

For more information, contact:

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Community Gardens in Guilford County



What is a Community Garden?

*“...anywhere a community of people
joins together to garden”*

- Community Gardening, The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens

Community gardens are as varied as the neighborhoods in which they thrive. Each is developed to meet the needs of the gardeners who come together to grow fruits, vegetables, flowers, and herbs on common ground.



Why Join a Community Garden?

- **Community:** Meet your neighbors and other community members as you garden and learn from each other. Involve your whole family — this is for gardeners of all ages!
- **Health:** You are more likely to eat something that you have grown, and you can grow a wide variety of healthy, nutritious food! Gardening also decreases stress and increases physical activity.
- **Money:** By eating what you grow, you may reduce the amount you spend on groceries. Some community gardeners earn income by selling the produce they grow.
- **Nature:** Connect with plants, pollinators, birds, and nature in the garden.
- **Life Skills:** In addition to a wealth of plant growing information, gardening teaches planning, organization, and teamwork.



Get Involved!

Join or start a Community Garden

- There are more than 70 community gardens in Guilford County!
- Call Extension Agent Quina Weber-Shirk at Guilford County Cooperative Extension, and she will connect you with a garden or provide information about starting one

Request a Garden Workshop for your Community or Attend Free Gardening Classes offered by Guilford County Cooperative Extension and Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers

- List of classes at guilfordextension.com, under “Free Gardening Classes”
- For more information, call Guilford County Cooperative Extension at 336.641.2400

Support a Community Food Access Group:

- **Greater High Point Food Alliance**
ghpfa.org, 336.899.0886
- **Greensboro Community Food Taskforce**
greensboronc.gov/government/community-food-task-force, 336.373.7617
- **Growing High Point**
growinghighpoint.org/, 336.848.1516
- **Guilford Food Council**
guilfordfoodcouncil.com
- **Share the Harvest**
sharetheharvestguilfordcounty.org



Steps to Success

1. Gather your Community

- ⇒ Build a leadership team of 5-10 people
- ⇒ Ask: Why is a new garden right for us? (Is there a nearby community garden it makes sense to join?)

2. Find a Garden Site (and Permission to Use it)

- ⇒ Easily accessible for gardeners, 8 or more hours of direct sunlight, access to water
- ⇒ Written permission from the landowner to use the land for at least 3 years.
- ⇒ Check with your city's planning department about permits, liability insurance, or other requirements

3. Organize your Gardeners

- ⇒ Mission: Who is this garden for? Why do you want to garden together? What are your goals?
- ⇒ Plan: How will the garden be managed? Will each gardener have their own plot, will it be a communal garden, or some combination? Develop leadership roles, committees, and garden guidelines.

4. Develop the Garden

- ⇒ Design the garden with input from the community, especially future gardeners
- ⇒ Identify partners and support organizations who can help with resources and funding.

5. Build Community Year-round

- ⇒ Hold workdays, educational workshops, potlucks and garden parties
- ⇒ Provide education throughout the growing season, especially to new gardeners

City of High Point Guidelines if Principle Use of Property:

- **Sheds:** Permit required. The maximum size for an accessory structure affiliated with a Community Garden (like a shed); in a residential district is 12 feet in any direction. All storage structures housing fertilizer, gas, or other chemicals shall be ventilated.
- **Fencing:** If fencing is installed it is subject to the standards of ch.5, sec. 5-11 of the City of High Point Code of Ordinances.
- **Size:** Community gardens can't be larger than 1 acre in size or they need a Special Use Permit.
- **Approved animals:** Keeping small animals (like chickens and rabbits, must be kept in enclosures subject to the standards of ch. 2, sec. 12-2-2 of the City of High Point Code of Ordinances
- **Water:** If a water source is required for your garden please contact the **City of High Point Water Resources Department** 336.883.3166.
- If you are working with your Neighborhood Association, the City of High Point's **Community and Neighborhood Development Division** is a great support, and can help connect to city resources and grants. Contact them at 336.883.3041.

**Locations outside of city limits, please check with your local government for specific principle use guidelines.*



City Of Greensboro Guidelines if Principle Use of Property:

- **Use Permit:** A Use Registration Permit is required. Call **City of Greensboro Planning** at 336-373-2144 for more details.
- **Sheds:** Permit required. The maximum size for an accessory structure affiliated with a Community Garden (like a shed); in a residential district is 12 feet in any direction. All storage structures housing fertilizer, gas, or other chemicals shall be ventilated.
- **Fencing:** If fencing is installed it shall not be opaque and is subject to the standards of Section 30-9-4. of the City of Greensboro Land Development Ordinance.
- **Lighting:** Lighting shall be limited to lights controlled and activated by motion sensor devices for a duration of 15 minutes or less.
- **Size:** Community gardens can't be larger than 1 acre in size or they need a Special Use Permit.
- **On site sales are prohibited.**
- **Water:** If a water source is required for your garden please contact the **City of Greensboro Water Resources Department** 336.373.2055.



Resources at Extension

Guilford County Cooperative Extension offers a variety of in-person, print, and online resources to community gardeners, including:

- Training and support for garden leaders
- Educational programs and workshops
- Technical assistance with sustainable gardening and community organizing
- Assistance with soil sampling and report interpretation
- Site visits to community gardens
- Seed donations of vegetables, herbs, and flowers
- Micro-grants for new community gardens
- Recommendations of grants to support ongoing community gardens
- Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers Infoline, to answer garden questions: 336.641.2404 or guilfordmg@gmail.com