



Community Gardening: Building Communities & Growing Together

A Provincial Teleconference Series on Food Security & Policy



Hosted by the Food Security Network NL
Funded in part by the Public Health Agency of Canada

Agenda

12:00 – 12:10

Welcome & Introductions

12:10 – 12:15

Introduction to FSN & Community Gardening

12:15 – 12:30

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Angela Loucks-Atkinson
Community Garden Alliance

12:30 – 1:00

Discussion & Questions

Food Security Network NL

Our Five Priorities

1. Catalyst of & Support for Food Security Initiatives
2. Networking & Information Sharing
3. Public Awareness & Education
4. Partnerships
5. Research

“Actively Promoting comprehensive, community-based solutions to ensure physical and economic access to adequate and healthy food for all.”



Current Situation



- Produce only 10% of fresh vegetables
- Importing 90% of fresh vegetables

Estimated 2-3 day
supply of fresh
vegetables

Benefits of Community Gardening

Many reasons,
Including...

- Environmental
- Health
- Social
- Economic
- Education & Sharing of Knowledge



What's Happening

- Brighter Futures
- Family Resource Centres
- Community Garden Alliance
- Burin Peninsula Environmental Reform Committee
- Community Gardens in...
St. John's, Glenburnie-Birchy Head-Shoal Brook, St. Anthony, Norris Point, Burin, Stephenville, Fogo...



COMMUNITY GARDENING

Building Communities & Growing Together

Angela Loucks-Atkinson, Chair of CGA



Who We Are

"All for One Harvest, One Harvest for All!"

Mission:

- Form New Community Gardens
- Improve Food Security
- Encourage Knowledge-Sharing
- Enhance Sustainability
- Build Community Capacity
- Develop Creative Funding





OUTLINE

- Basics of Starting Up a Successful Community Garden
- Different Types of Models for Community Gardens
- Let's Learn From Each Other....Best Practices from Community Gardens across the Province



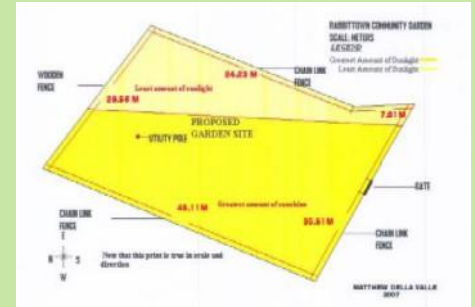
BASICS OF STARTING UP

- Selecting Land
- Getting Buy-in and Support
- Getting Started

Selecting Land

Things to consider...

- Amount of light / shade
- Size of the land:
 - Open spaces for gatherings?
 - Room for expansion?
 - Room for storage?
- What weeds are there and what can be done about them?



Selecting Land

Things to consider...

- Visual appeal or beatification potential
- Foot and car traffic (pros and cons)
- Risk of vandalism
- Access to water



Selecting Land

Things to consider...

- Soil quality and potential contamination
- Accessibility (people with disabilities, getting to the location, etc.)





Getting Buy-in and Support

Getting permission to use the land

- Who owns the land?
- Who uses the land?
- Who are the stakeholders?
- Remember the neighbours
- Write letters, set-up meetings, contact MHA or city/town counsellors, hold public meetings



Getting Buy-in and Support

1. Talk with friends, neighbours and local organizations about your idea
2. Hold a meeting with anyone interested in the garden
3. Attend community events
4. Advertise on radio and newspaper
5. Hold more planning meetings/events

Getting Started

Develop a site plan:

- Type of garden model
- Types of plants
- The location and size of garden beds
- Any trees, shrubs or existing vegetation that will be kept
- Pathways and open spaces
- Compost bins
- Shed/storage area
- Location of the water source
- Common or shared garden areas
- Garden name





Getting Started

Establish Guidelines and Policies

Application or membership fee.

- Is there a fee to garden? How much is the fee? Is there a sliding scale? When is the fee due?

Plot maintenance.

- Is there an expectation that plots will be maintained to a certain standard? What happens if a plot is not maintained? Who decides? Are gardeners expected to volunteer for certain chores?

Getting Started

Establish Guidelines and Policies

Planting restrictions.

- Are there restrictions on which types of plants can be grown?

End of the season.

- Do plots need to be cleaned by a certain date at the end of the season?

Composting.

- Which materials may and may not be composted?



Getting Started

Establish Guidelines and Policies

Materials and tools.

- Are shared materials and tools available for gardeners to use? How should these items be handled and stored?

Pesticides.

- Are pesticides and fertilizers allowed?

Violation of garden rules.

- What happens if a rule is violated?



DIFFERENT TYPES OF MODELS

- Youth/School gardens
- Entrepreneurial/job training market gardens
- Food pantry gardens
- Therapy gardens
- Demonstration gardens



Community Garden: Subdivided Land

- Land is divided into different plots for individual and family use
- Fee to “rent” a plot
- Gardeners prepare, plant, maintain and harvest from their own plots
- Gardeners often share tools, water and compost, along with seeds and plants
- Overall garden is administered by a group or “garden manager”
- May have some group activities



Community Garden: Shared Land

- Plots are NOT subdivided
- May or may not have a membership fee
- Organized and gardened by a group of people who share in the work and rewards
- Supplies, tools and resources are “owned” by the garden as a whole



Community Garden: Shared Land

- Produce is distributed among group members or donated to a local food pantry
- Group activities, events and workshops are common





BEST PRACTICES FROM COMMUNITY GARDENS

Let's Brainstorm and Discuss

Thank You!



For more information or to get
involve please contact us at:
cga.stjohns@gmail.com