

A photograph of a community garden. In the foreground, several raised wooden beds are filled with lush green plants, likely lettuce. Behind them is a large, wire-mesh fence enclosing the garden. A wooden sign on a post is visible in the background, reading "HIGGS AVE COMMUNITY GARDEN". The garden is set against a backdrop of dense green trees and a clear blue sky.

Community Gardens

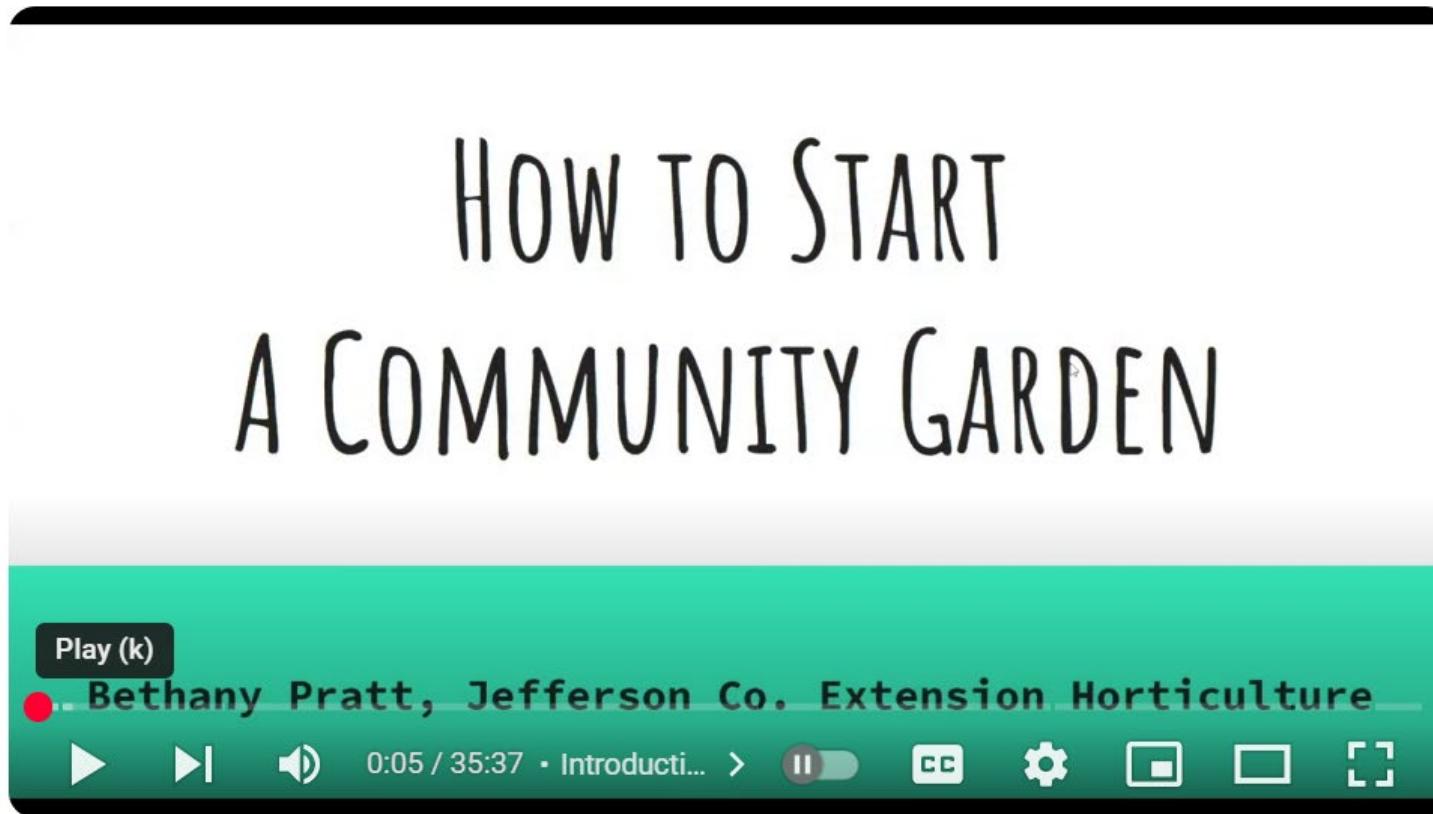
*Keeping the Garden
Growing*

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How to Start a Community Garden



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiNo5T75E_k

Benefits of Community Gardens

Growing food and
ornamentals

Health benefits

Community building

Neighborhood benefits

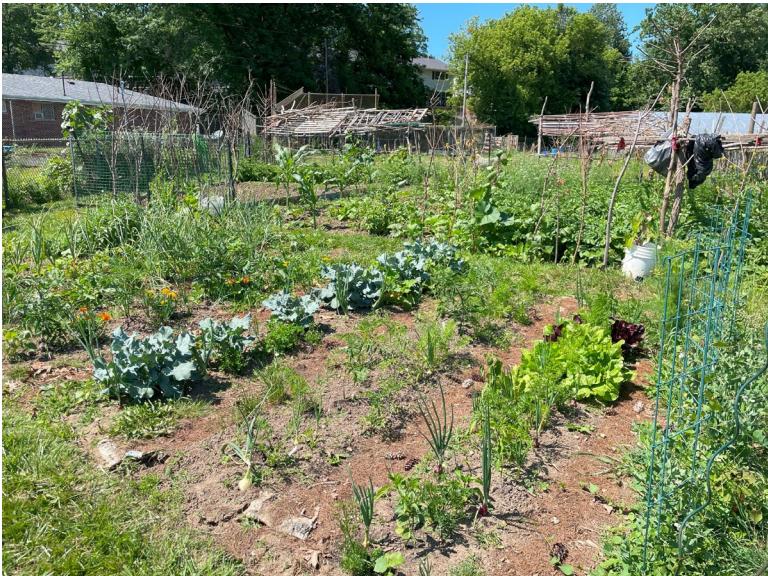


Types of Community Garden Sites

Community Gardens

Personal crop production for self, family and/or charity

Users of the garden



School & Recovery Gardens

Education (food production / consumption); often farm-to-table components

Users affiliated with the site



Incubator/Market Farms

To harvest and sell products

Users of the space



Community Garden Challenges

User Management

Theft & Vandalism

Wildlife Control

Seasonal Fatigue



A photograph of a community garden. In the foreground, there are several raised wooden beds filled with various green plants, including leafy greens and root vegetables. In the background, a group of about ten people are gathered around a wooden picnic table. Some are standing and talking, while others are sitting. A small greenhouse is visible behind the table. The garden is surrounded by a fence and trees, and a blue garden hose is visible in the bottom right corner.

User Management: Review Your Team

Take a community organizing approach - build a leadership team with a diversity of skills. Consider:

- Farming/Gardening expertise (ANR/Hort Extension Agents, Master Gardeners)
- Nutrition & wellness knowledge (FCS agents, wellness enthusiasts)
- Community partners (local site staff, faith-based organizations, local residents)
- Administrative/organizational strengths (grant writers, Extension support staff)

User Management: Best Practices

Evaluate roles, expectations, and capacity early before launching a project. Review and update as needed:

- Define clear roles and responsibilities
- Use logs and signage
- Host team meetings
- Act early
- Communication





Theft & Vandalism

Expect and accept that some level of vandalism and theft may occur in a community garden site

Theft & Vandalism: Best Practices

Ideas to minimize issues:

- Recruit community champions
- Fencing
- Signage
- U-Pick/Surplus
- Camouflage





Wildlife Control

Expect and accept that some level of predation may occur in a community garden site

Recognize food safety concerns

Wildlife Control: Best Practices

- Pest ID
- Exclusionary tactics
- Repellents
- Trapping
- Compost management





Seasonal Fatigue

Seasonal Fatigue: Best Practices

- Host an event
- Plan an educational program
- Reflect on successes





Measuring Success

What is a
“successful”
community garden?

References and Additional Resources

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