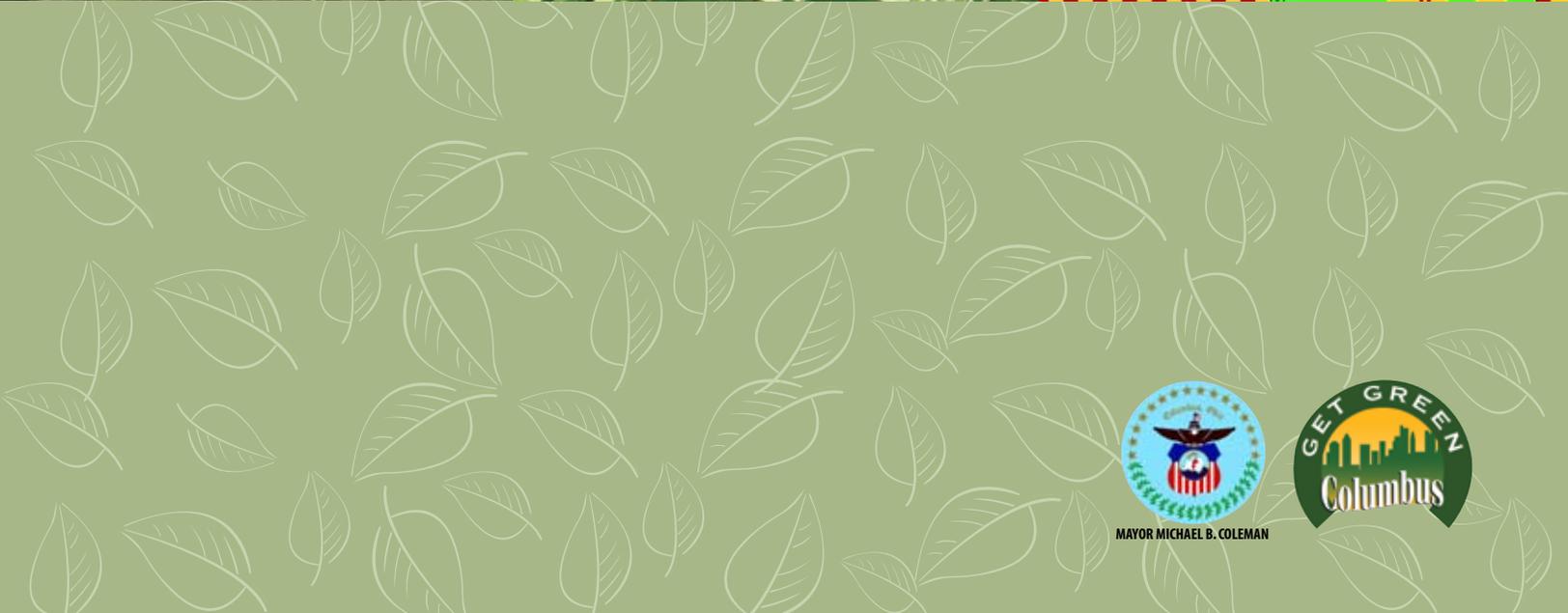


Get Green Columbus: Community Garden Resource Manual



MAYOR MICHAEL B. COLEMAN





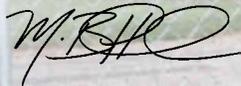
We're all working and thinking in new ways as our community and nation move through the beginning of the 21st Century, and it is becoming ever more clear that living smart means living in ways that are sustainable, environmentally sensitive and respect our natural world. That's why I launched Get Green Columbus, and am proud to see more people getting involved in their own unique ways.

One way to make a difference in your neighborhood is to develop neighborhood-backed agriculture projects, like community gardens. These aren't just great ways to get healthy foods, but also can become cornerstones of community and even a business opportunity with our local farmers markets. Community gardening can also be a lot of fun, and offer local youth a way to learn something new about their world.

This **Get Green Columbus: Community Garden Resource Manual** provides an overview of City and community-based programs available to gardeners. This manual contains information on the steps you can take to build a community gardens, including securing City land; it contains the resources for garden maintenance and availability of materials; and it lists the various community groups that assist citizens in navigating the process.

This manual was put together by a great group of local volunteers and advocates who serve on my Columbus Green Team. These 35 local experts come from many walks of life, and advise me on all sorts of Green issues. Co-chaired by Meera Pathasarathy and David Brehem, the Green Team is dedicated to making Columbus a healthier, more sustainable City. To learn more, check out – www.GetGreenColumbus.org

Sincerely,



Michael B. Coleman
Mayor





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Project Quality Improvement The United Way of Central Ohio



INTRODUCTION



Community Garden Overview

- Definition of a Community Garden
- Organizational Side of Growing Together
- Challenges of the Charge





I. INTRODUCTION



Community Garden Overview

Definition of a Community Garden

A community garden is a piece of land shared by friends and neighbors for growing vegetables and flowers, as well as providing opportunities for positive social interaction and recreation. It may be between two buildings, on the outskirts of a city, in an apartment building courtyard or on a rooftop, on hospital grounds, alongside railroad tracks, or even in your own backyard.





THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

Obtaining Land for Community Gardens

- Finding Land for Development
- Procedures for Leasing City Lots
- Lease Restrictions
- Time-Frame for a Lease
- Purchasing Land and Permanent Community Garden Designation
- Insuring Community Gardeners

Zoning and Building Code Regulations

- Regulatory Issues Facing Community Gardens
- Gardens on Private Property
- Gardens on Public Property

Resources for Growing Green Lots

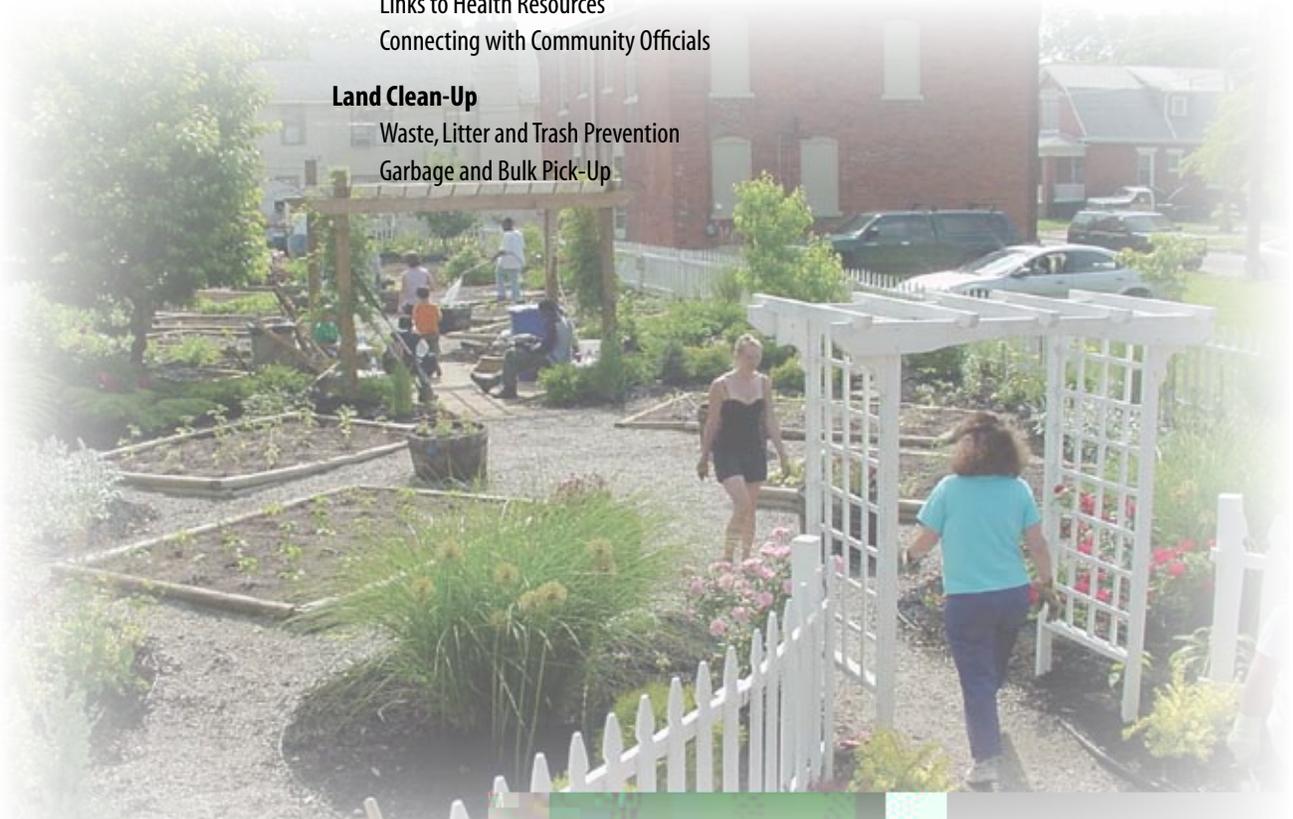
- Mobile Tool Library
- Soil Enhancement
- Wood Chips and "Friends of the Park" Program

Health and Safety in the Garden

- Links to Health Resources
- Connecting with Community Officials

Land Clean-Up

- Waste, Litter and Trash Prevention
- Garbage and Bulk Pick-Up





II. THE CITY OF COLUMBUS



Obtaining Land for Community Gardens

Finding Land for Development

Land Redevelopment Office

109 North Front Street

Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 645-LAND (5263)

landredevelopmentoffice@columbus.gov

<http://www.td.ci.columbus.oh.us/Bizdevelopment/BuyCityProperty/index.asp>

The Department of Development's Land Redevelopment Office manages the City's "Land Bank" in which numerous properties are obtainable for garden and beautification projects, usually through a lease. A list of available properties can be found on the Land Redevelopment Office's Web site by clicking "**Lease Land for \$1!**". Select a garden location to view its lot size, lot area and a photo of the land. Contact the Land Redevelopment Office with any questions about the properties listed.

Procedures for Leasing City Lots

Anyone interested in leasing a City-owned lot is required to provide information to the Land Redevelopment Office. An outline of the applicant's plan should be mailed to the Land Redevelopment Office, in addition to the following:

- ✘ responsible party's full name, address and phone number
- ✘ address and parcel number of the lot
- ✘ purpose of the request
- ✘ reason for creating the garden
- ✘ brief description of the garden
- ✘ simple drawing showing the layout and use of the Land Bank lot
- ✘ timeframe for garden's development
- ✘ request for a meeting with Land Redevelopment staff

Lease Restrictions

The Lessee cannot assign the lease or sublet any portion of the premises. No alterations or improvements can be made to the property including fencing, permanent structuring and laying railroad ties. Use of any signage and other materials on the site must be pre-approved by the Land Redevelopment Office.

Time-Frame for a Lease

Most lots are leased on a year-to-year basis, from April to November. However, multi-year leases are sometimes granted, depending on the property involved and information submitted by the party interested in the land.





Purchasing Land and Permanent Community Garden Designation

The Land Redevelopment Office promotes the development of infill housing and commercial development on vacant Land Bank properties. Consequently, the purchase or permanent designation of lots set aside for lease as community gardens is generally not permitted. However, due to some leased properties' locations and physical characteristics, exceptions may be made. The Land Redevelopment staff considers these types of requests on a case-by-case basis.

Insuring Community Gardeners

Liability insurance provides community gardens with legal protection if someone is injured while tending the garden. Although community gardeners are not required to have liability insurance, it is highly recommended and some land owners will not lease land to uninsured gardeners.

The City of Columbus is self-insured, and does not have liability insurance coverage through a community carrier. As a result, community gardeners would not have liability insurance coverage through the City while tending leased lots. However, gardeners are not required to have liability insurance to lease property from the City Land Bank.

Zoning and Building Code Regulations

Regulatory Issues Facing Community Gardens

Community garden organizers must consider a number of regulatory issues before establishing a community garden. The appropriate City agencies and staff should be contacted to ensure that the garden's development and any physical structures are both appropriate and legal. Different City agencies have regulatory responsibility depending on whether the location is on public or private property.

Gardens on Private Property

Department of Development Building Services Division (BSD)

757 Carolyn Avenue
Columbus, OH 43224
(614) 645-7314

<http://td.ci.columbus.oh.us/DivisionsandOffices/BuildingServices/index.asp>

The Department of Development's Building Services Division (BSD) manages the zoning and building codes that regulate land use and construction on private property. The division reviews building plans, licenses contractors, coordinates re-zonings and variances, conducts inspections and issues building permits.



Community gardens are permitted in most residential and commercial zoning districts. However, some gardens may be prohibited due to specific use restrictions and development standards. Factors that might be considered by zoning officials in evaluating a potential site include: hours of operation, site configuration, required parking, lighting, fencing or screening and storage requirements. Some potential garden locations may require a request for property re-zoning or a variance. Interested parties would then submit a site plan to scale that includes:

- ✘ property's configuration and proximity to streets and alleys
- ✘ location of any existing and proposed buildings or parking areas
- ✘ additional important details

Building permits are required for most work involving new construction or remodeling of an existing structure, with the exception of work classified as maintenance. Examples of community garden work that generally requires a permit include:

- ✘ fences taller than six feet
- ✘ above-ground water tanks (some exemptions exist)
- ✘ retaining walls
- ✘ equipment sheds with an area of over 169 square feet

More information regarding the zoning and permitting processes is available on the City's Web site www.columbusonestopshop.com or by calling the BSD office.

Gardens on Public Property

Transportation Division

109 North Front Street, 3rd Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 645-7497 (Permit Section)

streetsofcolumbus@columbus.gov

<http://pubserv.ci.columbus.oh.us/transportation/Index.htm>

The Transportation Division maintains City streets, highways, alleys and bridges, and regulates the use of City right-of-way or public property. City rights-of-way typically extend beyond the limits of roadway pavement to include sidewalks, ditches, utility strips, etc.

Various permits and permit-like processes may be required, depending on where a community garden is established, and for how long. These applications are handled by the Right-of-Way Services unit. Permits are generally granted if the garden's use will not interfere with the health, safety or general welfare of the public.

The Transportation Division officials strongly advise garden organizers wishing to utilize any portion of the public right-of-way to contact the office early in the garden development process. Transportation Division officials will assist organizers in addressing any specific requirements. Those with questions on the use of City rights-of-way should call or email the Transportation Division.

Resources for Growing Green Lots

Mobile Tool Library

Department of Development

Mobile Tool Library

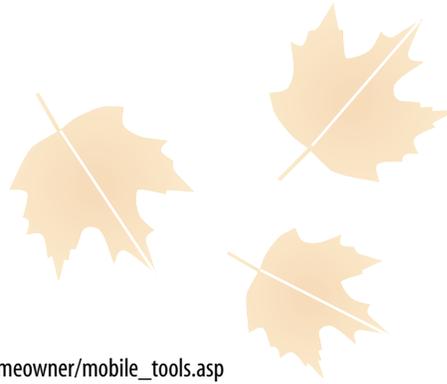
2771 East Fourth Avenue

Columbus, OH 43219

(614) 645-8542

tldavis@columbus.gov

http://td.ci.columbus.oh.us/NeighborhoodsandResidents/housing/homeowner/mobile_tools.asp



The Department of Development's Mobile Tool Library program promotes property maintenance and improvements by lending tools and equipment free of charge. Program participants may include homeowners, renters, landlords, and nonprofit agencies. Applicants other than nonprofit organizations must reside within the designated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) service area. A map of the CDBG service area is accessible on the Mobile Tool Library's Web site. Applications are also available online or by calling the program's main office.

Approved applicants receive membership status and can borrow from a selection of more than 200 types of hand and power tools. A valid picture I.D. is required to pick up tools from the program's site locations. The Mobile Tool Library Trucks are parked at 13 designated locations around the City Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Additionally, the Mobile Tool Warehouse is open for service to eligible participants Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

Soil Enhancement

Division of Sewerage and Drainage

Com-Til

7000 Jackson Pike

Lockbourne, OH 43137

(614) 645-3153

www.com-til.org

The Division of Sewerage and Drainage operates the City's compost facility. Com-Til, a nutrient rich, completely organic, soil enhancement, may be available to community garden groups free-of-charge, depending on the quantities available and requested. Free delivery is also possible, based on the personnel and equipment available. Gardeners are more likely to receive free Com-Til material and service before March or after June, the facility's slower season.

If more than 15 cubic yards of Com-Til are needed, community garden groups are required to pay for the material and arrange for transportation. Smaller quantities of Com-Til can be picked up free-of-charge. Gardeners must call the compost facility in advance to make the necessary arrangements.

Cars, pick-ups and open bed trucks may be used to collect the material, but all loads must be covered. Smaller quantities can be obtained by customers bringing their own containers (bags, boxes, etc.). A list of haulers is also available through the compost facility and a discounted price can be arranged.

The compost facility is open year-round, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. except for holidays. Additional information, including material analysis and application rates, can be obtained by calling or visiting the Com-Til Web site. Experience the wonder of plants grown with Com-Til.

Wood Chips and "Friends of the Park" Program

Department of Recreation and Parks

Forestry Division

440 West Whittier Street

Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 645-3350

<http://recparks.columbus.gov/aboutus/forestry.asp>

Volunteer Office

(614) 645-3325

volunteers@columbus.gov

http://www.columbusrecparks.com/jobs/volunteer_opportunities/nature.asp

The Department of Recreation and Parks' Forestry Division can supply gardeners with wood chips at no cost. All requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Approval depends on a number of factors, including the time of year, garden's location and availability of wood chip material. Contact the Forestry Division for more information.

The Department's Volunteer Office offers a "Friends of the Park" program for groups or individuals interested in assisting with park planning, beautification efforts or fundraising to improve park conditions and facilities. Informational packets detailing the terms and conditions of the program can be obtained by calling or e-mailing the volunteer office.



Health and Safety in the Garden

Links to Health Resources

Columbus Public Health

Franklin County Heart Health Network

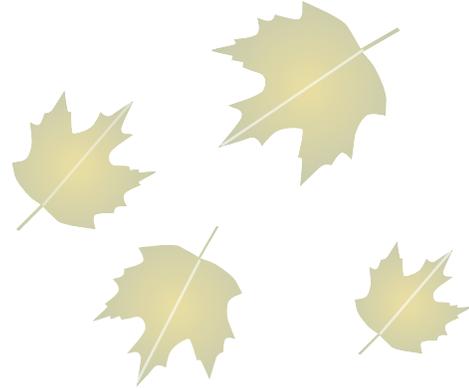
240 Parsons Avenue

Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 645-0743

Health@columbus.gov

http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov/programs/programs_134.asp



Columbus Public Health does not traditionally provide direct educational programming to community gardens, but instead links to other organizations that do. The Franklin County Heart Health Network, facilitated by Columbus Public Health, is currently in the process of identifying the various community organizations that provide nutrition and wellness outreach services, in hopes of establishing a community referral network in 2007. Call for more information.

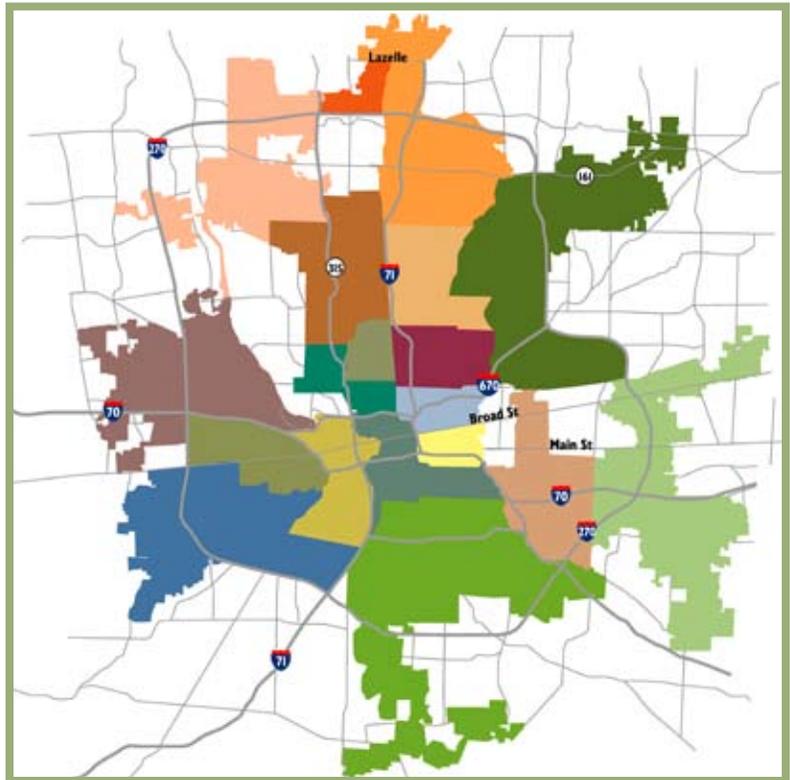
Connecting with Community Officials

Division of Police

<http://www.columbuspolice.org>

Contact your local police precinct and Community Liaison when creating a community garden. They can provide valuable community buy-in and an attentive eye on the garden. A list of police precincts and Community Liaisons can be accessed through the Division's home page. Click the link labeled "View City Precinct Maps and Community Liaison Contact Numbers". A map showing the entire City's police precincts should appear. Click on an individual precinct to find:

-  a more detailed map showing precinct boundaries and major roadways
-  precinct's police substation address and informational phone number
-  phone numbers for police service and reporting an emergency
-  community liaison contact numbers



City Precinct Map

Land Clean-Up

Waste, Litter and Trash Prevention

Division of Refuse Collection

Keep Columbus Beautiful

1265 Marion Road

Columbus, OH 43207

(614) 645-8027

<http://refuse.ci.columbus.oh.us/kcb/>

The Division of Refuse Collection's Keep Columbus Beautiful program encourages site beautification, with the goal of providing a clean, safe and beautiful community in which residents can live and raise a family. The program promotes activities in the areas of public awareness, education, recycling, litter prevention, beautification and graffiti prevention.

Garden support is available through the program for beautification and clean-up projects. The program works with volunteer groups conducting gateway beautifications, and provides resources to community gardeners and other groups needing bags, gloves, and hand tools (shovels, rakes, pitchforks, hoes, wheelbarrows, etc.).

Keep Columbus Beautiful encourages citizens to become an Adopt an Area partner. Requirements include three cleanups or beautification efforts each year. Once the requirement is met, Keep Columbus Beautiful erects an official street sign recognizing the Adopt an Area partner. For more information about Keep Columbus Beautiful and its services, visit the program's Web site or call the phone number listed above.

Garbage and Bulk Pick-up

The Division of Refuse Collection does not provide garbage or bulk pick-up service to community gardens. Rumpke Waste Removal and Recycling Inc. collects residential yard waste and recyclables from Columbus residences. Individuals with questions on contracting for commercial and industrial service can call (614) 421-0092 or (800) 828-8171.



ADDITIONAL LOCAL RESOURCES

Franklin Park Conservatory- Growing to Green Program

- Columbus Community Garden Resource Guide
- Growing to Green Awards Program
- Ohio Community Garden Conference
- School Garden Program
- Scotts Urban Garden Academy

Greater Columbus Foodshed Project of Simply Living

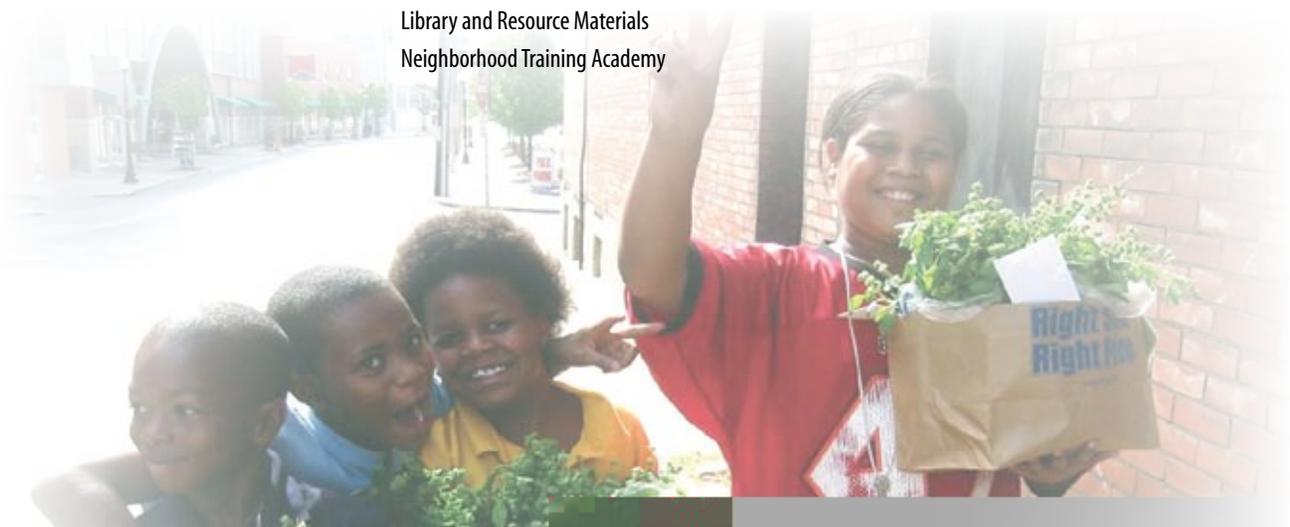
- Foodshed Council

The Ohio State University Extension

- Garden Questions
- Master Gardener Program
- Ohioline: Yard and Garden
- WebGarden

The United Way of Central Ohio's Neighborhood Partnership Center

- Computer and Internet Access
- Grants
- Library and Resource Materials
- Neighborhood Training Academy





III. ADDITIONAL LOCAL RESOURCES

Franklin Park Conservatory- Growing to Green Program

Growing to Green

1777 East Broad Street

Columbus, OH 43203

(614) 645-5952

growingtogreen@fpconservatory.org

<http://www.fpconservatory.org/growingtogreen.htm>

Franklin Park Conservatory's Growing to Green program is Columbus' largest organized effort to promote and provide free resources for community gardening and city beautification. An onsite demonstration garden, how-to instruction, trainings and the Franklin Park Community Garden are just a few of the resources currently available to community members through the Conservatory and Growing to Green's partners.

Since Growing to Green's establishment in March 2000, it has assisted in the start-up or renovation of more than 90 community, school, memorial and neighborhood beautification garden projects. The program's success has led the Conservatory to develop a comprehensive master plan to expand its facility, create more community gardens and renovate the park's original caretaker's cottage for community garden education. Current programs and resources available are listed below.

- ✦ **Columbus Community Garden Resource Guide-** The resource guide is a comprehensive review of community gardening. It includes gardening information and fact sheets, organizational tips, funding sources, sample documents, a step-by-step checklist and more. Call for more information on obtaining a copy.
- ✦ **Growing to Green Awards Program-** The Growing to Green Awards seek to honor the efforts and commitment of local community gardeners while promoting further participation in city beautification and community gardens. Award categories include community, education, youth leadership and neighborhood beautification gardens and Community Gardener of the Year. Interested individuals or groups may nominate their garden, themselves or others for the program by completing the official awards entry form available online.
- ✦ **Ohio Community Garden Conference-** Growing to Green's Ohio Community Garden Conference takes place annually at Franklin Park Conservatory. It offers presentations, hands-on workshops, keynote speakers and community garden displays to assist gardeners in building stronger leadership skills and a more sustainable garden. Call or visit the Growing to Green Web site for more information.
- ✦ **School Garden Program-** Growing to Green provides design assistance, program support and curriculum tie-in ideas to Columbus area schools interested in creating a schoolyard-learning garden. Teachers or school officials should call for more information.
- ✦ **Scotts Urban Garden Academy-** The Scotts Urban Garden Academy is an educational and funding program made possible by a partnership between the Columbus Foundation, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, and Franklin Park Conservatory. The Academy provides a comprehensive series of courses designed to equip community gardeners with the skills and resources needed to successfully implement and sustain a community garden. These in-depth classes are taught free-of-charge, February through March at the Franklin Park Conservatory. Call or visit the Growing to Green Web site for more information and course registration. Example classes are listed below.





Additional Local Resources

- ✘ **Organizing Your Community Garden**- Instruction on starting a community garden including organizational structure, site selection, design and working with the community to gain support and interest.
- ✘ **Garden Design**- Garden design and planning success stories. Tips on form, function, plant material and small space gardening.
- ✘ **Growing for Green**- Learn how to tap into the local economy with your garden. Grow and sell your produce for farmers' markets and local restaurants.
- ✘ **Plant Propagation**- Find out how to start your own plants by collecting and starting seeds, taking cuttings, dividing and more.
- ✘ **Organic Gardening**- Explore the many ways to get optimal production with an organic approach to your garden, including crop rotation, growing your own fertilizer, cover crops and companion planting.
- ✘ **The Sustainable Community Garden**- Hear how to keep your garden in full bloom for years to come including resident participation, problem solving, grant writing and long-term land use.

Greater Columbus Foodshed Project of Simply Living

Greater Columbus Foodshed Project

3193 Dorris Avenue
Columbus, Oh 43202
(614) 447-0296
<http://www.greatercolumbusfoodshedproject.org/>

Simply Living is a Central Ohio-based nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a compassionate and sustainable world through personal, community and cultural transformation. Greater Columbus Foodshed Project (GCFP) of Simply Living is a program working to address local food supply issues in the Columbus area. It tackles sustainable living by: increasing central Ohioans' access to foods from local farms and community and backyard gardens, growing local markets for local food, and educating toddlers through adults on health, nutrition and wellness. The GCFP also facilitates the monthly Foodshed Council meeting.

Foodshed Council

Child Development Council of Franklin County (Head Start)

300 East Spring Street
Columbus, Ohio 43202

The Foodshed Council promotes environmental, economical and socially responsible practices in local food production. Individuals interested in creating greater access to healthy, locally grown foods meet to exchange ideas and best practices, link to resources, and collaborate with others in the community. Meetings are held from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. the second Thursday of every month at the Child Development Council of Franklin County (Head Start). **There are no meetings in August or December.**





The Ohio State University Extension

The Ohio State University (OSU) Extension provides a number of resources to the public in an effort to connect the surrounding community to the research and work of the university. Community gardeners can take advantage of the Extension's vast garden and plant databases.

Garden Questions

<http://hcs.osu.edu/faq/>

This Web site offers a growing archive of garden-related questions and answers.

Master Gardener Program

OSU Extension- Franklin County

2001 Fyffe Court, Room 232-C Howlett Hall

Columbus, OH 43210

(614) 247-6046

<http://franklin.osu.edu/hort/hort.htm#1>

<http://mastergardener.osu.edu/>

The Franklin County Master Gardener volunteer program is a cooperative effort of the Franklin County Extension and the OSU Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Gardens. The program is open bi-yearly to Franklin County residents who are amateur gardeners. Program participants are given 50 hours of training in horticultural topics and expected to return 50 volunteer hours to the program sponsors over the following growing season. Donated time is divided into answering gardening questions, conducting plant clinics, gardening activities with community members, community beautification, developing community or demonstration gardens and other horticultural activities.

Interested individuals must participate in a comprehensive application process and screening. Persons accepted into the program are deemed "Master Gardeners" following the completion of their training and designated volunteer commitment. Master Gardeners may remain active in the program by maintaining their certification with continuing education hours and donating a minimum of 25 hours to the program each season.

Master Gardener training topics include:

- ✘ botany
- ✘ plant nomenclature
- ✘ understanding soils and fertilizers
- ✘ plant pathology basics
- ✘ entomology basics
- ✘ integrated pest management
- ✘ pesticide safety
- ✘ growing vegetables and fruits
- ✘ woody ornamentals
- ✘ home lawn management
- ✘ diagnosing plant problems
- ✘ nuisance wildlife





The United Way of Central Ohio's Neighborhood Partnership Center

Neighborhood Partnership Center

360 South Third Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-241-3072
npc@uwcentralohio.org
www.uwcentralohio.org

The United Way of Central Ohio's Neighborhood Partnership Center (NPC) addresses critical needs in Neighborhood Development. NPC brings together residents and resources from neighborhoods, businesses, varying levels of government and nonprofit organizations in central Ohio. The center empowers neighborhood residents to promote positive change in their neighborhoods through training, technical assistance, grant programs and resource development.

Many of the programs and services available through the NPC are applicable to community gardens and organizational development. Visit the United Way Web site or call the NPC for more information and the most up-to-date Neighborhood Academy training schedule (see below).

Ongoing Services at the Neighborhood Partnership Center include:

Computer and Internet Access

NPC is equipped with two computer terminals with internet access for public use.

Grants

See "Funding Sources" for more information.

Library and Resource Materials

NPC offers a public multi-media library of books, reference guides and videos on grant writing, economic development, community organizing, fundraising, community gardening and evaluation.

Neighborhood Training Academy

NPC offers a diverse array of courses and training to neighborhood and nonprofit groups, as well as the general public. Classes fall into four general categories:

- ✦ Neighborhood and Economic Development (includes gardening workshops)
- ✦ Organizational Development
- ✦ Basic Technology
- ✦ Community Relations and Fundraising





National Resources

American Community Gardening Association
National Gardening Association





IV. NATIONAL RESOURCES



American Community Gardening Association

American Community Garden Association

c/o Franklin Park Conservatory
 1777 East Broad Street
 Columbus, OH 43203
 (877) ASK-ACGA (877-275-2242)
<http://www.communitygarden.org>
www.gardenmosaics.org

The American Community Garden Association (ACGA) is a nonprofit membership organization advancing the cause and efforts of community gardens in urban, suburban and rural settings in the United States and Canada. The organization facilitates state and national community garden networks through an annual conference, training workshops and monthly teleconferences. ACGA also publishes periodicals and resource materials, manages the youth education program Garden Mosaics, provides mentors for community garden projects and advocates research on the impact of community gardens. Visit the ACGA Web site for more information.

Some of the ACGA resources available online:

- ✘ free downloadable online documents and teleconferences
- ✘ free listserv for anyone interested in community gardening
- ✘ past ACGA publications
- ✘ gardening tips and general information
- ✘ state, province and national community garden lists
- ✘ material on gardening with seniors, children or the disabled
- ✘ funding information (See "Funding Sources")

National Gardening Association

National Gardening Association

1100 Dorset Street
 South Burlington, VT 05403
 (802) 863-5251
<http://www.garden.org/>
<http://www.kidsgardening.com/>

The National Gardening Association (NGA) is a nonprofit linking people to gardening through plant-based education, health and wellness, environmental stewardship, community development and home gardening. The organization provides numerous resources to gardeners ranging from plant fact sheets to funding information. NGA is also a leader in K-12 plant-based education. Curriculum ideas and programs can be found throughout its children's Web site KidsGardening.org. Some of the resources available through both NGA Web sites include the following:

- ✘ free newsletters
- ✘ regional growing zone reports
- ✘ plant finder
- ✘ weed library
- ✘ gardening articles
- ✘ how-to projects
- ✘ pest control library
- ✘ food gardening guide
- ✘ plant care guide
- ✘ online seed swap
- ✘ online gardening courses
- ✘ funding information
- ✘ curriculum tips
- ✘ parents' gardening primer
- ✘ classroom stories
- ✘ activities
- ✘ school greenhouse guide
- ✘ grants and awards (See "Funding Sources")





Funding Sources

- Captain Planet Foundation**
- The Columbus Foundation**
- Fiskars®- Project Orange Thumb**
- National Gardening Association (NGA)**
- The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company**
- Seeds of Change®**
- Target Store Grants**
- The United Way of Central Ohio- Neighborhood Partnership Grants**





V. Funding Sources



Community gardens are eligible for funding through a variety of sources such as grants, achievement awards and local business support. Gardeners can apply for grants specifically designed to assist community gardens or those related to the garden's purpose and desired impact, such as community development and education. Awards programs, like The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company's Give Back to Grow Awards, honor program finalist with cash prizes. Local greenhouses and garden shops may provide community gardeners with discounts, tools, and free seeds or plants. Other local companies may support community gardeners with financial support or needed resources.

Many of the organizations mentioned in this manual offer funding resources and grants. Gardeners can visit these groups' Web sites to learn more. Additional opportunities for funding and garden resources are listed below.

Captain Planet Foundation

133 Luckie Street, 2nd Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 522-4215
<http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/>

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants for organizations working with children, ages 6-18, on youth-focused projects pertaining to environmental, hands-on, group projects.

The Columbus Foundation

1234 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43205
(614) 251-4000
<http://www.columbusfoundation.org/>

The Columbus Foundation serves Central Ohio residents by advising individuals in their charitable donations and making grant opportunities available to the public.



Fiskars®- Project Orange Thumb

Garden Tools & Accessories

780 Carolina Street

Sauk City, WI 53583

(800) 500-4849

consumeraffairs@fiskars.com

<http://www.fiskars.com/US/Garden/Project+Orange+Thumb/About>

Fiskars® Garden and Outdoor Living Division offers an annual grant program, Project Orange Thumb. Community garden groups can apply to receive up to \$1,500 in Fiskars® garden tools and \$800.00 in supplies, such as seeds and mulch. Grant recipients also receive t-shirts for garden volunteers/members.

National Gardening Association (NGA)

1100 Dorset Street

South Burlington, VT 05403

(802) 863-5251

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

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/>

The NGA, cited earlier in this manual, provides a number of community garden financing possibilities on its Web site. Several of the opportunities are listed below.

- ✦ **Adopt a Garden™ Programs-** The NGA has partnered with several organizations, including the ACGA, to link garden projects in need of financial support to individuals with funding capabilities. Visit <http://assoc.garden.org/ag/> to list or support school gardens, community gardens, rehabilitation gardens and a green table project that aids both local farmers and gardens.
- ✦ **KidsGardening.com-** This NGA Web site is geared towards children's garden projects and provides an abundance of grant information, a garden resource directory and fundraising programs. Some grants and resources are accessible to adults as well as children. Start locating garden supplies and funding resources by visiting www.KidsGardening.com.
- ✦ **Youth Garden Grants Program-** The NGA offers grants to schools and community organizations serving a minimum of 15 children, ages 3 to 18, through a youth-focused, gardening program. Visit <http://assoc.garden.org/grants/> for more information.

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

14111 Scottslawn Road
Marysville, OH 43041
(888) 270-3714
www.scotts.com

✦ **Give Back to Grow Awards-** Give Back to Grow is Scotts' corporate caring initiative. This program honors community gardeners' work in schools, beautification, feeding the hungry and confronting issues in inner-city areas. Scotts annually awards \$40,000 dollars to community gardeners through the Give Back to Grow program with first place in each category receiving \$5,000 dollars. Visit the Scotts' Web site for more information or call (866) 565-3554 and ask for a Scotts Give Back to Grow representative.

✦ **Scotts Urban Garden Academy Grant Program-** This grant program sets aside funds for community leaders organizing neighborhood development through community gardening. Grant recipients are required to attend the Scotts Urban Garden Academy courses (see "Additional Local Resources"). For more information, call The Columbus Foundation at (614) 251-4000 or visit www.ColumbusFoundation.org.

Seeds of Change®

P.O. Box 15700
Santa Fe, NM 87592
(505) 438-8080
<http://www.seedsofchange.com/>

Seeds of Change® seed donation program gives organic seeds to organizations promoting learning and sustainable living through school, community and outreach-based organic gardening projects.

Target Store Grants

www.target.com

Target Store Grants are available at a Target store or online. Up to \$3,000 per organization is available for the funding of programs related to arts, family violence and prevention and reading. Community gardens with programming in any of the mentioned categories can apply for funding.

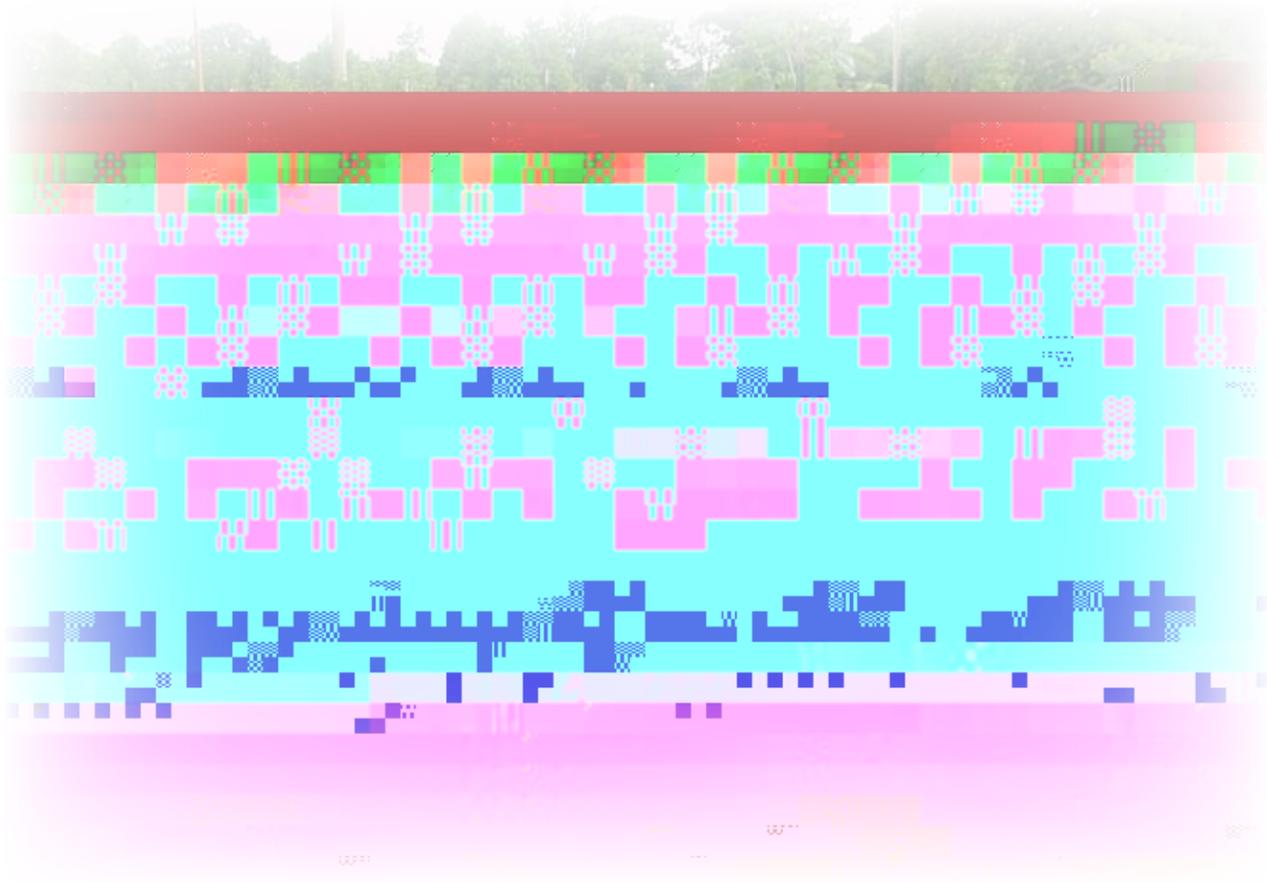
The United Way of Central Ohio- Neighborhood Partnership Grants

360 South Third Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-241-3072
mwilkos@uwcentralohio.org
www.uwcentralohio.org
dhenders@columbusfoundation.org
www.columbusfoundation.org

The Columbus Foundation, the United Way of Central Ohio, National City Bank and Bob Evans present the Neighborhood Partnership Grants Program (NPG), a collaboration of the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) and the Neighborhood Empowerment Grants. The NPG is available to resident-led projects that assist neighborhood organizations and/or make improvements in low-income to moderate-income areas in Franklin County. Grant applicants must have 501(c)3 status or a fiscal agent and may apply for up to \$15,000 annually. Visit the Columbus Foundation or the United Way of Central Ohio Web site for more information.



Sustainability



VI. Sustainability

The key factor in successful community gardening is sustainability or the ability to last for an extended amount of time. Gardeners should develop a sustainability plan to guide their efforts in ensuring their community garden thrives for years to come. The following areas should be considered in a sustainability plan:

- ✦ **Leadership:** Garden Leaders should develop and articulate a vision and goals for the plot. This vision can be simply stated, with the intent of the garden to be available for community use year after year. A garden leader should facilitate communication between the land owner and gardeners; and ensure the leased land is used in a way that satisfies both parties. Organizational meetings ought to be held periodically and all vested stakeholders should share in the creation of the garden's future.
- ✦ **Gardener/Volunteer Commitment:** Steady gardeners/volunteers, division of labor and good management are necessary to building a sustainable garden. Members and volunteers alike should be prepped on the many hours and dedication needed to operate a successful community garden. A garden cannot run without people planting, weeding and organizing logistics. The leaders should explain the benefits of a sustainable garden, as a long-standing garden is more attractive to potential gardeners than a transient one and allows for continual garden development.
- ✦ **Community Outreach and Garden Promotion:** Garden leaders should continually recruit and train new members to ease the strain when others move on and to continue the garden's vitality. Promoting the success and benefits of gardening will help recruit new supporters. Community gardeners should also network with other gardeners and organizations, as well as reach out to community groups. Developing new partnerships can be the best source for finding and receiving help with resources needed to sustain a garden.
- ✦ **Funding and Resources:** Organizations can pursue several routes in funding garden projects such as grants, fund raisers, donations, business support and/or growing produce for sale. Many gardens grow speciality crops for sale to local restaurants and grocers or sell produce directly to the public through farmers' markets. Some gardens ask for a membership fee to have a plot within the garden, which produces funds to maintain common areas. Within Columbus, it is strongly urged to connect with existing garden programs, such as the Franklin Park Conservatory's Growing to Green Program, as they can be a source for funds, materials and expert advice.

Many services exist throughout Columbus to help begin and maintain a community garden. This manual gives an overview of services available to help you get started. We encourage you to contact these services for help. Start a community garden and harvest the long term benefits such as improved health, nutrition and development for your neighborhood.

The Green Team extends its thanks to Weisenbach Specialty Printing for graciously donating their time and resources to the printing of this manual. Please note the Get Green Columbus: Community Garden Resource Manual was printed on 100% recycled paper with soybased ink.



Growing to Green
columbus community garden program

**FRANKLIN PARK
CONSERVATORY
& CHIHULY COLLECTION**
...nurturing plants and people

Children's Hunger Alliance
Feeding hungry minds and bodies®



MAYOR MICHAEL B. COLEMAN



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