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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!

### Support or start a Community Garden

- More than 100 community gardens have been started in Guilford County!
- Call Quina Weber-Shirk at Guilford County Cooperative Extension, and she will connect you with a garden

### Join the Community Garden Email List

- *Guilford County events and Garden-Wise newsletter:* sign up at [guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/community-and-school-garden-network/](http://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/community-and-school-garden-network/)

### Find more information on our website:

[guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/community-and-school-garden-network/](http://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/community-and-school-garden-network/)

- Research-based gardening information
- Best practices for starting and sustaining a community garden
- Grants for community gardens
- Upcoming events, workshops, and training for community gardeners





## Steps to Success

### 1. Gather your Community

- Build a garden team of 5 to 10 people. Who is this garden for? Invite them to plan! People keep a garden growing; this is sustainability!
- Ask: Why is a new garden right for us? (Is there a nearby community garden it makes sense to join?)

### 2. Integrate the Garden

- Mission: What are your goals? Why do you want to garden together?
- 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.

### 3. Find a Garden Site (and Permission!)

- Easily accessible for gardeners, 8 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.

### 4. Develop the Garden

- Design the garden with input from the community, especially future gardeners. Start small and build on success. Developing in phases is a good way to go.
- 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.

## Resources through Extension

### Gardening Questions

Contact the Extension Master Gardener<sup>SM</sup> Volunteers (EMGV) Infoline: (336) 641-2404 or [guilfordmg@gmail.com](mailto:guilfordmg@gmail.com).

- Research-based answers for any gardening question
- Help understanding soil sampling and soil test reports

### Community Garden Mentors

Extension Master Gardener<sup>SM</sup> Volunteers (EMGV) offer community garden mentors who can provide support with:

- Garden site selection and planning
- Advice on garden team development
- Plans for garden construction and planting
- Best practices for gardening with youth

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

- List of classes at [guilfordextension.com](http://guilfordextension.com), under "Free Gardening Classes"
- For more information, call Guilford County Cooperative Extension at 336-641-2400

### Community & School Garden Agent

County Extension Agent Quina Weber-Shirk:

- Training for community gardeners
- Technical assistance with sustainable gardening and community building
- Site visits to community gardens

### Volunteers in your Community Garden

Share volunteer opportunities in your community garden through the Volunteer Center of Greensboro's Reducing Hunger Through Service Program.

- Contact County Extension Agent Quina Weber-Shirk to post your need.

### Seed Donations

- *Seeds to Share* is an event for community and school gardens to receive free herb, vegetable, and flower seeds for their gardens. The event is the first Saturday in February in Greensboro and the second Saturday in February in High Point.

### Up-to-Date Grant Opportunities

- *Guilford County Extension Master Gardener<sup>SM</sup> Volunteers Community Garden Micro-grant*, every spring, for NEW community gardens—contact Guilford County Cooperative Extension.



## Share the Harvest

You can donate produce every June to September! Share the Harvest is an all volunteer organization that exists to distribute donated produce equitably to those who are hungry in our community. More information at: <http://sharetheharvestguilfordcounty.org>

## Support a Community Food Access Group

- **Greater High Point Food Alliance**  
[ghpfa.org](http://ghpfa.org), 336-899-08865
- **Greensboro Community Food Taskforce**  
[greensboronc.gov/government/community-food-task-force](http://greensboronc.gov/government/community-food-task-force)  
336-373-7617
- **Growing High Point**  
[growinghighpoint.org/](http://growinghighpoint.org/), 336-848-1516
- **Guilford Food Council**  
[guilfordfoodcouncil.com](http://guilfordfoodcouncil.com)

