

Gardening Series:

Community Garden Management and Leadership

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Sponsored by:

*Stark Parks – Exploration Gateway
5712 12th Street, NW, Canton*





“...a community garden is a single piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people”

Wikipedia

What Constitutes a Community Garden?

Abandoned Lot

School Garden

Park/Nature Center Garden

Church Garden

Workplace Garden

Food Pantry / Chef's Garden

Urban Farm

Senior Center Garden



Who Sponsors?



Neighborhood families

Grants/private funding

Church groups

Schools/colleges

Parks/nature centers

Landscaping firms

Steps to Starting a Community Garden

1. Organize a meeting of interested people
2. Form a planning committee
3. Identify your resources
4. Approach a sponsor*
5. Choose a site
6. Prepare and develop the site
7. Organize the garden
8. Plan for children/elderly
9. Determine rules and put them in writing
10. Communicate with your group

Source: American Community Gardening Association



Management

- Who should manage?
- Role
- Responsibilities



Garden Manager Skills

- Organized
- Planner
- Able to Handle Budgets
- Educator
- Communicator
- Dedicated
- High Energy



Rules



- Does your garden need rules?
- Typical issues:
 - Plot fees
 - Respect for others' plots
 - Parking , safety concerns
 - Children, pets
 - Locks (gate, storage)
 - Storage shed, tools
 - Water (hose, spigot, rain barrels)
 - Clean-up: plots & common areas
 - Waste removal, composting

Common Issues

- Plots abandoned
- Mid-season slump
- Weeding/site upkeep
- External factors
 - Invasive plants
 - Pests/molds
 - Vandalism
 - Weather



Garden Benefits

- Fresh produce
- Nutrition habits
- Education/new skills
- Physical exercise
- Beautify spaces
- Friendships
- Community



Local Resources

- OSU Extension - Massillon
- Stark Parks
- Stark County Master Gardeners
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- The Wilderness Center
- Beech Creek Botanical Garden
- Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center
- OEFFA (organic gardening)
- Local garden centers
- Other community garden managers



National Resources

- American Community Gardening Association
- National Gardening Association
- USDA
- www.LetsMove.gov
- www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces
- www.urbanharvestcleveland.org
- Community Garden Toolkit: Univ. of Missouri Extension
 - <http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/miscpubs/mp0906.pdf>
- Cities that have community gardens
 - Detroit, Chicago, Portland, Seattle
 - North Carolina Community Garden Partners
 - University of Maryland Extension





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