



CITY OF BATTLE CREEK

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT – PLANNING AND ZONING

ONE PAGER PLUS

Raised Beds in Front Yards

General Information

Raised planter beds located in front yards are included under the Private Garden section of the Ordinance ([1251.41](#)). They are a permitted accessory use in all zoning districts of the City of Battle Creek. Generally, raised planter beds will not require a Building Permit.

The property owner/contractor is responsible for making sure that the subject improvement is located within the property line and not the right-of-way or on an abutting property. An approval of a permit application and the installation of the subject improvement by a City employee does not negate this obligation.

Placement

Plant beds shall be at least 3' from the property lines and the public right-of-way. They may be located in the primary and secondary (if present) front yard, side yards, and rear yard if the setbacks of the zoning district and use requirements can be met. Compost piles must be located at least 5' from all adjoining property lines and a minimum of 20' from the nearest residential structure. Each individual compost area shall be less than 16 square feet. Any rain catchment systems must be at least 5' from all adjoining property lines.

If the raised beds are located on a corner lot, the planter beds cannot be placed within 25' of the abutting roadways if they and the planned plants within them are taller than 30' above grade (ground-level). Please see [Section 1260.04](#) of the Ordinance for more guidance on the Clear Vision Triangle Area.

Other Questions?

Please contact the Planning and Zoning Division directly at 269-966-3320 with other questions.

