



1 WHAT'S YOUR VISION?

Ask yourself, "Why do I want to start a garden"? Gardens can be an incredible tool to mobilize your community to improve food access, support youth development, connect with neighbors and so much more! Knowing the purpose of your garden will help you stay on track as you develop your garden. [See some of KGD's research on impact here.](#)

Is there a need for this in the community? Don't assume what the community needs! Take time to explore this and check your intentions if you plan to start a garden in a neighborhood where you do not live or have strong ties to.

Finally, don't assume it's never been done before! Do your research on the history of urban agriculture in Detroit and in your neighborhood.



2 WHO WILL BE INVOLVED



Before you start building a garden for "the community", take time to figure out who that community is specifically and how you can get them involved. Take time to talk to individuals and organizations who are nearby or people who share your vision for the garden's purpose. Make sure the people who you think will benefit from the garden feel welcome and engaged in the process.

- Host a meeting/Piggyback on an existing meeting
- Do some door-to-door organizing
- Speak to community leaders, residents, organizations

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CHOOSING A LOCATION FOR THE GARDEN



Take time to choose the site that is right for your project. You might want to consider the pros and cons of a few locations before you get started, such as:

- Is this location accessible to those who will be involved?
- Is it safe to grow? We recommend taking a [soil sample](#).
- Is there access to water?
- Perhaps most important, who owns the lot?

Looking to purchase land? [See KGD's full guide to considerations and guidance for land acquisition](#)



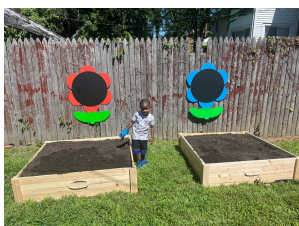
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GARDEN DESIGN & RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



A garden plan turns the vision into a reality. Make sure to include the community in this process.

- Start by creating a to-scale base-map (this is a basic site plan with measurements, cardinal directions (N, E, S, W) and existing features (trees, garage, driveway, etc.).
- Make a list of the elements you want to include and begin placing them on your map. It might help to revisit your purpose to help brainstorm elements you want to include (sign, bench, storage area, compost bin, etc.). Check out KGD's [sample garden designs](#) and garden guides for inspiration! If you are working on a design as a part of your land bank purchase, make sure you use design guidelines for developing a [Plot Plan](#).
- Make a budget. For every element that you want to include, identify what materials you would need to build and/or where you could purchase. At this point, you may want to prioritize which elements are a priority and what you would like to add down the road.
- Make a timeline. You may not have adequate time or resources to do it all at once, so use a timeline to help phase your project.
- It's time to mobilize resources! How will you [raise the funds](#) and/or acquire these items? We suggest you start by asking your community what they already have and/or could contribute. Then you can move on to other relevant fundraising opportunities. Check out the [Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund!](#)





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GARDEN INFRASTRUCTURE

As you grow, you may want to add [additional infrastructure](#). Below are a few elements frequently used by urban growers to increase productivity, sustainability and the functionality of their urban agriculture projects.

- Irrigation Station or Rainwater collection system (to increase access to reliable watering source)
- Hoophouse (unheated passive solar greenhouse to extend growing season)
- Beautiful Border (native and/or perennial plantings to improve curb appeal, address storm water run-off and support pollinators)
- [Bee Hives](#)
- Perennial Fruit



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GROWING YOUR SKILLS & MAINTENANCE

It may take a season or two to feel like you know what you are doing! KGD is here to help and connect you to great learning resources:

- [Detroit Urban Garden Education Series](#)
- [Garden Guides](#): help answer basic gardening questions.
- [KGD'S You Tube Channel](#)

We recommend you start small and within the capacity of your garden team and grow with your success. That said, recruiting volunteers can be a great way to support the establishment or expansion of your garden and/or the inevitable seasonal rush of weeds and harvesting you may need help keeping up with! Ask us about tips for recruiting/managing volunteers.

BASIC GARDEN RESOURCES

JOIN THE GARDEN RESOURCE PROGRAM!



The [Garden Resource Program](#), open to residents of Detroit, Highland Park or Hamtramck, provides seeds and Detroit-grown transplants. It also connects residents to garden development support at no cost - we simply ask that in the spirit of mutual aid you commit to choosing a way to get "active" and give back to support Detroit's network of gardens and farms. Generally, KGD's resources are made available by requesting support through our online Garden Development Support Request Form or through Regional Hubs hosted by community farms.

Some of the resources seasonally available to GRP members: compost, raised beds (community gardens only), tool lending and tomato stakes. We can also offer suggestions for [local places to buy resources we don't supply](#).



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PROGRAMMING

Detroit's gardens and farms are hubs of community activity and places where neighbors get to know one another. They are also be some of the most accessible places for Detroit residents of all ages to relax and enjoy nature. Consider how you welcome your community with events or classes.

Are you working with youth in your garden?

- [Garden Based Learning Guide](#) - for early childcare providers and caregivers
- [Garden Curriculum for K-5 Educators](#)
- [KGD Youth Apprenticeship](#)



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SELLING YOUR PRODUCE

When it rains, it pours! Once your garden starts growing, you may want to think about sharing it or selling it. If you would like to learn how to harvest and process food from your garden, consider getting involved with [Grown in Detroit](#) which will teach you how to safely and successfully sell your produce. There are opportunities to sell with Grown in Detroit at Eastern Market or on KGD's Online Farm store. You can also take what you learn to set up your own farm stand and/or connect with one of Detroit's many farmers' markets! Some of the resources seasonally available to GRP members: compost, raised beds (community gardens only), tool lending and tomato stakes.



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TELL YOUR STORY!

After all this hard work, you'll certainly want to brag about it! We encourage you to [share your story](#) to inspire your family, friends and neighbors to join in! Follow KGD on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for inspiration and to connect with the network of growers.



Overwhelmed? Don't worry, we can help! Consider taking the Urban Roots Community Garden Training Program or request a [consultation](#) with KGD here. You've got this!