

## COMMUNITY GARDEN LEADERSHIP

- ⊗ Learn to be a listener
- ⊗ Learn to facilitate problem solving – rather than always have the right answer
- ⊗ Provide guidance with decision making by sharing consequences and options
- ⊗ Question yourself. Should I be doing this? Or making this decision? How can I facilitate others to make these decisions?
- ⊗ Let go of the stresses of the garden and situations that you cannot control
- ⊗ Learn to understand what motivates people and support this
- ⊗ Appreciate that every group functions differently. No two groups are alike nor are any two garden sites alike
- ⊗ Gardeners love to garden. Ensure that they are successful at gardening. And get their hands in the soil as quickly as possible
- ⊗ Learn when to hold hands and when to let go
- ⊗ Developing permanent garden leadership groups and gardens takes time. Think in terms of a “three year plan.”
- ⊗ Learn not to impose your will on the group or the project
- ⊗ Teach people to observe. Push them to articulate what they believe and see
- ⊗ Invest time in planning
- ⊗ Be prepared to alter your plans based on new information
- ⊗ Work with people to dream and help them realize their dreams (with a dose of realism!)
- ⊗ You don’t have to have all the answers
- ⊗ Let the group move as fast or as slow as they need
- ⊗ It’s not your garden, do not impose your will on others
- ⊗ Take time to celebrate the accomplishments. Use a checklist that has big things and little; it helps everyone feel like things are moving along
- ⊗ Suggest that the group give their future garden a name at the first meeting. And make a sign announcing it. Don’t support one-man shows! Sustainable gardens and groups involve everyone and foster new leaders to emerge

### Don’t forget!

- ✓ Have new projects decided upon by the group, including whether or not to introduce a new feature and what it will look like.
- ✓ Keep it very simple and easy to maintain in terms of labor, cost and replacement of parts.
- ✓ Don’t overdesign a project or there is a greater risk that it won't succeed.

Adapted from Boston Natural Area Networks

5/21/09