



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Sample site size – 4,800 sq. ft.

Total growing space – 1,536 sq. ft.

12 plots with 128 sq. ft. of growing space each

COST ESTIMATES	cost per unit	units	total cost
construction			
site grading	contingent on site conditions		TBD
landscape materials			
planting mix (can be substituted with less expensive topsoil with organic compost content)	\$30/cu. yd.	60	\$1,800
mulch for pathways (can be substituted with low cost or donated wood chips.)	\$28/cu. yd.	17	\$476
raised growing beds			
8' x 2" x 12" fir timbers	\$11.27	24	\$271
16' x 2" x 12" fir timbers	\$23.39	48	\$1,123
8' x 4" x 4" fir timbers (if your budget allows, fir timbers can be substituted with cedar)	\$12.50	18	\$225
hardware for bed construction			\$100
plant materials*			
fruit trees	\$25	3	\$75
furnishings			
wood garden shed	\$1,000	1	\$1,000
subtotal cost	\$1.06/s.f.		\$5,070
contingency 10%			\$507
total project cost			\$5,577

* Vegetables and herbs can be purchased by the group or individually. Programs such as the City of Cleveland Summer Sprout Program provide free vegetable plants to participating community gardens. For more information visit: <http://cuyahoga.osu.edu/topics/agriculture-and-natural-resources/summer-sprout>

IDEAL LOCATION

- Very near an elementary school, senior living home and/or apartments or homes with small yards.
- The number of willing participants should determine the size of the garden and the number of adjacent vacant lots.

BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- This project provides the opportunity for people who have limited yard space to grow vegetables and herbs.
- Community gathering space for residents and students.
- Healthy eating options for gardeners and their friends and family.
- A network of neighbors committed to increased health and quality of life.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

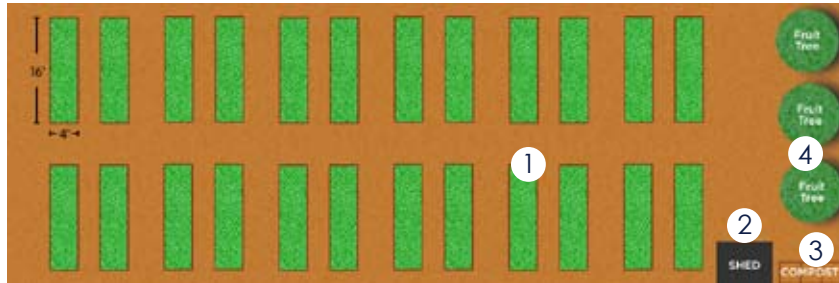
- Soil testing is an important first step to ensure that daily contact with bare soil will not pose health risks to gardeners or neighbors. (See previous section on Things to Consider.)
- Site conditions such as soil type (compacted, clay, sandy, etc), southern sun exposure and access to water should be considered.
- For lots with buried debris or poor soil, raised beds should be considered.

LEVEL OF COMMUNITY COMMITMENT NEEDED

- This project requires a number of committed community members who will spend approximately 5 hours per week tending the garden during the growing season.
- Several individuals will need to take on leadership roles to coordinate the logistics and maintenance of the garden during the growing season.
- Maintenance may include regular litter pick-up, mowing, and weeding of common areas. Individual plots will need to be tilled, planted, watered, weeded and harvested throughout the growing season.
- Community gardens require an annual source for plants and soil amendments. Many gardens charge a small plot fee to cover these costs.

TO SEE A LOCAL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Reimagining Cleveland **Watterson-Lake School garden** – 1449 West 75th Street, Cleveland, OH
 Reimagining Cleveland **Liberian Refugee garden** - 6614 Wakefield Avenue, Cleveland, OH



Plan showing the community garden layout; prepared by Urban Growth Farms



Volunteers working on the construction of raised beds for a community garden

FEATURED PROJECT LEADERS

Krahn Tribe of Liberia

Mr. Kannon Doebo and Mr. Daniel Doe are both members of the Krahn tribe, from Liberia. Genocidal civil war erupted there over 20 years ago, and many Krahn left everything behind, living in Ivory Coast refugee camps for about 15 years. Over 150 of these refugees were subsequently settled in Cleveland. Mr. Doebo was a junior high teacher, a religion catechist, and a small farmer who grew coco, coffee, and orange trees. He has lived in Cleveland for 6 years. Mr. Doe was also a small farmer, a rubber tree tapper and a sugar-cane farmer. He has lived in the U.S. for 8 years. They have led a group of about 12 Liberian gardeners to develop their 30 x 130 ft. plot to promote self sufficiency and to share their harvest with the greater community, their fellow Liberians as well as their American and other refugee neighbors who live around their garden site. Mr. Doebo and Mr. Doe are also active in the Refugee Response/Ohio City Farm.

Michelle DeBock and the students, teachers and staff of Watterson-Lake School Community Garden

Michelle DeBock has been a teacher at Watterson-Lake School in the Detroit Shoreway Neighborhood for nine years. Over the last three years, since residing in the neighborhood, she has developed new friendships and enjoyed the cultural, entertainment and dining options and beautification efforts that continue to blossom.



Liberian Refugee garden leaders



Watterson-Lake students thank MTD for equipment donation