



— Community Garden —  
*A resource for planning, implementing,  
and sustaining your community garden*



# Introduction

“A community garden means many things to many people. For some, a community garden is a place to grow food, flowers and herbs in the company of friends and neighbors. For others, it’s a place to reconnect with nature or get physical exercise. Some use community gardens because they lack adequate space at their house or apartment to have a garden. Others take part in community gardening to build or revitalize a sense of community among neighbors.

Community gardens also take many shapes and forms. From a 50-by-50-foot church garden that supplies a local food pantry with fresh produce to a vacant city lot divided into plots and gardened by neighbors, community gardens reflect the needs and the desires of people directly involved in their management and upkeep. As such, there are many, many ways to organize and manage a community garden.”

-University of Missouri Extension

# Purpose

The purpose of this resource is for TSET Healthy Living Program grantees to utilize existing community garden documents to better plan, implement, and sustain their community garden. The following pages provide links to various topics that communicate the importance of diverse partnerships and address potential problems the garden can experience as well as provide sample policies and forms.

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“When I go into the garden with a spade, and dig a bed, I feel such an exhilaration and health that I discover that I have been defrauding myself all this time in letting others do for me what I should have done with my own hands.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



# Plan

Whether you are a part of a school, volunteer group, local agency, or a sole individual considering a community garden project, the initial process of moving from an idea to planting the first seed are the same. However, there can be many challenges along the way. The garden's success greatly depends on the formation of the planning committee and the partnerships created in the community. Defining clear goals from the beginning will make the project more productive.

Below is a list of topics that should be addressed during the planning stage of a community garden project.

Topic	Page Number(s)
<u>Types of Community Gardens</u>	11-17
<u>Benefits of Community Gardens</u>	8
<u>Challenges</u>	7-8
<u>From Idea to Action</u>	10-15
<u>Form a Planning Committee</u>	9-10
<u>Mapping Reciprocal Partnerships</u>	20
<u>Choosing a Garden Site</u>	18-21
<u>Model Zoning Ordinance</u>	17-37
<u>Model Community Garden Lease</u>	8-18

# Local Resources

There are many local resources available in assisting the development of your community garden. Contacting a master gardener or plant nursery can help you better plan and sustain your garden.

Need	Contact
Information on soil health, sustainable gardening, pest management	<u>Master Gardener</u>
Advice on plant selection, growth/harvest scheduling, purchase products & supplies	<u>Plant Nursery</u>

# Implement and Sustain

The physical work begins once the planning stage is complete and it is time to break ground. Many people involved with a community garden project find this to be one of the most exciting times due to the quick dramatic changes. It is important to harvest this excitement as the growing season progresses by giving clear direction to gardeners and community partners. This can be accomplished by presenting a calendar of meetings and events, assigning specific job duties, and creating a checklist of frequently asked questions.

A community garden does not have to be all work. Make sure to relish in the fruits of your labor by using the garden's produce in recipes, creating flower arrangements for community organizations, or sharing pictures of the garden on social media for all to enjoy! Generating enthusiasm throughout the community will increase the likelihood of success for years to come.

Below is a list of topics that should be addressed during the implementation and sustaining stages of a community garden project.

Topic	Page Number(s)
<u>Preparing and Developing a Site</u>	28-31
<u>Potential Problems and Solutions</u>	5-7
<u>Building a Lasting Garden</u>	11
<u>Additional Things to Consider</u>	17-19
<u>Calendar</u>	8
<u>Job Descriptions</u>	4-5
<u>Discussion Checklist for Prospective Gardeners</u>	34
<u>FAQs</u>	9
<u>Model Gardener's Agreement</u>	22-25
<u>Model Community Garden Rules</u>	26-33
<u>Composting</u>	12-13
<u>Preserving Garden Crops</u>	17-18
<u>Recipes</u>	38-42

## A Special Thank You To:

**Resource:** Grow Healthy Oklahoma

**Author(s)/Organization:** T. League, J. Mork, M. Scott (OPHLI)

**Link:** <http://tulsafoodsecurity.org/images/GrowHealthyOklahoma.pdf>

**Resource:** Community Gardening Toolkit

**Author(s)/Organization:** University of Missouri Extension

**Link:** <https://extensiondata.missouri.edu/pub/pdf/miscpubs/mp0906.pdf>

**Resource:** Community Garden Management Toolkit

**Author(s)/Organization:** B. Johnson (Springfield Food Policy Council)

**Link:** <https://communitygarden.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CGMgmtToolkit.pdf>

**Resource:** Seeding the City

**Author(s)/Organization:** ChangeLab Solutions

**Link:** [http://www.changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/Urban\\_Ag\\_SeedingTheCity\\_FIN  
AL\\_%28CLS\\_20120530%29\\_20111021\\_0.pdf](http://www.changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/Urban_Ag_SeedingTheCity_FIN<br/>AL_%28CLS_20120530%29_20111021_0.pdf)

**Resource:** Ground Rules

**Author(s)/Organization:** ChangeLab Solutions

**Link:** [http://www.changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/CommunityGardenToolkit\\_Final  
\(CLS\\_20120530\)\\_20110207.pdf](http://www.changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/CommunityGardenToolkit_Final<br/>(CLS_20120530)_20110207.pdf)

**Resource:** How to Organize a Community Garden

**Author(s)/Organization:** North Carolina Cooperative Extension

**Link:** [https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/static/publication/js/pdf\\_js/web/viewer.html?slug=how-  
to-organize-a-community-garden](https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/static/publication/js/pdf_js/web/viewer.html?slug=how-<br/>to-organize-a-community-garden)

**Resource:** Community Garden Tool Kit

**Author(s)/Organization:** Olmsted County SHIP Intervention

**Link:** [https://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/OCPHS/programs/community/ship/Documents/Comm  
unity%20Garden%20Toolkit.pdf](https://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/OCPHS/programs/community/ship/Documents/Comm<br/>unity%20Garden%20Toolkit.pdf)

**Resource:** Introduction to a Gardener's Welcome Packet

**Author(s)/Organization:** University of Missouri Extension

**Link:** <http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/miscpubs/mp0906welcome.pdf>

### Photo Credits:

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