



## **BECOME A POLLENATOR!**

Want to start a community garden? • Looking for a p-patch?

Want to come to garden talks? • Want to Grow a Row for Helpline?

Do you have land to offer for gardening?

contact: [twl@bainbridge.net](mailto:twl@bainbridge.net) • [info@soundfood.org](mailto:info@soundfood.org)

### **Step 1. Organize**

Organize a meeting with people who can or should care about a garden. Help them to understand what work is involved in starting and caring for a garden and start right away to work to gain their commitment to the project.

### **Step 2. Decide on the Garden Goals**

A. Raised beds or plantings directly in the ground, if possible? Individually maintained plots or cooperatively managed garden? Does this seem like a spot for permanent open space or just a temporary beautification until something is built there?

B. Does the group want to own or lease the land to insure that it is protected as the desired open space? Ownership (or tenancy) is necessary in order to secure funding for improvements, which can be another goal.

C. Does the group want to seek funding and donations to work on the property? And are they willing to assume the long term responsibility for planting, maintenance and even potential liability for the site?

### **Step 3. Survey the Site**

A. Is this the right place for a garden?

B. Does it have sun, access to water from a hydrant or neighboring building. Are the nearest neighbors interested? Will they help?

C. How is the site currently used? Will this project build on that current use, or interfere with that use. Which use does the group want to incorporate in the garden design?

### **Step 4. Research and Gather the Resources**

Determine what resources are needed and available in and out of the community:

A. Create a list of items needed for the garden based on the design (ideas below) that includes tools, supplies, materials and services like tilling if necessary, fencing, water lines, lumber for beds and signs. Come up with a budget for these things and then see what you can get donated or funded. Survey your neighbors—you will be surprised what they can provide!

B. Seek cooperation from community groups and other organizations in the area.

### **Step 5. Design the Garden**

A. Draw a diagram of where each element should be

B. Research the kinds of plants and trees that do well in the city with low maintenance and add to diagram

C. Consider structures like benches, arbors, tables and art work like statues and murals

D. Be sure to include a compost area to collect plant refuse and to create your own garden fertilizer.

### **Step 6. Plan the Work to get the Project Started**

Create a list of tasks and a schedule or time line and work out a system so that garden volunteers can do a share of the work. Look ahead a few years and think about how to phase in planting and building projects. Don't try to do everything the first year, but start with the "skeleton" of lot clearing, bed and soil installing, and a few plants in year one and build up from there. Be prepared to at least:

**WINTER**—Plan and hold several meetings to plan garden and assign work (TIME: one or two meetings a month)

**SPRING**—Clean, prepare soil or build and fill beds, spread mulch, purchase seeds and plants, plant and water. (TIME: several long work days and then at least once-a-week care to water, weed. Time depends on size of lot and number of volunteers!)

**SUMMER**—Weeding and watering as necessary, general plant maintenance such as "deadheading", fertilizing, mulching and composting (TIME: at least two times a week for two hour shifts)

**FALL**—harvest, remove plants and add to compost pile, fertilize, plan winter meetings, update garden journal and garden diagram to help when planning for next spring. (TIME: two or three times and week in two hour sessions)

One or two hours of volunteer work a week can accomplish a lot of planting and weeding and of course harvesting at the end of the summer and fun all season long!

### **Step 7. Dig In!**

(from Open Lands: [openlands.org/urbangreening.asp?pgid=108](http://openlands.org/urbangreening.asp?pgid=108))



## **WEB RESOURCES**

<http://www.communitygarden.org/>

<http://www.seattle.gov/Neighborhoods/ppatch/>

<http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/comgarden.aspx>

<http://www.kitsapgov.com/sw/compost.htm>

[http://www.acfb.org/projects/community\\_garden/](http://www.acfb.org/projects/community_garden/)