

PARKS FOR PRODUCE

Community Garden Development Process



Congratulations! You have been selected to develop a community garden under the Salt Lake County & Wasatch Community Garden partnership: **Parks for Produce**. Before getting your hands dirty, you will be tasked with involving a large group of people to create and implement a **shared vision**. This will require a lot of outreach, communication, and coordination. Here is a broad outline of the steps to bring your garden vision **into reality**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.wasatchgardens.org



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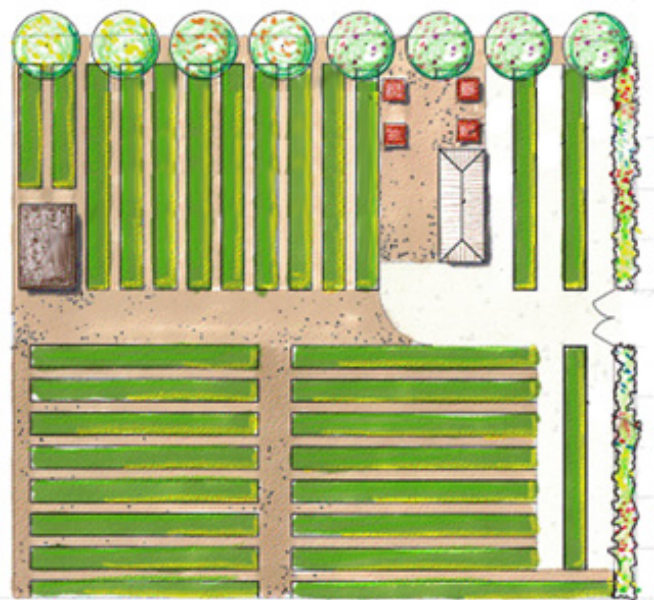
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First Steps

- **Introductory Meeting** - Initially, core garden organizers meet with Salt Lake County and Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) representatives to discuss agency expectations, roles of stakeholders (see Appendix A), and answer any questions you may have. Not all of your questions will be answered at this stage, however. Throughout the process, the WCG Parks for Produce Coordinator will be your strongest resource for establishing your community garden. WCG is also the liaison between you and the County. Please contact them first for any needs, and they will follow up with the appropriate County personnel if necessary.
- **Spreading the Word** - Organizers meet with WCG to develop an outreach plan. The first step is to introduce more people to the project by advertising the first public open house/design meeting. Upon request, WCG can print flyers for your use. Reserve a room at a nearby public venue that can adequately seat 25 people. You can publicize the meeting by reaching out to individuals who signed the petition, contacting interested groups (churches, community councils, etc), posting on community bulletin boards in libraries, recreation centers, etc.

Organizers form an online group (such as Google Groups) with one garden and one WCG representative as administrators. The e-group facilitates communication between organizers and interested gardeners for discussion, announcements, etc. After the garden is established, it will be used as the online means for all garden-related business.

- **Open House/Design Charette** - This meeting is held to introduce interested community members to the organizers, and County and WCG representatives. Organizers prepare sign-in sheets to collect participants' names, emails, phone numbers, and a space to check if they are interested in having a garden plot. WCG introduces community gardening and facilitates a discussion of participants' vision and interest in the future garden.



Then, taking these ideas into consideration, the County facilitates a garden “design charette,” in which small groups create their own unique blueprints for the garden layout. How many plots? What size, shape and orientation (EW or NS)? Space for community plots, fruit trees, or landscaping? Placement of sheds, benches, raised bed boxes, and other creative elements? The group reconvenes to discuss the merits and weaknesses of each blueprint. The County takes these suggestions and combines them into a final design that is presented at a later meeting.



Follow-Up Meetings

Organizers prepare the agenda for follow-up meetings, which should last no longer than two hours. Remember to add attendees of open house to e-group from sign-in sheet, and send out email and phone call reminders for follow-up meeting.

To prepare for your first meeting, you should have (1) an agenda, (2) a facilitator, (3) a timekeeper to keep the discussion moving within the time allocated for each agenda item, and (4) a note-taker to keep track of decisions and forward to garden members afterward (this would be your secretary, if you have one). WCG will attend your follow-up meetings, and may facilitate a meeting upon request. However, in general, the group will be expected to handle its meetings itself. Begin by explaining the agenda and ask the group for additional agenda items or announcements. Then, consider an icebreaker, where everyone answers a question – for example, “What are you excited to grow?”

Effective meetings provide an opportunity for everyone to contribute to the decision, but not dominate. The Facilitator’s role is to integrate diverse viewpoints into decisions that are agreeable to most, if not everyone. Their role is NOT to push an agenda, but to encourage everyone to contribute toward a consensus. The more participants are allowed to determine the course, the more invested they will be to contribute their time and energy. In large group meetings, each person has less time to provide input and may not feel comfortable sharing. Sometimes breaking up into smaller groups, and reconvening later, is more productive.

Suggested Garden Organizer Roles

During garden development, organizers take on key responsibilities with the approval of the group. After the garden is established, members nominate a new leadership team for ongoing management (see Appendix B).

Garden Steward(s)	Responsible for overall coordination of the project among all roles, is primary contact person for WCG.
Secretary	Reserves meeting rooms, prepares agendas, takes meeting minutes, distributes garden announcements.
Events Planner	Coordinates community events and outreach (i.e. groundbreaking ceremony, potlucks, etc.)
Membership Coordinator	Creates and distributes member contact list. Keeps track of volunteer hours. Orients new members.
Project Coordinators: Garden Layout, raised beds, logo design, irrigation, compost bins, common plots, etc	Responsible for planning, gathering resources, recruiting fellow gardeners, and implementing various projects of garden development.

The following topics should be addressed at follow-up meetings - it will probably take at least five 2-hour meetings to cover these adequately:

- **Mission Statement** - Using the garden vision ideas discussed at the open house, brainstorm a mission statement. A mission statement is a brief (1-5 sentence) statement that describes the purpose and values of your garden, and the methods with which you intend to achieve these.

A good mission statement will describe: what good and for whom? This discussion allows participants to begin to work together on a relatively easy topic, while getting to know each other's interests. Brainstorm key words and phrases and discuss which ones appeal most to the group. You can do this in small groups, and then a volunteer can wordsmith these into a mission statement. If time is limited, this can occur outside of the meeting. Looking at a few options, the group can discuss each one and agree on a combination.

- **Outreach Plan** - How will you spread the word? Will the group table at local events, flyer community bulletin boards, organize events like a groundbreaking ceremony? Which potential community partners can contribute volunteers for site workdays, or who have members they can recommend as gardeners? Local businesses, churches, community councils, and government agencies are important resources. The more gardeners you recruit, the easier it is for everyone to share the work.
- **Final Garden Design** - County presents latest design and receives feedback to create the final version of the garden. This will be in the form of a scale site map, which you can use to lay out the garden, after the County finishes with its initial work such as turf removal and grading.

- **Signage, Name and Logo** - WCG provides basic signage explaining community gardens and warning against theft. Garden name and logo are developed by the group. A name helps establish the identity of the garden, so be creative and have fun with the process – it could be a reflection of the landscape, an emotional feeling, or a historical reference. Brainstorm ideas for the logo. Then submit a final design to WCG to produce an official garden sign.

- **Decision-Making Process** - A community garden is a shared space – a *commons*. Its members contribute their volunteer time and plot fees toward the needs of the whole, and therefore have a stake in collective garden decisions. There are multiple ways of handling decisions, whether you choose a voting system or consensus is up to the group to decide – as long as the process is democratic and participatory. Be wary of being overly formal – Robert's Rules of Order may be intimidating to those unaccustomed to it. You'll need to consider when it is allowable to make decisions online, and when it is necessary to do so at meetings (but don't exclude members who don't have internet).



- **Plot fees** - WCG processes plot fees and administers the garden account. The fee for a plot is up to the group, but at minimum, you will need to cover your cost, including water (~\$250), liability insurance (~\$100), replacement of irrigation supplies (~\$50), etc. Any remainder raised from plot fees will be available to purchase agreed-upon garden amenities. Typical plot fees are \$20-\$50.
- **Allocation of Plots** - Interested gardeners must submit a plot application through wasatchgardens.org and pay the plot fee before they receive a plot. In the initial year, other prerequisites may be determined, such as participation in garden development. Note: WCG aims for 60% of garden plots to be held by low-income households, (less than 2.5 times the federal poverty level), so priority will be given to these households. If plots are limited, consider reserving some for refugees. To allocate plots, a lottery is an option, in which selection is random.
- **Garden Policies** – All gardeners must follow WCG guidelines: attendance at spring and fall garden meetings; minimum six hours of common work per year; and adherence to organic standards. See Appendix C for more details.

Salt Lake County expects gardeners to respect the fact that the garden exists on public land. For example, the garden must be well maintained (i.e. weed and clutter free), any improvements or construction must receive prior approval, and the public is welcome to enter the garden to admire, inquire, and interact with gardeners – but NOT to help themselves to produce from garden plots. Additional policies the group should consider include participation in group workdays, pet policies, composting system, etc.



Project Workdays

- **Site Preparation** - The County does the initial site preparation, including turf removal, buried irrigation, fence (four feet high, with no locking gates), and hard pack pathways for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. The County provides the materials – and gardeners provide the labor – for forming beds and pathways, constructing ADA raised beds, installing aboveground drip irrigation, and planting trees. The group will be responsible for any other amenities, such as compost bins, shed, benches, etc. Project coordinators are responsible for securing the necessary materials, tools and volunteer labor to do the job. Youth and church groups are excellent sources of volunteers. Unless they have already filled out a WCG plot application, everyone who helps out needs to sign the liability waiver (see Appendix F).
- **Groundbreaking Celebration** - Before getting started however, you may want to take a moment to gather the community to celebrate all of your hard work to date. A groundbreaking is also an opportunity to reach more interested gardeners. You may want to invite local officials and media as well. Bask in a little glory – you deserve it!

- **Beds and Pathways** - Use County-provided site map to stake out pathways. Pathways should be dug out, with soil mounded on beds. The County adds compost to the soil during the initial tilling, but individual gardeners should consider adding more organic matter and double digging their own beds. Cover pathways with cardboard (State liquor stores have large quantities available), and then cover that entirely with wood chips (provided by the County) to prevent the cardboard from looking trashy.
- **Drip Irrigation** - Drip irrigation is a water-efficient method of irrigation. The purpose is to water the root zone, not the surface of the soil. WCG and the drip irrigation contractor will train the irrigation project coordinator(s) on how to install and make light repairs to the system. The project coordinator(s) are then responsible for training other gardeners to install the system on their own plots

Water will be turned on in April, and shut off again in October. WCG will work with your Irrigation Steward(s) to determine the best schedule. The County will bill WCG at the end of the year, which will be paid from the garden account.



After Garden Development

- **Spring Meeting and Orientation** - By now, everyone should have filled out their applications, paid their plot fees, and prepared their garden beds for planting. Not everyone has been involved since the beginning however, so everyone might not be on the same page. The Spring Meeting is the first of two mandatory meetings per year, and a good opportunity to orient everyone. Discuss organic practices, garden guidelines, goals for the year, etc.
- **Garden Leadership Team** - The Spring Meeting is also the time to determine what roles you'll need for ongoing garden operations (at minimum, you'll need a garden steward, treasurer, irrigation steward and network liaison – see Appendix B and E). Members of this new leadership team may be the same individuals who organized the garden during its development, or totally new people. Either way, gardeners nominate and approve team members to serve a one-year term, with the opportunity for renewal.
- **Ongoing Site Maintenance** - Decide how to maintain the common areas (pathways, parking strips, gathering spaces, common plots, etc.). Some gardens preschedule regular group workdays at the beginning of the year, with gardeners signing up to specific dates at the spring meeting. Other gardens organize committees for specific tasks, others have a sign-up sheet with a minimum number of hours required per month and still others assign one task per gardener for the season. Regardless of how you go about it, remember that WCG requires each gardener to fulfill 6 volunteer hours over the course of the year. Gardeners should keep track of their hours so that they may be reported at the end of the season.



Appendix A

STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES

PARKS FOR PRODUCE COMMUNITY GARDENS

Salt Lake County will:

- Collaborate with Wasatch Community Gardens and the Garden Organizers to design the site.
- Make initial site improvements, such as water access, grading and fencing.
- Collaborate with Wasatch Community Gardens and Garden Organizers to specify Garden Guidelines.
- Provide water for the site, paid for by plot fees.
- Pick up garbage/refuse from the specified location at or near the garden.
- Maintain parking areas, if applicable.

Wasatch Community Gardens will:

- Act as a liaison between Community Garden Group and the County.
- Collaborate with Salt Lake County and Garden Organizers to design site and specify Garden Guidelines.
- Provide gardening education and leadership training through the *Growing Community Gardens* training.
- Accept plot applications, collect plot fees, and administer the garden account.
- Provide the garden with liability insurance, paid for by plot fees.
- Establish irrigation best practices for the garden.
- Assign plots, in collaboration with Garden Organizers.
- Provide mediation if needed.

Garden Organizers will:

- Conduct community outreach to recruit interested gardeners and outside volunteers.
- Organize and participate in garden planning meetings, and facilitate communication between meetings.
- Organize and coordinate site work days, including site layout, digging garden beds, mulching pathways, building raised boxes, installing above-ground drip irrigation, planting communal areas, landscaping, etc.
- Collaborate with Wasatch Community Gardens and Salt Lake County to design the site, specify Garden Guidelines, and determine Garden Leadership Team roles.

Garden Leadership Team Members will:

Once the garden is established and plots are assigned, Garden Leadership Team Members will be nominated by fellow community gardeners.

- Act as a liaison between gardeners and Wasatch Community Gardens.
- Act as stewards for work areas such as finances, irrigation, membership, compost and work parties.
- Help enforce Garden Guidelines and help gardeners understand and implement garden assignments.
- Communicate with other Team Members on a regular basis to keep garden running smoothly.

Community Gardeners will:

- Participate in creation of the Site design and Garden Guidelines.
- Pay annual plot fee in a timely manner.
- Keep the garden clean from garbage and refuse and will have garbage cans in agreed upon location weekly in preparation for sanitation truck pick up.
- Abide by Garden Guidelines, including attending mandatory garden meetings, maintaining his/her garden plot, pathways, and communal gardening areas.
- Participate in Gardener education.
- Participate in mediation in the case of problems or conflict, and facilitate good-neighbor relations.
- Assist with community outreach and gardener recruitment.



Appendix B

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GARDEN LEADERSHIP TEAM

A community garden is a shared space – a *commons*. It is created by neighbors who collaborate in all levels of its development and ongoing maintenance. By contributing their volunteer time and plot fees toward the needs of the whole, everyone has a stake in collective garden decisions. An inclusive and participatory decision-making process is essential to honor the contributions and ownership of everyone in the group. It is also a requirement of Wasatch Community Gardens. Nevertheless, there are certain key responsibilities that need to be delegated to individuals for the garden to be effectively managed. These are the members of the Garden Leadership Team. This team can be as small as three people, or much larger.

Many roles can be subdivided and assigned to other members, distributing responsibility to more people and reducing the load that any one person has to carry. For example, the Garden Steward role, responsible for overall garden coordination and communication, could be divided into the Steward, Membership Coordinator and New Roots Liaison. Roles can also be shared between two people, such as having two Irrigation Co-Stewards. Other options include allowing gardeners to take on responsibilities on an alternating, one-time basis, such as Meeting Note-Taker.

In addition to their responsibilities, the committee is the first point of contact if gardeners have requests, questions, or conflicts. If the team cannot resolve these – or needs assistance – the garden's WCG staff liaison is available to help.

The team is elected by the entire garden membership at the Fall and Spring Garden Meetings, and positions are of a yearly commitment, with the potential for renewal. The team must consist of at least a Garden Steward, Treasurer, and Irrigation Steward at all times. Additionally at least one member must act as the WCG Network Liaison, having completed the *Growing Community Gardens* training.

Minimum Garden Leadership Team includes:

Garden Steward

- Main responsibility is to coordinate between gardeners, leadership team members and Wasatch Community Gardens, keeping everyone informed of garden developments.
- Organizes meetings, including location scheduling, agenda, and facilitation.
- Ensures gardener compliance with garden guidelines, insurance and landowner requirements.
- Helps provide mediation when conflicts arise. Issues may include produce theft, disrespectful behavior, etc. The garden's WCG staff liaison is available to help when necessary, and has the ultimate responsibility in enforcing the garden guidelines and resolving conflicts.
- Maintains garden records and submits end of season reports.
- Includes Membership Coordinator's and New Roots Liaison's responsibilities (see below), if the garden doesn't have those separate roles

Treasurer

- Main responsibility is to manage the garden finances and conduct the financial business of the garden. This includes keeping records of all income/expenses, and making financial reports.
- Conducts the financial business of the garden. This includes making purchases personally, or collecting purchase receipts from other gardeners, and working with the garden's WCG staff liaison to ensure reimbursement requests are submitted and disbursed in a timely manner.

Irrigation Steward

- Main responsibility is to ensure the garden's irrigation system is well maintained and operating properly. Establishes watering schedules in coordination with the garden's WCG liaison.
- Other responsibilities include training gardeners on how to set up and maintain their own plot's drip system, promoting water-wise irrigation principles, and announcing the water schedule.

WCG Network Liaison

- Main responsibility is to be the liaison between the community garden project and the WCG Network Coordinator. Completes WCG's leadership training Growing Community Gardens.
- Informs gardeners of Network benefits, coordinates distribution of available Network resources, advocates for community garden best practices, tracks basic data about the garden (produce yields, volunteer hours, etc), and submits reports to the WCG Network Coordinator.

Other Garden Leadership Team responsibilities and suggested roles include:

Membership Coordinator

- Main responsibility is to assign and track membership. This includes collecting plot applications, liability waivers, and volunteer hours from every gardener (unless these are submitted online), and assigning plots in coordination with the garden's WCG staff liaison.
- Orients new gardeners on garden guidelines, organic standards, and expectations for each participant, their household, pets and guests.
- Manages online discussion forums and garden contact list.

New Roots Liaison

- Main responsibility is to ensure communication between the New Roots refugee gardening program and the garden. This includes keeping New Roots informed of all relevant policies, workday opportunities etc.
- Works directly with New Roots and WCG to resolve issues involving refugee gardeners.

Garden Maintenance and Project Coordinators

- Main responsibility is to ensure the upkeep of the garden's physical infrastructure or develop new garden amenities. Different members oversee compost stewardship, tools and shed organization, maintaining the garden perimeter, tending donation plots, signage, construction projects, etc.

Community Building Coordinator/Event Planner

- Main responsibility is to provide outreach and community-building activities for the garden. This could include a donation drive, outreach events for non-gardening neighborhood residents, a garden newsletter, organizing potlucks/social events, etc.



Appendix C

WASATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS

GARDEN GUIDELINES

Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) is a small non-profit organization that has served residents along the Wasatch Front since 1989. Our community gardens are places where people of all ages and incomes join in the common goal of growing and eating healthy, organic, local food. These gardens are shared spaces, where you need to be considerate of other people and their plants. In addition to tending your own plot, gardeners are expected to participate in the upkeep of the garden and in garden decision-making. The following are the standard guidelines that apply to all WCG gardens. Please understand them thoroughly. Violations may lead to the forfeiture of your plot, without the return of your plot fee. Your garden may have additional guidelines, relating to pets, group workdays, etc.

Reserving your plot

- You are entitled to one plot (sizes vary by garden). Plots are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- A garden plot rental fee is required (fee varies by garden, typically \$20-\$50).
- You must clear your plot of weeds at the beginning of the season (date depends on garden), or it will be given to another gardener on the waitlist. The plot fee will not be returned.
- You may reapply for the same plot next year if you fulfill all of your WCG and garden-specific requirements.

Gardener Involvement

- Garden care and maintenance is the collective responsibility of all gardeners, and requires your volunteer commitment. In addition to tending your own plot, you are required to contribute at least 6 hours per season to tend common areas or participate in projects that benefit the whole garden.
- Some examples include weeding common areas, mulching pathways, planting donation beds, pruning back trees and bushes, or organizing social events. This can occur individually or through scheduled group work days.
- You must attend the spring and fall mandatory meetings. However, you may arrange to send someone as a proxy if you are unable to attend.
- All gardeners with email access and written English proficiency are required to be signed up to the online discussion group.

Garden Management

- Decisions that affect the interests of other gardeners occur in an inclusive and participatory decision-making process. This includes issues such as garden projects, policies, garden fund spending, etc.
- Day to day operations of the garden are the collective responsibility of all gardeners. To coordinate specific key responsibilities, the garden maintains a leadership team of at least three people. This includes at least a Garden Steward, Treasurer, Irrigation Steward, but often includes others such as Membership Coordinator, Event Planner, Compost Steward, etc.
- One member of the leadership team must complete the WCG *Growing Community Gardens* training.

Land Use Restrictions and Safety

- Generally, we lease garden property and there is always a possibility that we will lose the use of it.
- Tree/perennial plantings, structures or site improvements must receive the permission of WCG.
- For safety reasons: rebar is not allowed for staking or trellising; pathways are clear of hazards; tools not in use are locked away; holes and construction are identified with colorful barriers; irrigation controls are secure from public access; first aid kit and emergency contacts are on the premises.
- Liability waivers are required for all gardeners and volunteers, and must be submitted to WCG.

Gardening Organically

- Our goal is to create and nurture a healthy soil and environment. Chemical herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers are not allowed. Please read our Organic Standards for information on acceptable practices.
- Gardeners using chemical weed killers, fertilizers and/or pesticides will lose their gardening privileges!

Water Use and Drip Irrigation

- The automatic drip irrigation systems is generally turned on in April, weather permitting. Please do not alter the system in any way. Please report any problems to your Irrigation Steward first, then to WCG.
- Each gardener is responsible to know how the system works and how to make light repairs on their plot. You should keep the drip tape straight, without any kinks, planting within 6 inches of the drip tape. Straw or leaf mulch should be used to conserve soil moisture in the summer months (and to reduce weeds).

Weeds and Trash

- You must control the weeds and trash in your own plot and adjacent pathways during the season. All weeds must be removed if taller than six inches in height and twelve inches in width.
- Plots will be inspected regularly, and plots that have not been planted, or do not meet these guidelines, will be notified. Failure to remedy the situation within 14 days will result in forfeiture of the plot.
- It is your responsibility to notify the Garden Steward if you are no longer able to tend your plot, you will be absent for a long period of time, or have asked a friend to tend your plot.
- Plots must be cleared of trellis materials and debris at the end of the season (date depends on garden).

Compost

- Do not place weed seeds or rhizomes in the compost piles – put those in the trash. All other plants go in “brown” or “green” compost piles, and must be chopped to the size of your hand before adding.
- Please read the posted compost system instructions, or speak to your Compost Steward, for more information on acceptable practices.

Community Behavior

- You should harvest your ripe produce regularly to reduce garden pests and vandalism.
- Stealing is not permitted and will result in immediate loss of gardening privileges and forfeiture of crops.
- Disrespectful or abusive language, or destructive behavior (including vandalism) may result in the immediate loss of all gardening privileges, and forfeiture of crops.
- When a conflict arises with another gardener, please try to resolve the issue directly. If you are unable to resolve it, please contact your garden steward to find a solution. If you are still not satisfied, please contact WCG. Do not use the online discussion group to vent your frustrations with other gardeners.

Non-Discrimination

- Gardeners shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national, or ethnic origin, religious, marital status, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability in its garden membership, garden events, and the administration of its programs.
- All gardens should strive towards ADA accessible gardening options.

WCG reserves the right to make changes or exceptions to the guidelines. If you have any questions about this information, please call Brit Merrill at 359-2658 x11 or email at Brit@wasatchgardens.org



Appendix D (Adapted from the American Community Gardening Association document)

THEFT AND VANDALISM PROBLEM-SOLVING TIPS

You've tilled and you've toiled, now the tomatoes are ripe and the squash is just the perfect size. You and your family are all excited about the harvest. Then, overnight, your vegetables disappear before you have a chance to enjoy a single one. It's very discouraging. It's even worse when thoughtless vandals trash crops you've watered faithfully, mulched, and debugged. Dealing effectively with vandalism and theft poses a real challenge. The best long-term strategy – developing community friendships – takes time; and, even under the best circumstances, both youthful mischief and spiteful nastiness still happen. Keeping this reality check in mind, these tips can help your garden program minimize problems with vandalism and theft.

- **ENCOURAGE** the whole community to take ownership of the garden. Share the pride and satisfaction that comes from tending a bright spot in the neighborhood. (Sharing a few tomatoes doesn't hurt.)
- **MAKE FRIENDS** with people who live near the garden. Encourage everyone to keep a watchful eye on the garden. Invite neighborhood kids into the garden with you to see what's growing.
- **REPORT THEFT** or vandalism to gardeners, police, and the neighborhood watch. Post signs announcing that police and neighbors are watching the site. At fenced gardens, consider a "friendly" sign explaining how people can participate – it's a lot more positive than unadorned chain-link.
- **HOST PUBLIC EVENTS** at the garden especially if it's fenced. Design gathering spaces for all ages, to encourage community building and social interaction.
- **CULTIVATE** beautiful unfamiliar plants less attractive to blossom snatchers. Observe what gets taken and replace these varieties with alternatives. "Florist-style" long stem roses make tempting targets. Grow old-fashioned and species roses instead. Plant odd-colored edibles – yellow tomatoes, strawberries or raspberries are bothered far less than red ("real") ones.
- **HARVEST PRODUCE REGULARLY.** Have a clear policy about picking without permission. If a gardener makes off with someone else's harvest, warn the culprit they could lose their place in this community garden. That may be all it takes to stop a problem.
- **GROW MORE THAN YOU NEED.** Share the bounty inside and outside the garden.
- **SOW FLOWERS** thickly around beds to make vegetables more difficult to get to. Put plants with smaller or less-tempting edibles in front.
- **KEEP THE GARDEN** well-tended and repair damage quickly. Encourage gardeners to come regularly, and assign tasks if necessary.
- **CARING COUNTS.** Listen supportively and compassionately to gardeners who have suffered damage, and encourage everyone to share produce with them.
- **PROTECT YOUR GARDEN** nature's way: Use thorny shrubs, such as rugosa roses, barberry and hollies, as a barrier for delicate and desirable plants. For tough problems, grow your own barbed wire fence: trifoliate orange (*Poncirus trifoliata*).



Appendix E

WASATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS NETWORK

The mission of the WCG Network is to support the growth and sustainability of community gardens in Salt Lake County through leadership development, education, networking and access to resources. Our network currently serves 20 community gardens throughout Salt Lake County.

We support community gardens that:

- Have a mission that furthers Wasatch Community Gardens' mission to empower people of all ages and incomes to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food.
- Are committed to organic and sustainable growing practices.
- Model inclusive decision-making processes.
- Engage the broader community.

What We Do:

- Garden leadership development
- Access to free or discounted materials (plants, seeds, etc.), as available
- Networking opportunities
- Consultation
- Free organic gardening workshops for community gardeners
- Mini-grants for new gardens (up to \$5,000), as available
- Tool Library loans
- Garden Signage
- Volunteer Recognition

How to Join

- A current member of the garden must complete our 9-week leadership training Growing Community Gardens (offered yearly, Jan-Mar), and agree to serve as the liaison between your garden and the Wasatch Community Gardens Network.
- Your garden liaison submits an annual registration, 1-2 additional updates throughout the year, and helps facilitate delivery of services to your community garden.
- The garden liaison also helps to ensure that the garden meets Wasatch Community Gardens Network standards, including use of organic gardening methods, positive community engagement, and signage.

For inquiries about the Wasatch Community Gardens Network, please email Susan Finlayson at susan@wasatchgardens.org or call 801-359-2658 x12.

