



STARTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN

THE BASICS

So you want to start a community garden! Here are some of the main pieces of advice Gardening Matters has gleaned from meeting with dozens of gardeners.

THE COMMUNITY

- ⊗ Aim for at least ten people committed to establishing a community garden. Ten people working together means that no one person is being tapped out.
- ⊗ Give it at least a year before breaking ground. The time spent planning is essential...the more planning, the more successful the garden.
- ⊗ Community organizing is key to long-term success of the garden. Do it well, do it smart. Save yourself from backache or heartache!
- ⊗ Local solutions are best for long-term sustainability. Look at resources already available in the community for starting a garden and include these folks early on and invest them in the planning process.
- ⊗ Learn from other community gardeners. Go to the Community Garden Directory online and visit other community gardens. Get on the community gardener listserv, COMGAR, to connect with community gardeners for advice, support or feedback. (both accessible from www.gardeningmatters.org)

THE GARDEN SITE

- ⊗ What is available within the neighborhood? Walk, bike, drive around to see where land might be available.
- ⊗ What will the community garden be for? Beautification, land production, youth involvement? Who will be involved in the garden?
- ⊗ Research to see who owns the property of potential sites. What are their plans for the property?
- ⊗ Identify possible water sources, such as a neighbor, hydrant, or see if there was infrastructure there before and water-hookup to a main is possible.

What's the next step?? Give Gardening Matters a call and check out the step-by-step **Community Garden Start-Up Guide** available from our website.

