

How to Start Your Own Community Garden

Things to consider when setting up a new growing space in your community...



1. Key Ideas

There are many reasons why people want to start community gardens. Families may want to grow their own fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers to: save money; to know where their food comes from; to have a communal activity together; to meet other people; to get outdoors; or to help with their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

2. Talk to others in the community

Is there plenty of interest in setting up a growing space in your local area?

If not, you may find it difficult to establish one.

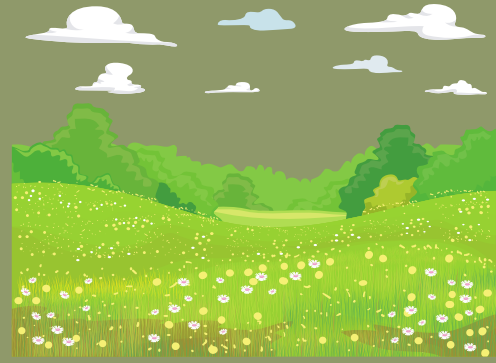
3. Form a Committee

Arrange a meeting to find out what people want to do with the new growing space and to create a committee. You should have a range of people on your committee who can deal with issues such as legislation, funding, building, communicating and gardening support



4. Identify land for your garden

You need to find out who owns the land and if it can be reused for garden space. Check with your local council's environmental or planning department. You should consider issues such as access to water, ease of access, what is growing already, sunlight, security etc.



5. Fundraise



To make your garden a reality you will need to find sponsors. Talk to local companies and builders; join sites such as Foundation Scotland that has advice for obtaining funding. You will find it easier to get funds if you have a constitution and separate bank account.

6. Start to plan your garden.

Check that you have all the rights to use the land and have insurance in place for anyone working on the site. Now you can design how the space is going to be used.

Remember it is always easier to start small and increase the amount of growing space that is manageable for the number of volunteers using the garden.



- Will you grow vegetables, have fruit beds or trees, flowers, wildlife areas, play areas for children?
- Will you have raised or open beds?
- Will the paths be grassy, wood chipped, paved? Will grass need to be regularly cut - how is this going to be done?
- Do you have a shed for tools or butts to capture rainwater?

7. Visit other community gardens in your area

This will help give you some ideas and inspiration about using your own space.

You can also find out who and what was involved when creating the garden.



8. Work the site

Establish groups of volunteers to work on the soil, create paths, and build beds.

Make sure you have enough equipment and tools for the people helping out.

Also make sure you have identified any risks on site and communicated these with your volunteers.



9. Create a Community

Make sure you bring everyone in the local area along with you.

- Keep communicating through regular meetings or social media
- Plan fun gardening and social activities
- Arrange learning sessions
- Have harvesting and planting days
- Share your produce with others in the community
- Invite schools and older people to visit your garden

