey. Annuals are planted in an "eye brow," arc to represent a rainbow. The rainbow colors compliment the mural.



Whimsical planters greet visitors at the Entrance to the children's Garden, nestled between bright plantings of perennials and annuals.



### Water Feature

The constructed pond is lined with a rubber membrane to hold the water. The many rocks around the edge of the pond hold the liner in place and add to the esthetics of the pond. The umbrella water feature is fun for the kids to stick their hands into and get wet but also serves the purpose of circulating water and provide aeration. An external filter with UV sterilizer controls water quality.

Around the pond, annuals are planted for color, along with hostas, grasses, and a dwarf nine-bark. In the pond, many water lilies provide beautiful flowers but also shade for the fish and frogs from the summer sun. The lilies also help control the temperature of the water for the fish and frogs providing them a hiding place from birds and other predators. The bridge affords a view of life in the pond.

### Shade Garden

Shade plants that can be found in this garden are: bleeding heart, hosta, ferns, chocolate vine, jack-in-the-pulpit, trillium, wood poppy, epimedium, brunera, Japanese forest grass, climbing hydrangea, goats beard, ajuga, lych-nis and woodland geraniums.



### Butterfly Garden

The symmetrical butterfly-shaped garden was planted to attract local butterflies. Some plants provide habitat for caterpillars, and others provide nectar for the butterflies. Butterflies are attracted to particular shapes and colors, such as purples, yellow, orange, red, and white with yellow centers.

Butterflies like clustered flowers with short, tubular blossoms, such as lantana. The liatris, coreopsis, purple coneflowers, marigolds, lantana, pentas, sedum and monarda (bee balm) provide for their needs and are supplemented by the orchards, grassy fields, and native plants in nearby areas. The garden is situated in a sunny location with a nearby open water source. Pesticides are not used in the garden's care.



### Pizza Garden

What do you put on your pizza? In this garden we plant some of the typical toppings: tomatoes, onions, peppers, herbs and garlic.





## Tollbooth Garden

Many of the Tollbooth plants were from the original Children's garden. These plants include: the peonies, phlox, bearded and mini irises, amsonia, purple coneflower, coreopsis, false sunflowers, turtle-head, rudbeckia and Clematis 'Betty Corning'. The centerpiece of the front bed is a



wheel of succulents.

## Smelly Feely Garden

Every year a new variety of plants that have an aroma or feel interesting to the touch are planted. Some favorites are sage, lavender, rosemary and lemon balm.



## Peter Rabbit Garden

The annual color of The Peter Rabbit Garden draws in our young visitors. Copies of the story provided in the mailbox invites ed-



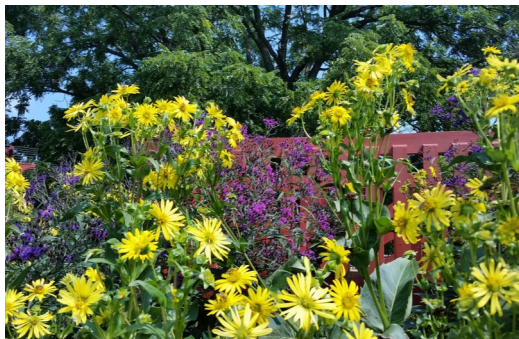
ucational interaction. The annuals are chosen for the added for pops of color, ornamental kale connects the garden and story.

## Native Prairie Garden



The Children's Prairie Garden contains plants purchased from Wildtype Nursery in Mason MI. The prairie contains a variety of native grasses and wildflowers that were found in Michigan and the Midwest before the Europeans arrived in the Americas. When visiting the prairie in the spring, you will find red-yellow blooming columbine, and pink ground cover Prairie Smoke. The rest of the grasses and wildflowers in the garden bloom from mid to late July through the Fall when they really put on a show. The seed heads of the short native grass, Prairie Dropseed, smell like buttered popcorn. Really, they do, bend down and smell. The rest of the grasses are Little Bluestem and Big Bluestem, Indian grass, and a switch grass. While walking the path, can you find the metal snake hidden amongst the grasses and flowers?

Late summer and early fall blooms are the purple of the asters, iron weed and joe-pye weed. Then



there are the yellow blooms of cup plant and compass plant, goldenrod, and rudbeckia to name a few. The prairie plants in the garden provide shel-

ter and food for wildlife. Climb up the lookout and get a 'bird's eye' view of the prairie.

## Sparty and His Dog House

At the rear of the Children's Garden you will find, Sparty, another creative metal sculpture by Laura Steiner. Sparty's dog house has a "living" or "green roof" using hardy succulent plants.



## Gourd Trellis

On the north edge is a gourd trellis. This sturdy trellis will ensure quality gourds without the pest, moisture and distortion that comes with growing gourds on the ground. The variety of gourds planted will provide interest with the different shapes and colors.



## Vine Maze Garden

The vine maze displays many vine options for the garden. It also serves as a unique playground for children. A few of the many vines found here are:



dutchman's pipe, a variety of clematis, porcelain vine, kiwi, climbing spinach, purple hyacinth bean and honeysuckle.

## MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center



28115 Meadowbrook  
Novi, MI, 48377-3128  
[tollgate.msu.edu](http://tollgate.msu.edu)  
Contact Roy Prentice:  
248-347-3860 ext. 251