



So You Want to Start a Community Garden?

Key steps to organizing and leading a
community gardening

With Doreen Pollack

Definitions

- Any piece of land gardened by a group of people (according to the ACGA)
 - Community Gardens
 - Victory Gardens
 - School Gardens
 - Backyard Gardens
 - Neighborhood Gardens
 - Communal Gardens
 - What else???



Why and Where?

urban

flowers

Rural

In a park

an empty lot
away

Suburban

Feed your family

to sell

At a school

Build community

vegetables

hospital

to give

Why Now?



- Food security
- Economy
- Neighborhood outreach
- Community building
- For the children
- For the earth - permaculture

So how do you get started?



Identify Need

- It as easy as **A B C D**
 - **A**sset
 - **B**ased
 - **C**ommunity
 - **D**evelopment



What is ABCD?

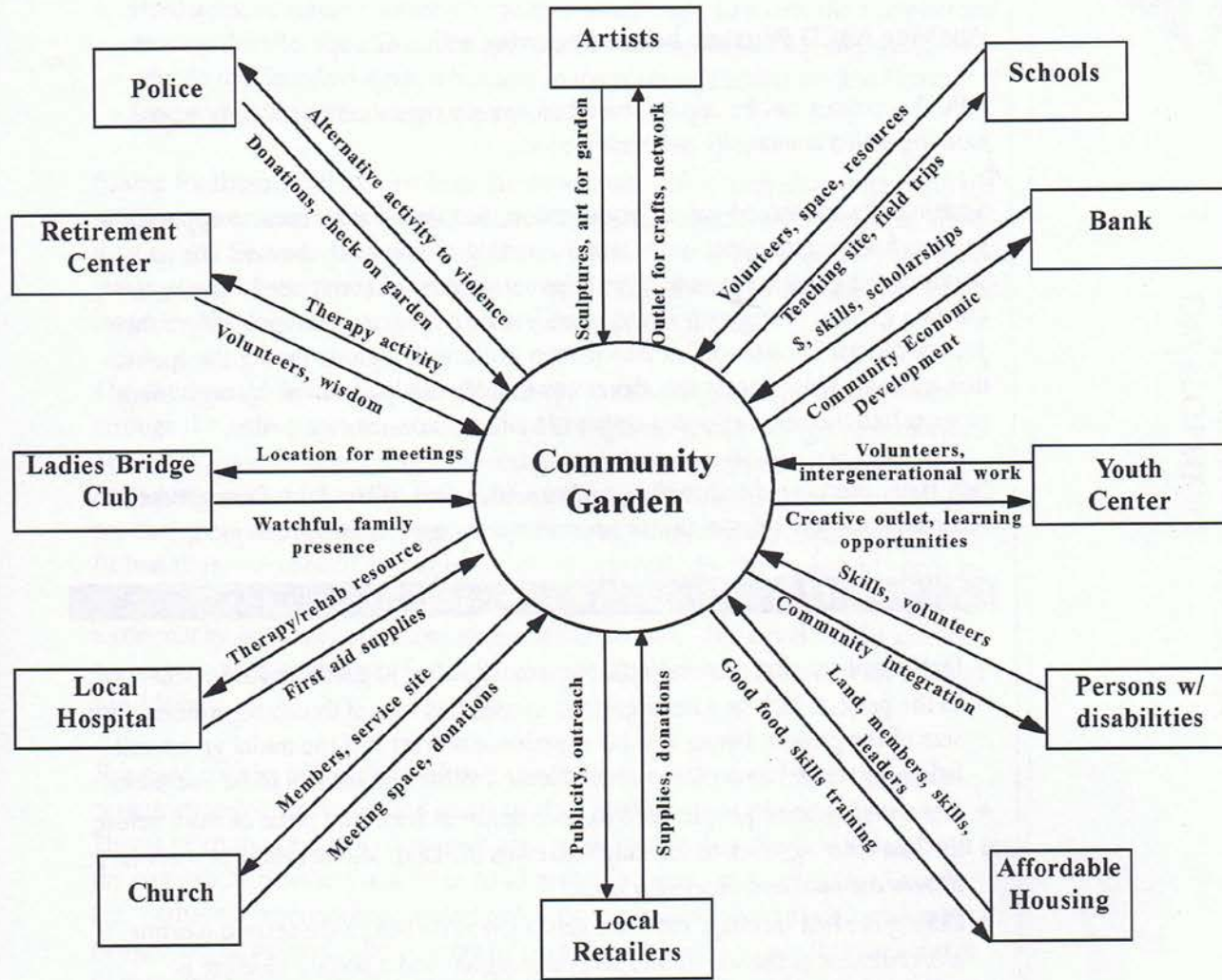
Method for community development based on:

- Appreciating and mobilizing individual and community talents, skills and assets (rather than focusing on problems and needs)
- Community-driven development rather than development driven by external agencies or people

McKnight and Kretzmann

How does this work in the garden?

- Collecting stories
- Organizing a core group
- Survey your community
- Mapping the capacities and assets of individuals, associations and local institutions



How does this work in the garden?

- Building a community vision and plan
- Mobilizing and linking assets for economic development
- Leveraging activities, investments and resources from outside the community

Who will the garden serve?



Involve Others

Many hands
make light work.

~John Heywood



Planning Committee

- Meet with interested people
- Select a well-organized coordinator
- Form committees to accomplish tasks:
Funding & Resource Development; Youth
Activities; Construction; Communication.



Funding

- Sponsors
- Grants
- Fees
- Income Model



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Choose a site



- Who owns the land?
- Is there water on the land?
- Adequate water and sun?
- Past use of land – soil test
- Lease for at least 3 years
- Need insurance?

Prepare and develop the site

- Clean the site
- Develop a design
- Gather resources – free?
- Organize volunteers
- Work days



Garden lay out

Rent a plot



Communal

Storage and other areas



Organize the garden

- Membership conditions
- Plot size, how assigned, layout
- Organic or not
- Dues? How much?
- Community work days:
 - clean-up, maintenance



Creating the garden organization



- What is the focus of your garden
- Name of garden
- Garden manager – more than one?
- Legal structure - Non-profit, or LLC
- Board of Directors

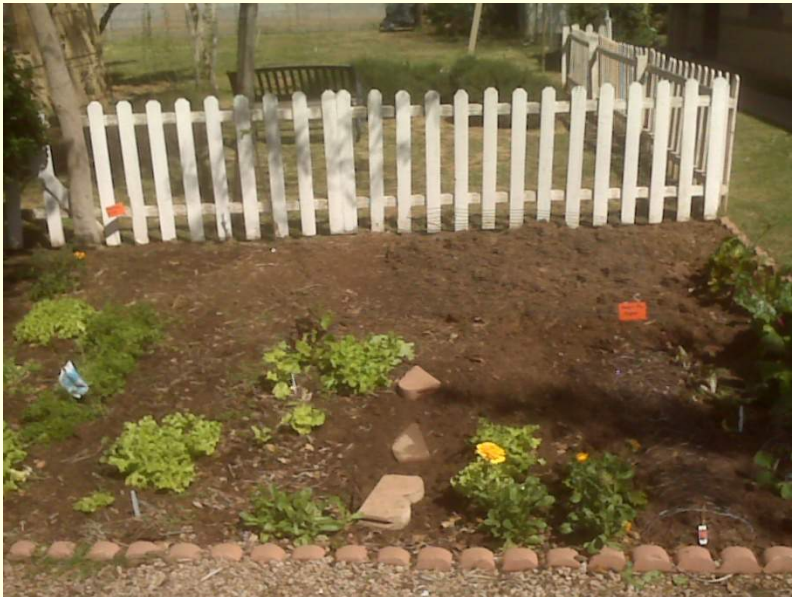
Managing the garden

- Communication method
- Guidelines and rules
- Application
- Fees
- Trouble shooting
- Protecting the garden



NOW it is time to garden!

- Soil amendments
- Growing seasons
- Watering
- Harvesting



What's next - in the garden

- On-going meetings, communication
- On-going fundraising
- Outreach
- Volunteers management
- Record keeping



What's next for you NOW?

- Do you still want to continue?
- Local support options
- Additional resources