

The mission of Kalamazoo in Bloom is to plant locally grown flowers and plants in public spaces to beautify our metropolitan communities.



Job Title: Portage Gardener (1 position open)

Reports to: Executive Director

Status: Seasonal independent contractor, part-time

Pay Rate: \$250/week (through September 26)

Why work for Kalamazoo in Bloom?

If you love flowers, gardening, and working with others – and are looking for a little extra spending money – this is the perfect opportunity for you! As one of our gardeners, you will share in the rewarding feeling of making our Kalamazoo and Portage communities beautiful with the annual flowers we plant each May. You will also be able to share your love and knowledge of plants with the community, particularly volunteer bed adopters who help tend flower beds throughout the summer. Your skillful care and guidance will help flowers flourish and also grow the connections volunteers and the community have with KIB.

Job Summary:

The Portage Gardeners are responsible for the overall maintenance and watering of KIB's flower beds in Portage's City Center. They train and assist bed adopters who volunteer to maintain a bed throughout the summer and communicate with KIB's Executive Director and Portage City staff concerning flowers and irrigation as needed. Gardeners also assist the planting committee in ordering the following year's flowers. KIB Gardeners are independent contractors who work seasonally during the summer, approximately 8-10 hours per week, more during planting weeks.

Responsibilities:

- Water beds and the canoe structure daily, as needed, and report problematic watering situations to Portage City staff
- Perform weeding and deadheading, and visually inspect all flowers, checking for damage and problems
- Troubleshoot and resolve flower issues
- Fertilize beds periodically
- Orient volunteers to increase their understanding of KIB and their responsibilities
- Regularly communicate with bed adopters and others throughout the season
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with volunteers, Portage City staff, Kalamazoo in Bloom Board, and Executive Director

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Master Gardener training preferred but not required
- Professional gardening or landscaping experience
- Flexibility with availability to perform gardening duties and meet with volunteers
- Internet and Gmail capability with some computer proficiency
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation
- Ability to work independently and to work with diverse people

Work Environment and Physical Demands:

- Outdoor work in variable weather, including heat and humidity, with most of the physical work being done preferably in the morning
- Physical activity includes stooping, kneeling, reaching, standing, walking, picking, pinching, grasping, pulling
- Occasional lifting of up to 50 pounds
- Hoses and other basic gardening tools provided

To Apply:

Send resume to director@kalamazooinbloom.org with **Portage Gardener position** in the Subject line. Position will remain open until filled.