

COMMUNITY GARDENING 101

PHILOSOPHY: DEFINING YOUR GARDEN'S PURPOSE.



Would you want to participate in a community garden?

A garden is a place of creativity, relaxation, joy, exercise and health. It gathers people of various generations, backgrounds, ethnicities and economic standing. It takes plenty of hands, good planning, some plant knowledge, familiarity with your climate, an available site, and a lot of hard work.

Why should you be part of a community garden?

Connections to others and the environment! Community gardens bring people together, offer a place to garden for those who do not have space, create green spaces for public enjoyment, develop a sense of pride for neighborhoods, and clean the air of urban pollutants. It is a way for the whole community to participate in sustainable living.

How could you define and develop your community garden?

Share your vision. Gather with others who have similar goals and interests. Discuss the purpose of your garden. Identify all the elements that fulfill the purpose. Design a plan of action. Delegate tasks to numerous members.

Who will benefit from your garden?

Everyone in your community can benefit! You can:

Grow food for friends and family, for sale at a local market or for provisions at the food pantry

Host celebrations, public demonstrations or casual gatherings

Provide a quiet place to enjoy nature and contemplation

Offer raised beds for your handicapped and elder gardeners

Create a safe area for children to play and learn

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What will your garden grow?

vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruit trees, shade trees, native plants, plants for fragrance, plants for medicinal purposes, tall plants to shape private outdoor space, short plants to keep the sightline clear, sturdy plants to endure pets and playful youngsters, soothing plants to welcome meditation

What style will your garden be?

- An edible landscape full of edible flowers, vegetables, herbs, and native plants
- A big plot for heavy production for market or a small plot for your community group's benefit
- A meditation garden for a place to relax and enjoy nature
- A natural space for neighborhood meetings gatherings, barbeques, etc.
- One large integrated garden or divide it into individual plots
- A demonstration garden that will educate others about different growing methods
- An environment friendly garden that demonstrates organic methods and energy and water efficiency
- A garden designed to attract butterflies and birds
- A medicinal garden full of helping herbs, high vitamin produce, fresh air and rejuvenating space

Things you may want at your site:

- Community Space:** open area, demonstration tent, pavilion, tool shed, work tables
- Waste collection:** Composting area, recycling bins, waste cans
- Soil:** native soil, fertilizer, mulch, compost, manure, soil amendments
- Plants:** Flowers, vegetables, trees, herbs, shrubs, vines, groundcover
- Tools:** Wheelbarrows, hoses, hand tools, yard tools, potting supplies
- Water:** access, collection of rainwater, collection of A/C condensate, supply lines
- Security:** Lighting, fences, gates, emergency phone access
- Paths:** Decorative stone, crushed granite, brick, pavement, mulch
- Art:** Sculptures, integrated artistic features, signage
- Rest:** Benches, picnic tables, arbor, pavilion, gazebo, shade
- Play:** swings, playground equipment, ground labyrinths, paved area for chalk art or hopscotch
- ADA accessibility:** elevated beds, 42" wide paths