

CONSIDERATIONS FOR STARTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN

Establish a Committee

Find your "Champion" (Can be a County Official, School Official, HOA President)
Primary Organizer and Secondary Organizer (make management more than one deep)
Grant Writer
Agricultural Expert
(Are there any of you in our audience?)

Decide what type of garden you want (Can be a combination of the below types)

Community (individual plots)
Communal (one garden planted and maintained by all members)
Communal Food Pantry (Larger garden, most produce goes to local food pantries)
Demonstration Garden (Pick a theme: educational, historic, organic, etc.)

Rules and By-Laws

Establish Criteria for Joining
Equal Opportunity
Diversity is great (every culture has its favorite vegetables)
Mandatory Training (the worst pests in the garden can be the humans)
Housekeeping
Chemicals? (Herbicides, pre-emergent, insecticides, synthetic fertilizers)
Controlling invasive plants (don't let anyone plant mint)
Liabilities

Pick a site"

Who owns the property?
Get an environmental survey. (You don't want a former auto salvage yard)
Nice, level, accessible property with water available
Take soil samples
Improve the Soil. Healthy Soil = Healthy Food

Budget

Membership fee
Startup grants
 Fencing
 Water
 Raised Beds

Assistance

University of Maryland Extension
Master Gardeners
Visit some Community/Communal/Education/Demonstration gardens
 Annmarie Community Kids Garden
 Double Oak Farm – American Chestnut Land Trust
 Chesapeake Ranch Estates
 Frederick Post Community Gardens