



Garden Name:

Your Name:

Today's Date:

Check if this is your first time using the tool:

The DIG in Community tool is designed to help communities grow and sustain their garden programs. Each item listed below is an **idea** for how to integrate the garden more fully into the community. Garden sites can use the tool to rate their **current garden program**, **select items to work on**, and **track changes over time**. Keep in mind:

- Some items are low-cost and easy to do, while other items can involve more time and resources.
- Not all items are appropriate for every community garden. Garden sites can choose items that work well for their unique setting!
- Gardens change over time. The tool should give you a sense of **how the current garden program functions**.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **CONNECT WITH YOUR GARDEN PARTNER(S).** Decide how you will complete the guide (ex., as a group), and schedule a time to connect with the right people!
2. **RATE EACH ITEM BASED ON WHERE THE GARDEN IS AT CURRENTLY.** Is it **Not in Place Right now (0)**, **Partly in Place Right Now (1)**, or **Fully in Place Right now (2)**? Some items can be marked Not Applicable (N/A). It is encouraged to use the Item and Rating Guide to help clarify an item or how to rate an item. If needed, take notes about your ratings at the bottom of each section!
3. **ADD UP YOUR RATINGS.** As a group, come to consensus on how to rate each item. Then tally the section and total scores!
4. **REFLECT ON YOUR GOALS.** In this unscored section, reflect on what **you'd** like to achieve in the garden.
5. **DISCUSS THE RESULTS WITH YOUR GARDEN COMMUNITY.** What are the strengths of the community garden? Where would you most like to grow your program? **Decide which items you would like to work on.** Remember, the items listed are ideas to help your garden program grow. Consider what works best and aligns with the needs of your gardening community!

Which of the below best describes your community garden program now?

- ☐ Our garden program **is just getting started.***
- ☐ Our garden program has been around for a while, **operating consistently over time.**
- ☐ Our garden program has been around for a while and is **now expanding.**
- ☐ Our garden program is **currently being revitalized** after a dormant period.
- ☐ Our garden program has been around for a while, but it is **currently not very active or dormant.**

*If you are just getting started, we suggest focusing on priority items labelled with  icons.

Write below who is completing the DIG in Community tool? Note: You will need to finalize your results as a group.

When you rate items, remember to answer based on where your garden program is RIGHT NOW, not where you would like the garden to be or where it has been.

0 - Not in Place or Generally Not Done, 1 - Partly in Place or Sometimes Done, 2 - Fully in Place or Usually Done



RESOURCES & SUPPORT

Budget & Funding

The garden has sufficient:

	Not in Place (0)	Partly in Place (1)	Fully in Place (2)
1. Funding to create the garden infrastructure (ex., water, soil, tools, beds, and tool storage). <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable			
2. Funding to maintain the garden over time.			
3. Funding to support all planned on-site activities, events, or workshops.			

Organizational Structure

	Not in Place (0)	Partly in Place (1)	Fully in Place (2)
4. The garden has at least one garden champion. A garden champion can also be called a garden leader, manager, or coordinator.			
5. New or additional garden champions are pursued to ensure garden sustainability.			
6. There is a garden committee that supports the garden champion in overseeing garden responsibilities including operations, garden maintenance, safety, budget/finances, and community outreach/events.			
7. There is a garden program guide in hardcopy/electronic form that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The garden's mission and vision <input type="checkbox"/> A garden budget and plan for obtaining funding <input type="checkbox"/> The intended use(s) for the garden <input type="checkbox"/> A year-round garden maintenance plan <input type="checkbox"/> The garden's policies and agreements <input type="checkbox"/> A garden transition plan in case of leader turnover 			
8. The garden champion and/or garden committee meet as needed to develop or review the garden program guide, discuss garden updates, or address garden needs.			
9. There is a designated main contact for the garden.			
10. The designated main contact's information is easily identifiable to community members (ex., through signage at the garden or online).			

How to Score #7:

0- No hardcopy or electronic guide

1- Guide has 1-4 components

2- Guide has 5-6 components

Garden Partnerships

	Not in Place (0)	Partly in Place (1)	Fully in Place (2)
11. Partner organization(s) provide supplies and/or labor to the garden.			
12. Partner organization(s) offer garden expertise and education on local growing methods through trainings or workshops.			

Resources & Support Subtotal

(add up all 1s and 2s)



RESOURCES & SUPPORT NOTES
























INFRASTRUCTURE & DESIGN

Establishing the Physical Space

Not in
Place (0) Partly in
Place (1) Fully in
Place (2)






















- | | Not in
Place (0) | Partly in
Place (1) | Fully in
Place (2) |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Local government entities and/or property owners allow long-term use of public space for a community garden. <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable | | | |
| 2. In unincorporated or tribal communities, the appropriate people (ex., the master planning committee) are consulted to garner support for the garden and ensure its location meets the needs of the community. <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable | | | |
| 3. The size of the garden space is sufficient for the garden's intended use. | | | |
| 4. In-ground soil has been tested for environmental contaminants and chemical runoff to ensure food safety. <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable | | | |
| 5. The soil receives nutrients/soil amendments, as needed. | | | |
| 6. The garden has a safe and reliable water source suitable for the type of garden. | | | |
| 7. The garden has enough sunlight for the garden's intended use. | | | |
| 8. There are enough tools and materials to build and/or maintain the garden. | | | |
| 9. The garden has enough storage for tools and other supplies. | | | |
| 10. The garden has access to seeds or plant starts. | | | |
| 11. The garden has trash disposal, including a composting system. | | | |
| 12. The garden is fenced, gated, or otherwise protected. | | | |
| 13. The garden has season extenders for its respective climate (ex., shade cloth, a row cover, low/high tunnels, or a small green house). <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable | | | |
| 14. The garden space is welcoming (ex., there are shaded benches or decorative art). | | | |

Accessibility and Inclusivity

	Not in Place (0)	Partly in Place (1)	Fully in Place (2)
15. Getting to the garden is accessible to all community members by public transportation, biking, or walking.			
16. Access for who can enter the garden space is guided by the gardening community's input.			
17. The garden layout is accessible for all individuals to work and move around in the garden. Consider individuals with physical mobility impairments and seniors who may need ramp access, paved/wide pathways, or height-adjusted garden beds.			
18. The garden's design considers sensory stimuli that are inclusive for individuals of all cognitive abilities.			
19. Financial assistance is available for gardeners in fee-associated gardens.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable			
20. The garden ensures that communication methods for garden-related updates are accessible to all participants (ex., text message or email).			
21. Information and materials about the garden are available in languages reflective of the garden participants and the broader community.			

Garden Policies & Agreements

There are garden policies or agreements in hardcopy/electronic form for:

	Not in Place (0)	Partly in Place (1)	Fully in Place (2)
22. Who can enter the garden space.			
23. What is allowed to be grown in the garden.			
24. Addressing the use of herbicides and pesticides in the garden.			
25. Who can take the grown produce.			
26. Pet expectations in the garden. This includes if pets are allowed, leash requirements, and clean-up.			
27. Shared tasks in the garden (ex., weed pulling and path clearing)			
28. Expectations of respectful communication and interactions among gardeners.			

Infrastructure & Design Subtotal

(add up all 1s and 2s)

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DESIGN NOTES



COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Cultural Connection

Not in Place (0) Partly in Place (1) Fully in Place (2)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Integration of local culture(s) is encouraged in garden planning. | | | |
| 2. Garden program activities are tailored to the local culture(s). | | | |

Community Involvement

Not in Place (0) Partly in Place (1) Fully in Place (2)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 3. Garden participants are consulted to determine the development or growth of the garden (ex. the planning, building, or planting decisions for the garden). | | | |
| 4. Garden participants are involved in developing or reviewing the shared mission and vision of the garden. | | | |
| 5. Garden activities, events, or workshops for the broader community beyond growers occur regularly throughout the year. | | | |
| 6. Individuals in the broader community are consistently engaged with the garden in the form of volunteering or participating in activities/events. | | | |
| 7. Information about the garden is available to promote community involvement (ex., through signage at the garden, online platforms, or flyers). | | | |

Community Experience Subtotal

(add up all 1s and 2s)

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE NOTES

SECTION & OVERALL TOTALS



RESOURCES & SUPPORT

of 24



INFRASTRUCTURE & DESIGN

of 56



COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

of 14

Add up all sections for the final score!

TOTAL of 94*

***NOTE:** Not Applicable (N/A) items make total possible points lower. For the purposes of using the DIG in Community tool, you do not need to worry about adjusting your points. This tool and the points are simply a broad guide to help you explore sections that you feel are already strong and sections where you feel you may want to focus your efforts!

HOW INTEGRATED IS YOUR GARDEN?

Note: These broad ranges for levels of integration naturally account for N/A items.

0-32

SPROUTING



Your garden is getting started! How can you use these results to progress?

33-65

GROWING



Your garden is moderately integrated already! How can you build on these strengths?

66-94

THRIVING



Your garden is well-integrated! Use these results to celebrate and keep flourishing!

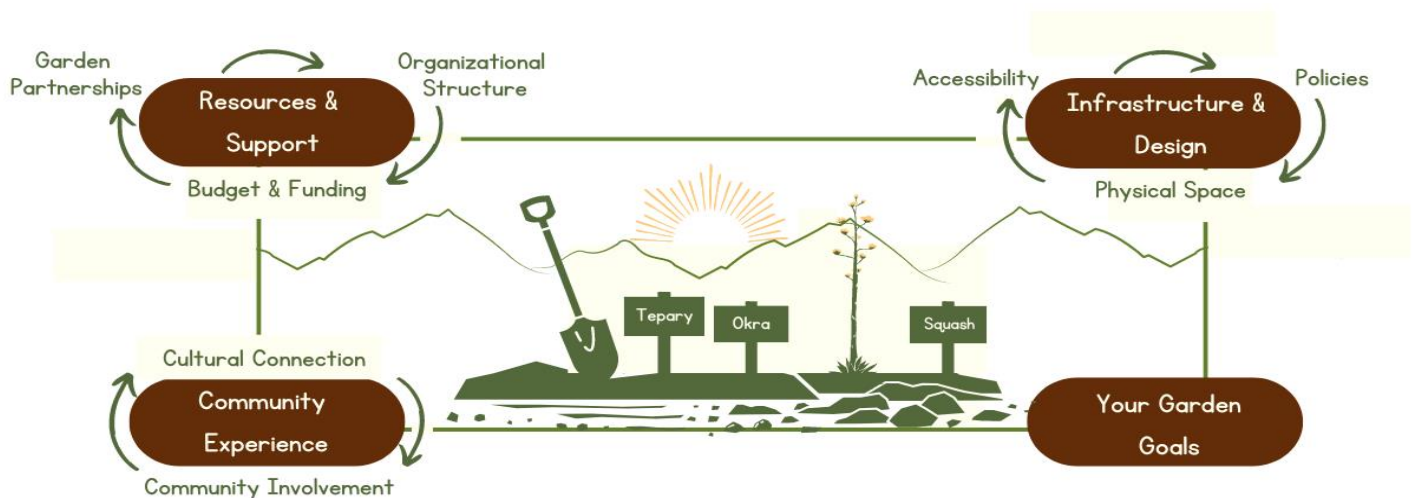


GARDEN GOALS (NOT SCORED)

What are your goals for developing a thriving community garden? When thinking about these goals, consider what you and other gardeners hope to achieve or experience by participating in this community garden. Discussing goals with those who participate in the garden is highly encouraged! Review the definition of “integrated” below to help you reflect on these goals. Write each goal below.

DIG IN COMMUNITY: MODEL FOR GARDEN INTEGRATION

An **INTEGRATED** community garden is a maintained garden in an area accessible to the community; enhances physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being to build a healthy and socially sustainable community; is a valued part of the community’s culture and is sustained over time.^{1,2}



1. The Role of Community Gardens in Sustaining Healthy Communities, Designing Healthy Communities, <http://designinghealthycommunities.org/role-communitygardens-sustaining-healthy-communitie>

2. Gardner Burt K, Koch PA; Contento IR. (2017) Development of the GREEN (Garden Resources, Education, and Environment Nexus) Tool: An Evidence-Based Model for School Garden Integration. J Acad Nutr Diet, 117:1517-1527.