



City Church Member Garden Project

Purpose and Goals

*The following are initial ideas to get the conversation going. ☺

The best place to seek God is in a garden. You can dig for him there. ~George Bernard Shaw

1. Serve our Lord and Savior
2. Serve our immediate church membership
3. Serve our charities & partners
4. Serve the city

The City Church Member Garden will be established to:

- Provide a way for our church community to come together outside of church
- Strengthen our sense of community and commitment to each other
- Instill positive values & quality of life
- Give different age groups a chance to work and fellowship together
- Provide a connection to the earth & God's resources – channel God's gifts to help others
- Eventually help to offset food costs for our members
- Increase practical knowledge & skill
- Keep our members physically active in a wonderful community-nurtured environment
- Get vitamin D!
- Be a gift to the needy in our city as our garden becomes bountiful
- Give hope within the community, developing resources which will be valuable during times of economic unrest
- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Give glory to God!

A Few Ideas for Names of City Church Member Garden:

- Glory Garden
- Glory & Grace Garden
- The Grateful Garden
- Abundance Acres
- City Church Victory Garden
- Saving Grace Garden
- This could be a fun contest!

Future:

- develop a realistic long term plan by outlining garden features to be installed over several years
- create a project with impact on the neighborhood and visibility to passers-by
- provide volunteer support and labor needed to maintain the project, including planting, watering, and weeding, throughout the season and upcoming years
- commit 30 hours a year as a group volunteering with Grow Local projects
- ensure that the project is self-sufficient by the end of the season; and provide evaluation worksheet, progress photos and updated gardener lists

City Church Member Garden

Steps for Getting Started

*The following steps are adapted from the American Community Garden Association's guidelines for launching a successful community garden.

1. Assess the Situation
 - a. Does City Church leadership want this?
 - b. Pros/Cons
 - c. What kind? Vegetable, flower, both? Organic?
 - d. Who benefits?
 - e. What's the Big Idea/Mission/Must Haves
2. Form a Planning Committee
 - a. This group can be comprised of people who feel committed to the creation of the garden and have the time to devote to it, at least at this initial stage.
 - b. Which church leaders will be point people?
 - c. Choose well-organized people as garden coordinators
 - d. Form committees to tackle specific tasks:
 - i. Design/Plan
 - ii. Funding/Budget
 - iii. Partnerships
 - iv. Youth Activities
 - v. Construction
 - vi. Communication
 - vii. Maintenance
 1. Watering coordinator
 2. Workday coordinator
 - viii. Continuing Education/Programming
2. Identify Resources
 - a. Membership asset assessment
 - i. Land
 - ii. Funding
 - iii. Supplies
 - iv. Skills
 - b. What outside help is available?
 - i. Grow Local
 - ii. Gardening and horticultural societies
 - iii. Other resources, online, etc.
 - iv. Sponsors?
 - v. Grants?
3. Choose A Site
 - a. Consider the amount of daily sunshine (vegetables need at least six hours a day)
 - b. Availability of water
 - c. Availability of power
 - d. Soil testing for possible pollutants.
 - e. Who owns the land?
 - i. Can the church get a lease agreement for at least three years?

- ii. Will public liability insurance be necessary?
- 4. Prepare and Develop the Site
 - a. In most cases, the land will need considerable preparation for planting. Organize volunteer work crews to clean it, gather materials and finalize design and plot arrangement.
- 5. Design and Organize the Garden
 - a. Members must decide how many plots are available and how they will be assigned.
 - b. Will people/families have their own plot or will everyone help with everything?
 - c. Allow space for storing tools, making compost and don't forget the pathways between plots!
 - d. Plant flowers or shrubs around the garden's edges to promote good will with non-gardening neighbors, passersby and municipal authorities.
- 6. Plan for Children
 - a. Consider creating a special garden just for kids—including them is essential.
 - b. Children are not as interested in the size of the harvest but rather in the process of gardening. A separate area set aside for them allows them to explore the garden at their own speed.
- 7. Determine Rules and Put Them in Writing
 - a. The gardeners themselves devise the best ground rules. We are more willing to comply with rules that we have had a hand in creating. Ground rules help gardeners to know what is expected of them. Think of it as a code of behavior.
 - b. Some examples of issues that are best dealt with by agreed upon rules are:
 - i. dues, how will the money be used?
 - ii. How are plots assigned?
 - iii. Will gardeners share tools, meet regularly, handle basic maintenance?
- 8. Help Members Keep in Touch with Each Other
 - a. Good communication ensures a strong community garden with active participation by all. Some ways to do this are:
 - i. form a telephone tree
 - ii. create an email list
 - iii. install a rainproof bulletin board in the garden
 - iv. have regular celebrations

Community gardens are all about creating and strengthening communities.

Who gets the bounty?

Example 1:

To become vested in the garden, and thus share in the harvest, is a very easy process. Any person or family simply needs to work in the garden for 10 hours and donate \$10.00 annually for materials (the \$10.00 fee can be waived according to the needs and circumstances of each person or family). Major workdays could be on Saturday. Harvests are shared by vested volunteers, with at least half the harvest allocated for "in need" people and families.

Garden diversity tasks: something for all ages

- toddlers
 - collect worms
 - pick up rocks and pieces of trash
 - dig / play in empty beds
 - play and run around / annoy workers
 - eat dirt and other good stuff
- physically challenged (and all others too)
 - sit and weed, plant or thin
 - sit and write plant and/or row markers
 - sit and sift soil or compost
 - sit and just “BE”! enjoy the morning out with friends
 - sign in folks
 - bring snacks or lunch
 - donate \$ or equipment
 - administration work – many tasks
 - squire around visitors and 1st timers
 - collect and distribute recipes
 - procure / make / decorate Holiday vinegar bottles for sale
 - organize Bazaar sale
 - teach groups about garden
 - tell jokes
 - coordinate watering
 - set up / cleanup work day stuff
 - start seeds
 - bring scraps for compost, collect coffee grounds from coffee shops
 - pickup people to work in / visit garden
 - fund raise, write grants
 - sew butterfly nets
- physically strong
 - digging / shoveling
 - turning compost
 - mowing / weed eating
 - harvesting / installing bamboo
 - making / staking tomato cages
 - building all kinds of cool stuff
 - wheel barrow heavy loads
 - using gas tiller
- Various other tasks for anyone or age within their ability
 - catching butterflies
 - watering / weeding / planting / thinning
 - harvesting / eating
 - tying twine
 - policing the grounds and cleaning up our nest
 - tucking in tomatoes, cucumbers, other plants
 - **PROMOTE YOUR GARDEN!**

City Church Member Garden

Ideas and Notes

Corpus Christi City Parks for Sale:

Ridgewood Park, 5730 Malden (5.04 acres) – only city park for sale worth looking at. There would've been a great one by La Palmera but the mall bought it and is giving part of it to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center ☺

Web sites to check out – some about great gardens, some about cool concepts:

- 10 Coolest Urban Gardens in the World <http://about.greeni.us/10-coolest-urban-gardens-world/>
- Creating a Faith Based Garden <http://sustainabletraditions.com/2010/04/22/creating-a-faith-based-community-garden/>
- Beacon Food Forest Permaculture Project <http://www.beaconfoodforest.org/>
- Prinzessinnengarten in Germany <http://prinzessinnengarten.net/about/>
- Edible Schoolyard Project <http://edibleschoolyard.org/>
- Community Garden Webinars from DUG <https://dug.org/webinar/>
- <https://vimeo.com/12777419>
- <http://foodtank.com/news/2015/07/urban-farms-and-gardens-are-feeding-cities-around-the-world>
- Church gardens become a growing ministry http://www.richmond.com/entertainment/article_0503cc32-3be1-530f-8c16-0a99541dcc0e.html
- Guidelines from other gardens <http://www.oxfordcga.org/Home/sample-guidelines-from-other-gardens>
- Grants <http://www.americainbloom.org/resources/grant-opportunities.aspx>
- Grants <http://www.thegranshelpers.com/municipal-grants/community-garden-grants>
- Grants <https://communitygarden.org/grants-fundraising/>

Wish we had these guys, the Green Guerillas <http://www.greenguerillas.org/programs>