



The Community Garden Experience

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Earth Day

What is a Community Garden?



- Open to the Public
- Managed and Maintained with Active Participation
- Primarily for Food Production
- Individual and Common Areas
- Structured and Organized



Benefits of Community Gardening



- From a Macro to Micro Perspective:
 - Benefits to the Environment
 - Benefits to the Community
 - Benefits to the Individual Community Gardener

Benefits to the Environment



- Preservation of Open and Green Space in Urban Areas
- Sustainable Methods of Gardening and Landscaping
- Reduction of Run-off, Pollutants, and Emissions



Benefits to the Community



- Foster Inter-action Between Individuals within Community
- Encourage Diversity-Gardening Breaks Down Social Barriers
- Community Development Tool:
 - Educational Opportunities
 - Space for Social Gathering
 - Safer Neighborhoods- Gardeners become Stakeholders



Benefits to the Individual Community Gardener



- Opportunity to Grow and Eat Locally Grown Produce
- Access to Varieties of Vegetables not available in Supermarkets
- Potential Savings in Household Food Budget
- Therapeutic and Recreational Opportunities



How to Get Started



- Get Neighborhood Involvement
- Find Land
 - Contact Owner
 - Utilities
 - Soil Test
 - Lease
 - Liability Insurance

Planning the Garden



- Elements of Design
 - Common Areas
 - Seating, walkways, storage, and composting
 - Individual Plots
 - Raised, in-ground, sizes
- Budget
 - Volunteers
 - Donations
 - Grants

Basic Operations

- Garden Rules
- Security
- Trash/Composting
- Ongoing Maintenance



Case Study: Carmelitos Community Garden



- Overview of “The Growing Experience”
 - Partnership between Community Development Commission and University of California Cooperative Extension

- Program Components
 - Individual Raised Garden Plots
 - Demonstration Gardens/Native and Drought-tolerant Landscaping
 - Farmers Market Sales for Residents
 - School Group Tours
 - Composting

- 12-Year Anniversary

