

# 10 STEPS TO STARTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN

*The following steps are adapted from the American Community Garden Association's Best guidelines for launching a successful community garden in your neighborhood.*

## 1. ORGANIZE A MEETING OF INTERESTED PEOPLE

- Invite neighbors and community organizations

## 2. FORM A GARDEN GROUP

## 3. IDENTIFY ALL OF YOUR RESOURCES & APPROACH A SPONSOR

## 4. CHOOSE A SITE

Consider the amount of daily sunshine (vegetables need at least 6 hours a day), availability of water, and soil testing for possible pollutants. Find out who owns the land and if they would consider a lease agreement. Liability insurance may be necessary.

## 5. PREPARE AND DEVELOP THE SITE

Decide on a garden design and plot arrangement. Plan space for pathways between plots, tool storage, and making compost. Planting flowers and shrubs around the garden edges will promote good relations with non-gardening neighbors. Next organize work crews to clean the site, gather materials and prepare the earth for planting.

## 6. ORGANIZE THE GARDEN

Members must decide how many plots are available and how they will be assigned. Will there be a fee?

## 7. PLAN FOR CHILDREN

Consider creating a special garden just for kids.

## 8. DETERMINE RULES AND PUT THEM IN WRITING

Include garden group members in the rule making process to increase member compliance.

## 9. GET GROWING!

## 10. HELP MEMBERS KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER

- Good communication encourages active membership in the garden group. Create a phone and email contact list.
- Celebrate! Have a grand opening event, barbeques, or garden tours.

For a detailed Community Garden Start-up Guide contact Kim Lipetzky at 701-241-8195.

## WHY START A COMMUNITY GARDEN?

- To strengthen community
- To help make healthy foods accessible for all
- To help make healthy food affordable for all
- To improve mental health
- To learn valuable skills
- To be physically active
- To enjoy fresher tasting local produce
- To support local food pantries
- It's like growing money!
  - Approximately every \$1 invested in a community garden plot yields \$6 worth of vegetables.



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