

Greater MN: Have a Community Garden in Your Home Town
Workshop at Resource Fair 3/27
Notes from a participant

Find out history of Community Gardens in your community

- Don't Rush It
- Find out what it is you're up against so you can address it
 - If there has been a garden in your community before, why did it fail? What are going to be the perceptions of a community garden given past encounters with community gardens?

Finding land

- Get criteria together for who you want your garden to be accessible to
- Approached city first
- Land the city offered was inaccessible, had poor water hook up, small, and located near dog park and on flood plain
- Ended up getting space through a hospital, because fit into hospital's mission of promoting healthy living, gave them land right next to lake winona, beautiful, flat, out of flood plain, water access → serendipitous
- Found out they didn't have to settle

Community Building

- Form partnerships, build relationships
- Let your community know about what you're doing → talk about the idea with everyone you know
- Create community buy-in: patronized local businesses rather than going to large chains, found ways to build connections
- Important to involve landowner
- Don't only think about what garden needs, think about how the garden can also meet the needs of the community

Garden Management

- Establish good guidelines/rules—write them down, make expectations clear
- \$40 per plot per season, plus \$10 weed/clean-up deposit
- Require 12 hours of service to garden
- Got position funded for Garden Coordinator whose role is to be a liaison to gardeners
- Coordinating board decides how garden is to be run, what group work days will be, whether to expand, etc...
 - Elected by gardeners for terms
- Mentoring program, box you can check on plot application form for garden if you are inexperienced with gardening and would like to be matched with more experienced gardener to mentor you

General Advice

- Celebrate every accomplishment—work on rewards system
- Give back to the community (i.e. hunger garden)
- Take time to do research
- Don't settle
- Don't be a solo here
- Start small