

# COMMUNITY GARDENING 105

## ECONOMICS: GAINING SUPPORT FOR YOUR GARDEN.

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### IDENTIFY ANY AND ALL POTENTIAL RESOURCES FOR YOUR GARDEN

#### 1. Seek assistance.

Your garden may need extra hands or strong backs to get the project under way. Many hands make light work and keep garden members from burning out before the fun begins. Contact civic groups and community service agencies. . .

City Year/AmeriCorps

Boy Scouts of San Antonio (especially Eagle Scouts)

Girl Scouts of San Antonio

Indian Guides at the YMCA

4-H clubs through the Bexar County Cooperative Extension Service

UTSA's Dept. of Service Learning, Dept. of Peer Volunteers, and Student Volunteer Groups

St. Philip's College's Service Learning Center

Service Learning Center at St. Mary's University

Colleges of architecture, construction and landscaping at UTSA, St. Phillips and Palo Alto

Trinity University Service Learning Center and student run volunteer groups

University of the Incarnate Word's Service Learning Center and Alpha Phi Omega

Local high school students that are preparing for college applications (incl. Kipp Aspire Academy)

International School of the Americas

Rotary International, Lions Club and Knights of Columbus

Young Presidents Club and US Army ROTC

Corporations in San Antonio (incl. Valero Volunteer Council, AT&T Pioneers, Smith Barney, Bank of America, Deloitte & Touche, Toyota, CPS, RackSpace, The Container Store, Whole Foods, Boeing, Target, Starbuck's, HEB, Time-Warner)

Garden Clubs of San Antonio (incl. Gardening Volunteers of South Texas)

Bexar County Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists

#### 2. Watch and learn.

You're not alone. Many other groups have taken the path you're taking. Why not ask them what works and what doesn't work. Look into what other community gardeners are doing. . .

Find the closest network garden to you at

[maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=114535269277387424895.0004473deb5056ca6b095&z=11](https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=114535269277387424895.0004473deb5056ca6b095&z=11)

Read description of local community gardens at

See garden pictures at [greenspacesalliance.org/community/gardens\\_gallery/](https://greenspacesalliance.org/community/gardens_gallery/)

Contact garden managers via [info@greenspacesalliance.org](mailto:info@greenspacesalliance.org)

Search online for community gardens around the country and around the world.

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### 3. Ask questions.

Your group may need some guidance. No experience is necessary to participate in community gardens. The world is full of green thumbs and many who are green behind the ears. There are innumerable gardening experts. . .

San Antonio Public Library: *endless supply of gardening books at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/library/>*  
City Public Service: *information on tree planting & energy conservation at [www.cpsenergy.com](http://www.cpsenergy.com)*  
San Antonio Water Systems: *advice on water usage & plant selection at [www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org)*  
Bexar County Cooperative Extension Service: [www.plantanswers.com](http://www.plantanswers.com)  
Bexar County Master Gardeners: *best products & practices at <http://www.texasmastergardeners.com/>*  
Texas Master Naturalists: [masternaturalist.tamu.edu/](http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu/)  
Texas Junior Gardeners: *youth-oriented gardening curriculum at [www.texas-4h.tamu.edu](http://www.texas-4h.tamu.edu)*  
San Antonio Garden Center: <http://www.sanantoniogardencenter.org/>  
South Austin Community Garden: [www.main.org/sacgarden/index.html](http://www.main.org/sacgarden/index.html)  
Lady Bird Johnson Center: *an abundance of wildflower information at [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)*  
Gardening in Texas: *bills itself as “The WWW Virtual Library of Gardening” at [www.gardenweb.com](http://www.gardenweb.com)*  
United States Department of Agriculture: [www.usna.usda.gov/gardens](http://www.usna.usda.gov/gardens)  
Garden Guides: [www.gardenguides.com](http://www.gardenguides.com)  
Herbal Gardens: [www.herbalgardens.com](http://www.herbalgardens.com)

### 4. Funding can be tight. Look into. . .

Your garden may need extra materials. Many community gardens thrive without money in the bank. Ask for in-kind donations, sponsorships, and scraps.

Local nurseries *sometimes have outdated seeds or unsellable plants*  
Landscaping services and landscape supplies companies *sometimes have surplus from jobs*  
Keep San Antonio Beautiful *provides free compost bins*  
Home Depot, Lowe’s and other big box chains *sometimes have super discounted products*  
Scott’s, Fiskars, Mantis, and other garden supply companies *offer gardening grants*  
American Community Gardening Association: [www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org)  
Philanthropy News Digest: [www.foundationcenter.org](http://www.foundationcenter.org)  
TechSoup: *for technical assistance and discounted software visit [www.techsoup.org](http://www.techsoup.org)*  
SAWS: *environmental conservation program search “garden” at [www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org)*  
American Community Gardening Association: [www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org)  
Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants/tx01.htm](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants/tx01.htm)  
US Department of Agriculture: [csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2004news/cfp.html](http://csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2004news/cfp.html)  
US Government: *funding opportunities from the federal government at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)*  
United Way: [www.unitedwaysatx.org/Pages/Community%20Initiatives.html](http://www.unitedwaysatx.org/Pages/Community%20Initiatives.html)