

CHERISHED EARTH

Papa-tū-ā-nuku – he taonga, he tapu

A Climate Justice Initiative of the Anglican Diocese of Auckland

Guidelines for starting a Communal Food Garden/Forest

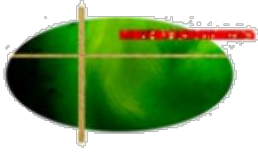
Scope..... Plan..... Nurture the soil Sow the seed for change.....

1. Scope the opportunity

- 1.1. Research 'Community Gardens'- websites and print media
- 1.2. Convene a community gathering to establish interest and intent
- 1.3. Speak to people who run community gardens for advice and see them in action
- 1.4. Estimate startup costs including materials and wages
- 1.5. Speak with council to define application process for use of parks/reserve land, the lease, liability insurance and legal fees
- 1.6. Identify local facilitator capability
- 1.7. Find land that may meet edible garden criteria
- 1.8. Undertake a site analysis- water, aspect, sunpath, drainage, above and below ground services, existing manmade and natural features, wind exposure, shelter, contours, soil type, texture and condition, microclimates,
- 1.9. Test soil for mineral, organic matter, pesticide residue, heavy metals
- 1.10. Consider security, accessibility by foot, bike and public transport and proximity to residential property

2. Community Garden plan

- 2.1. Name the garden
- 2.2. Vision
- 2.3. Foundation principles
- 2.4. Objectives
- 2.5. Physical, Social, Cultural, Economic, Cultural, Psychological and Spiritual benefits
- 2.6. Communication including promotion
- 2.7. Budget and resource requirements
- 2.8. Application for funding and targeted supplier sponsorship
- 2.9. Agreeing on organization procedures
- 2.10. Delegating responsibilities,
- 2.11. Formalize an agreement with land owner that includes lease and liability costs
- 2.12. Define health and safety policy
- 2.13. Participants contact details, ethnicity, age ranges, suburb, level of garden experience, male or female, volunteered health information, names and addresses
- 2.14. Outline future development of gardens
- 2.15. Defined job description for key drivers
- 2.16. Identify and seek advice from supporting organization.



CHERISHED EARTH

Papa-tū-ā-nuku – he taonga, he tapu

A Climate Justice Initiative of the Anglican Diocese of Auckland

3. Action plan... turn planning into practice

- 3.1. Apply sustainability best practice
- 3.2. Care for the earth, soil, air, water and all organisms and communities
- 3.3. Resource acquisition
- 3.4. Training and workshops
- 3.5. Seasonal garden schedules
- 3.6. Adapt and change to community and environmental needs
- 3.7. Working bees and open garden days
- 3.8. Share collective experiences and resources within local community garden hubs
- 3.9. Schedule events and celebrations
- 3.10. Record milestones including digitally
- 3.11. Maintain open lines of communication
- 3.12. Encourage gardens in backyards

4. Nurture the soil and sow the seed for change

- 4.1. Directed by key garden mentor / guide / coordinator/ facilitator and core group of participants
- 4.2. Make a start by defining as per the concept site plan where a demonstration garden can be created to show case the first phase of the community garden.
- 4.3. Agree on garden approach- Organic systems, Biodynamic, Permaculture , Bio intensive, natural farming, cultural garden, veganic
- 4.4. Soil and crop management – composting, natural product liquid feeds, teas and sprays, nodig, double digging, raised gardens, crop rotation, green manure crops, cultural methods, green crops, crop residue incorporation, minimal tillage, herb ley, biodiversity planting, mulching, zonal planting, habitat enhancement, companion planting, guilds, interplanting, polyculture
- 4.5. Eco structure- swale, headland shelter, buffer zones, foodforest, herb collection, insectory plants, composting and recycling facility, propagation houses, beneficial plants, storage and resource centre, amenity edge, seed storage structure
- 4.6. This may be a 250sq m area to a 5 hectare block. What ever is manageable
- 4.7. Install eco-infrastructure ie.water tanks, solar power, water saving devices,
- 4.8. Purchase range of tools and propagation structures
- 4.9. Care for the earth, soil, air ,water and all organisms plants, communities
- 4.10. Cultivate and plant with a diverse range of edibles including vegetable, flowers and herbs to enhance biodiversity and allow natural means of pest and disease control
- 4.11. This productive start will essentially be an inspiration for community engagement.
- 4.12. Work with and within nature
- 4.13. Offer allotments or collectively approach based on participatory level
- 4.14. Adhere to maintenance schedules and set the standard for visual appeal of the garden
- 4.15. Be open to the diverse cultural and ethnic needs of people
- 4.16. Have fun, enjoy the experience and share the produce.....sell surplus at farmers market, to 0000BY or at gate