

HOW TO START A COMMUNITY GARDEN

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COMMUNITY & GARDEN

Community: The people who will be involved in ANY aspect of the garden for ANY length of time.



Garden: The physical area where people interact with the natural environment.



How to Start a

COMMUNITY



1. Talk to your neighbors
 - Knock on everyone's door within a 3 block radius of the site
 - Ask what they'd like to see in the *community space*
 - Invite them to a potluck to continue brainstorming
2. Host a community event!
 - Record what and who people want to see in the community space
 - Record how they want to feel in the community space
 - Record what people want to grow in the space
3. Hold your first Community Space Meeting
 - Share the results from the event: Tally the ideas and order them starting with most popular
 - Create a plan for next steps!
 - Organizing the group and developing the land
4. Organize your group
 - Determine how decisions will be made
 - Develop a community vision
 - Identify leaders for the space
 - Vote on a name for the space

GARDEN



1. Look for land
 - Are there already gardens in the neighborhood? If yes, ask yourself why there needs to be another.
2. Assess the land
 - Research and document the garden site's history - Find out who owns the land and how it was used in the past. How are people using it now?
 - Can the community easily get to the space?
3. What type of garden does the community want?
 - Allotment Garden w/ Plots
 - Community Farm
 - Market Farm
 - Other?
4. Design the space with the community group, create a budget, track volunteer hours, organize a contact list and begin tracking volunteer hours
5. Build and Grow!
 - Schedule and invite neighbors to build days and ongoing workdays through the season
 - Develop garden participant agreements
 - Hang signage



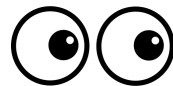
FOCUS ON THE COMMUNITY FIRST!

1. Talk to your friends & neighbors!

- Plan on knocking on every door in a 3 block area.
- Ask folks what they would like in a community **GREEN SPACE**.

2. Host a community event!

- Have a variety of ways for folks to share:
 - Who they want to see in the green space.
 - What they want to feel in the green space.
 - What things they want in a green space.



3. Hold your first community space meeting!

- Share the results of the community visioning activity.
- Brainstorm as a group about next steps.
 - Maybe divide into working groups to focus on specific parts.

4. Organize your group!

- Decide how decisions will be made!
- Develop a shared vision for your community space.

FOCUS ON THE GARDEN SECOND!

1. Look for land.

- Are there green spaces close by? If so, ask why you need another one?

2. Assess the land.

- Find out who owns it & make contact with the owner.
- Learn about past land use.
- Learn about current land use--invite current users to participate.
- Check about infrastructure access (water, buildings, electric, etc.)

3. If a garden is in the plan, decide what type of garden.

- Allotment garden; cooperative farm/garden; You-pick garden; others...

4. Design the space with your community Group.

5. Organize!

- Budget, fundraise, create a land use agreement, volunteer...

6. Build & Grow!

COMMON TYPES OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

Allotment Garden:

Common space with individual plots worked and harvested by individual gardeners.



Cooperative Garden:

Common space worked collectively by defined group of people who share in the work and harvest.



You-Pick Garden or Anarchist Garden:

Common space where anyone can work and anyone can harvest, even if they did not work in the garden.

**Free Veggies!
Help yourself!**

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR GARDEN GROWING

FOCUS ON THE COMMUNITY!

- **Establish a Leadership Committee!**
 - 3-5 people depending on size of garden.
- **Establish Shared Actions & Ideals for Community Space!**
 - How are problems solved?
 - How does shared work happen?
- **Hold Regular Garden Meetings!**
 - Once/month May-Oct.
 - 1-2 planning meetings in the winter
- **Hold Regular Community wide events!**
 - Invite everyone in a 3 block radius.
- **Hold Community Work Days!**
- **Build Partnerships with local businesses, city officials, churches, etc.**



WHAT ABOUT THE PLANTS?



RESOURCES

- **Community Gardens in Louisville: A Start-Up Guide**
 - <https://louisville.edu/cepm/pdf-files/community-gardens-in-louisville-a-start-up-guide>
- **Grow Pittsburgh Community Garden Start-Up Guide**
 - <https://www.growpittsburgh.org/garden-and-farm-resources/community-gardens/>
- **Urban Agriculture Resources**
 - <https://foodinneighborhoods.org/grow/>