FIRST STEPS TO STARTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN

Contact Toledo GROWs at any time for technical assistance in garden planning

1. Organize a meeting of at least eight interested people
   • What is the need/want for this garden?
   • Is there an existing garden that we should help instead?

2. Form a planning committee
   • Determine who will be assisting long term and/or short term
   • Create a start up task list and timeline
   • Form subcommittees if needed

3. Identify all your resources and list your assets
   • What organizations can assist (Toledo GROWs, OSU Extension, Land Bank, Etc.)
   • Other community gardeners
   • Folks with skills (Carpentry, fundraising, art, etc.)

4. Choose a Site
   • Determine the size that is most practical for your use
   • Ensure it meets the needs of the garden
     ◊ 8 hours of sun, water source, who owns the land, etc.

5. Determine start up and long term expenses
   • Get estimates on cost for garden tools, wood for raised beds, soil, etc.
   • Plan fundraisers and/or approach sponsors

6. Prepare and develop the site
   • Test the soil and check for needed amendments
   • Decide on in-ground plots or raised beds
   • Site cleanup or any other practical needs for your space
   • Ensure space between plots/beds is sufficient for mowers, wheelbarrows, etc.
   • Plan for children with kids zones or play areas
   • Consider storage and compost areas

7. Determine rules and schedules
   • Put all rules into writing
   • Daily and weekly maintenance schedules
   • Ensure everyone knows their role

8. Help members keep in touch with each other
   • Schedule weekly workday
   • Make sure you have contact information for all gardeners
   • Keep things fun with regular gatherings and celebrations

Contact Us
Give us a call for more information about our services
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