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Dear

Thank you for your interest in Growing Gardens. Many organizations contact us every year to explore ways to include food gardens as part of their programs. Over the years, we have learned that these efforts must be a collaborative requiring the skills, ideas, and enthusiasm from a broad base of people.

Due to the many inquiries we receive, we recommend that you evaluate your progress on the following issues

- Creating a broad base of support
- Clarifying the purpose of the garden- What will it be used for? Who will use it? How will it further your mission?
- Identifying a clear plan for sustainability
- Identifying land and water usage

To assist you in considering these concepts, we have included the "Garden Organizing Worksheet". We recommend that you start by completing this document. If Growing Gardens can help you in any way, please contact us.

If you are interested in ways that Growing Gardens may be able to support your work, please feel free to send us your completed worksheet. We will contact you to discuss how we may be of assistance. Our opportunities for helping create garden partnerships are limited. We will do our very best to support your efforts and ensure your success.

Happy Growing!

Rodney Bender

planting seeds for good food, healthy people and strong communities...we help people GROW!





GROWING GARDENS

Garden Organizing Worksheet

Growing Gardens works with Low income organizations and community groups to plan, build, and manage Gardens. Growing Gardens has developed a set of tools that will help groups and organizations assess and increase their capacities to plan, build, and manage a garden. We have found that Partner Gardens are a collaborative effort, requiring the skills, ideas, and enthusiasm from a broad base of people. Completing this process will establish a solid foundation to begin the three year partnership with Growing Gardens. Please complete the following and return to Growing Gardens. Take the time to complete these steps thoughtfully since the organizing work you do now will increase your chances of long term success.

CONTACT PERSON:
PHONE:
EMAIL:
MAILING ADDRESS:

PEOPLE

Talk with people from the community- Find out if there is any initial community interest in a garden. Collect the names and contact information of people who are interested in creating a vegetable garden. Attempt to get 10 people interested in the project, but record as many as you are able to collect.

	NAME	PHONE #	EMAIL	INTEREST (planning, gardening, etc)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

Is there more than one person helping to fill out this application? _____

Note: We have found that when community members take a more collaborative approach, they have a greater chance of success. Because of this we encourage you to take the time to fill out the form with input from a group of people. Take the time to gather insight and input from community members, business owners, program managers, administrators, volunteers, and others.

PURPOSE

Organize an informal Meeting - Find out the interests and basic goals of the group. Take the time to carefully answer the following questions:

1. Please describe your group or organization: _____

2. Why is your group interested in starting a garden? _____

3. How will your garden serve low income people? _____

4. Do you know of any organizations or businesses in your community that might support you, perhaps through contributing money, time, or supplies to the project? _____

5. What opportunities do you have for building interest in a garden (staff meetings, newsletters, community meetings, etc)? _____

PLAN

Explore basic options for the garden

Write down one or more possible locations for the garden: _____

Who owns the land where you might want to locate the garden? _____

Is water on the site that could be accessed for your garden? _____

Who pays for the water? _____

Record and Verify the information given by group and Report back to Growing Gardens:
attendance sheet, minutes, names and numbers of community leaders, and community members
interested in being involved.

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