

MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Some Plant America - Grow & Share Small Grant Project Lessons Learned (& Shared)

We're sure there are more lessons, but here are a few that have been shared so far...

- Once you have established the location for your project, be sure to check with the property owner and/or local municipal code enforcement division to ensure avoidance of use or code violations
- Check your soil before you start. Construction or renovations can change the soil's composition, so check first.
- Enlist help from other sources i.e., city planning department, historical society, garden and nursery businesses, master gardener programs, experts in the field and in your community
- Know which plants you want to grow for your location. Researching their needs and sourcing before purchasing saves time and heartache. Local nurseries, garden centers, and landscape companies are willing to accommodate nonprofits and may donate plants and/or other garden necessities.
- Have your crew ready to go when you're ready to plant. Those plants hate sitting around getting droopy.
- Try to schedule folks who can check the site on a regular basis to do weeding and watering of new plants until they are established.
- Don't try to do too much at one time. It's easier to adjust as you go.
- Display gratitude for help and/or donations via plaque, brochure, or other public notification
- Utilize the benefits of being a nonprofit organization when making purchases for your project.
- Anticipate spending more time or money than initially planned.
- Be sure to establish ongoing maintenance once the project is completed
- HAVE FUN