NATIONAL PARKS
LET'S MAKE SINGAPORE OUR CITY IN NATURE

Community in Bloom

A GUIDE TO
DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY GARDENS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 OVERVIEW 3

2 SETTING UP A COMMUNITY GARDEN 4

FORM A GARDENING GROUP 4

- ROLES 4

IDENTIFY A SUITABLE SITE AND ASSESS SITE CONDITIONS 5

- SUNLIGHT 5
- TOPOLOGY AND WATER-RELATED ISSUES 5
- WATER POINTS 5
- SOIL TYPE 6

SEEK APPROVAL FOR YOUR GARDEN 7

- APPROVAL FROM LANDOWNER AND STAKEHOLDERS 7

GET IDEAS FOR YOUR GARDEN 8

- ORGANISE A BRAINSTORMING AND SHARING SESSION 8
- EXPLORE TRAINING AND RESOURCES 8

DESIGN YOUR GARDEN 9

- FUNCTION, THEME OR TYPE 9
- ZONES 11
- COMMUNITY BONDING SPACES 11
- STYLE 12
- FOOTPATHS AND ACCESS 13
- PLANTER BEDS 14
- FOCAL POINTS AND KEY FEATURES 20
- GARDEN STORAGE 21
- PERMANENT HARDSCAPE FEATURE 22

PLANT AND REFINE YOUR GARDEN 23

- CONSIDERATIONS FOR CHOOSING YOUR PLANTS 23
- USE OF COLOUR IN PLANT SELECTION 24
- IRRIGATION SYSTEM 25
- TEMPORARY STRUCTURES 26
- DEMARCATION OF THE GARDEN 28
- SIGNS AND NOTICES 29

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 MAINTAINING AND SUSTAINING A COMMUNITY GARDEN 30

MAINTAIN AND SUSTAIN YOUR GARDEN 30

- SAFETY 30
- SUSTAINING INTEREST IN A COMMUNITY GARDEN 31
- PROMOTION OF GARDEN ACTIVITIES 32

ANNEX 1 – COMMUNITY GARDEN DESIGN SELF-ASSESSMENT LIST 33

ANNEX 2 – TIPS ON CREATING AND MAINTAINING A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY GARDEN 35

This guide is intended to assist community gardeners from public and private housing estates, educational institutions and organisations in starting, implementing and managing community gardens. It covers site assessment, design considerations, plant selection and ways to maintain and sustain the community garden after it is established.

1 OVERVIEW

Jurong Spring Zone A RC Community Garden

NParks launched the Community in Bloom (CIB) programme in 2005 as part of an effort to encourage residents to have greater ownership of green spaces. Community gardens that dot our island-state are primarily ground-up efforts by people from all walks of life with guidance provided by NParks staff and CIB Ambassadors. These community gardens do not just beautify and enliven our landscapes, but also strengthen our social resilience by bringing together neighbours, colleagues, students and everyone else who has a common love for nature and gardening.

As Singapore transforms into a City in Nature, NParks seeks to expand the CIB programme by unlocking even more community garden spaces by collaborating with grassroot organisations, town councils, government agencies, schools and other interested stakeholders. Community gardeners will be encouraged to grow a variety of edible plants as part of 'Gardening with Edibles' initiative and to support Singapore's 30by30 goal. This *Guide to Designing and Implementing Community Gardens* aims to equip community gardeners with the knowledge needed to set up their gardens, provide a framework for managing the gardens, and offer ideas to engage and sustain the interest of community gardeners. You can also find out more information about starting community gardens on our website, at **www.nparks.gov.sg/gardening/community-gardens/start-a-community-garden**.

NParks has also developed a vast range of other online resources on gardening. Whether you are new to gardening or a seasoned gardener looking for ideas on what to grow, you can find brochures and videos on NParks' website.

2 SETTING UP A COMMUNITY GARDEN

FORM A GARDENING GROUP

The first step to setting up your garden is to form a core group of at least eight or ten members who are interested in gardening. Once the core group is established, you can consider the best way to work together as a team by assigning different roles to various members.

Roles

Assigning roles to each volunteer by first identifying their interests will help to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the community garden. Some examples of roles to consider for your garden are:

Garden Leader
- Guide and direct the gardening group over a set term
- Act as a liaison between the gardening group and other stakeholders, e.g. Residents' Committee (RC), Neighbourhood Committee (NC), Residents' Network (RN), NParks, Town Council, Management Corporation Strata Title (MCST)
- Ensure garden policies and advisories are adhered to

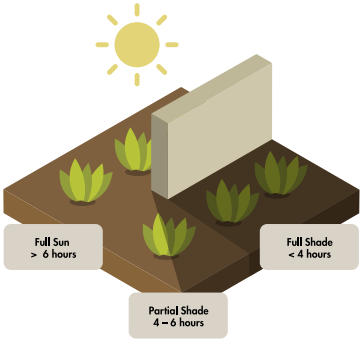
Treasurer
- Secure and handle funds and financial matters for the gardening group

Programme Head
- Coordinate and organise events to engage the other members of the group, such as visits to farmers' markets and other gardens, gardening programmes for residents, seniors or school children
- Communicate with the rest of the group on activities and events
- Create content for flyers, brochures and social media posts to promote the garden and engage members of the group

Volunteer and Recruitment Coordinator
- Recruit new volunteers and create a contact log for communication purposes

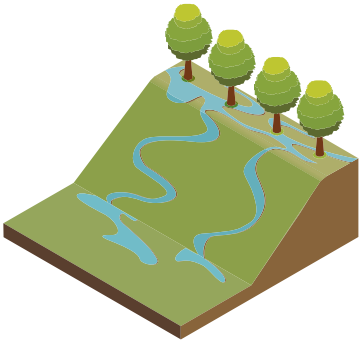
IDENTIFY A SUITABLE SITE AND ASSESS SITE CONDITIONS

Once the gardening group is established, a suitable site should be selected for the garden. Some of the things that should be assessed for suitability include the amount of sunlight it receives throughout the day, its topology, on-site drainage and any existing amenities that may complement the gardening group's usability. Some modifications may be necessary to prepare the site for the new garden.



Sunlight

The selected site should receive minimally 6 to 8 hours of sunlight daily. Observe the site in the morning, at noon and in the late afternoon to determine the sun's path across the site. Note that buildings and trees may cast shadows at different times of the day and reduce the amount of sunlight available for edibles and other plants to grow well.



Topology and Water-related Issues

Ensure that the selected site has a relatively gentle gradient, or flat ground. Avoid steep, undulating terrain that may add to the cost when preparing the site. Observe and note any water-related issues such as ponding and surface run-off.

Water Points

Permanent, shared water points should be available at various places within the community garden for the gardeners to access, and the water points should be spaced out to ensure all areas of the garden have access to water. Each water point should have a serving radius of about 7.5 m. Wash basins are also useful to allow the gardeners to wash up after working in the garden. If suitable water points and wash basins do not exist on the site, the gardening group should consider installing them.

Permanent water point

Watering hose at a water point; hoses should be rolled and hung up after use

Wash basin

Soil Type

Soil is an important growing medium in the garden. The texture, type and quality will influence plant health. Some soil types are better at absorbing and retaining water, while other types are good for promoting drainage or have different mineral compositions. Pairing plants with their ideal soil type will help to ensure a thriving community garden. The gardening group should assess the type of soil found on the site and determine whether any amendments will be needed.

Most plants will do better in soil that drains well. If the existing soil is compacted or water-logged, adding the right soil amendments will be necessary to improve the properties of the soil and encourage aeration and drainage.

Loamy soils are a good mixture of clay, sand and silt. They are the ideal soil type for most plants as they contain high organic content, also known as humus. Loamy soils are very fertile and will support the growth of just about any plant.

Clayey soils are dense and heavy and do not drain well or provide space for plant roots to flourish but they have a greater capacity to hold nutrients. They become hard and dry on hot days, and sticky when wet.

Sandy soils are low in nutrients and have the least water holding capacity. They have a gritty feel or rough texture and lose moisture very quickly.

Organic matter is produced by living organisms and broken down through decomposition by microorganisms. The dark brown organic material in soil comprises mature organic matter, such as dead leaves and other plant material.

SEEK APPROVAL FOR YOUR GARDEN

The next step in planning your garden is seeking the necessary approvals from the landowner and other stakeholders. Funding may be sought through the stakeholders as well. The community gardening group may identify the landowner by using the Singapore Land Authority's OneMap (onemap.sg) if they are unsure of who the landowner is.

Approval from Landowner and Stakeholders

To set up a community garden in a **public housing estate**, the gardening group will first need to approach their RC or RN Chairman for support to use the selected site. The group will then need to submit the following documents to HDB as the landowner through their Town Council:

1. Town Council In-Principle Approval Request Form
2. Community garden location plans
3. Current site photos with the proposed garden location marked out
4. A preliminary garden design (refer to the 'Design your garden' section starting on page 9)
5. Community Garden Design Self-Assement List (refer to Annex 1 for more information)

To set up a community garden in a **private housing estate** or on the grounds of an **educational institution** or **organisation**, the group will need to obtain approval from the relevant stakeholders (see table below).

Categories	Stakeholders
Private Housing Estates	
Green verges along the roadside in front of residential units	• NParks, NC and/or RN
In nearby parks managed by NParks	• NParks, NC and/or RN
Condominiums	• MCST, NC and/or RN
Educational Institutions	
Institutes of higher learning, junior colleges, ITEs, MOE institutions and standalone childcare centres	• Represented by the principal of the institution
Preschool centres at HDB void decks	• Represented by the principal of the institution; HDB, RC, RN and/or Town Council
Preschool Centres in commercial buildings (e.g. shopping malls)	• Represented by the principal of the institution; building owner
Organisations	
Organisations (e.g. commercial companies, public organisations, hospitals, welfare homes, places of worship)	• Represented by the general manager of the organisation; building owner

GET IDEAS FOR YOUR GARDEN

After the gardening group has sought the necessary support and/or approvals for the garden, the next step is to generate ideas and explore resources to learn more about gardening.

Organise a Brainstorming and Sharing Session

The group should develop their ideas for the garden together through brainstorming and sharing sessions. The group can evaluate all of the ideas shared by the members at the end of the session to identify mutual goals and explore solutions to any potential problems. They can also develop house rules for managing the community garden.

Explore Training and Resources

NParks offers a broad range of horticultural information, training, workshops and networking sessions for community gardening groups to build, grow and sustain their gardens. Participating in NParks-led events and activities will help to build strong networks within the group while increasing horticultural knowledge. Other ways to learn about gardening are visiting other community gardens and sharing gardening tips and experiences.

Gardening Resources

Visit our website and follow us on social media to find out about upcoming workshops, activities and events.

Learn more about NParks' initiatives in our City in Nature	www.nparks.gov.sg
Find out more about Community in Bloom	www.nparks.gov.sg/gardening/community-in-bloom-initiative
Explore a range of gardening resources	www.nparks.gov.sg/gardening/gardening-resources
Discover gardening workshops, activities and events	www.nparks.gov.sg/activities
Find information on native species and plants grown in the region	www.nparks.gov.sg/florafaunaweb
Discover a host of gardening videos	www.youtube.com/NParksSG
Follow us on social media	facebook.com/nparksbuzz instagram.com/nparksbuzz t.me/NparksBuzz twitter.com/nparksbuzz

DESIGN YOUR GARDEN

After the group has brainstormed and shared their ideas, they can begin to design their garden. Some of the key considerations for a garden design are the intended function, theme or type, the use of zones, style of the garden and accessibility. The group may also explore the introduction of focal points, forms and colours, as well as hardscape and softscape elements.

Function, Theme or Type

The group will need to decide on the function of the garden, such as for growing edibles, herbs and spices, attracting biodiversity, or beautifying its surroundings. The group may also consider making it an educational garden, or a shared space to promote mental well-being. Identifying the function of the garden will aid in developing a suitable design. Some examples of different types of community gardens are shown below.

Biodiversity Gardens

Commonwealth Secondary School

Hougang Primary School

Edible Gardens

Admiralty Zone 10 RN – Hydroglen

Bukit Panjang Zone 8 RC

Educational Gardens

Boundary Ville RC

Etonhouse Pre-School Pte Ltd (223 Mountbatten)

Herb and Spice Gardens

Leng Kee CC Sky Community Garden

PCF Sparkletots Pre-School @ Queenstown Blk 46 (CC)

Indoor Gardens

Starhub Green (HQ)

Yusof Ishak Mosque

Rooftop Gardens

Kampung Admiralty – Rooftop Community Garden

Muhibbah Garden @ Oasis Terraces

Zones

Separate the space in the garden into active and passive zones, based on the need for specific functions:

- **Active zones** are areas where gardening plots would be located, and places for gardening-related activities, such as outdoor classrooms and propagation areas
- **Passive zones** are areas where shelters and other amenities would be located for gardeners to rest and bond

Active zone – outdoor classroom

Active zone – propagation area

Passive zone – shelter

Community Bonding Spaces

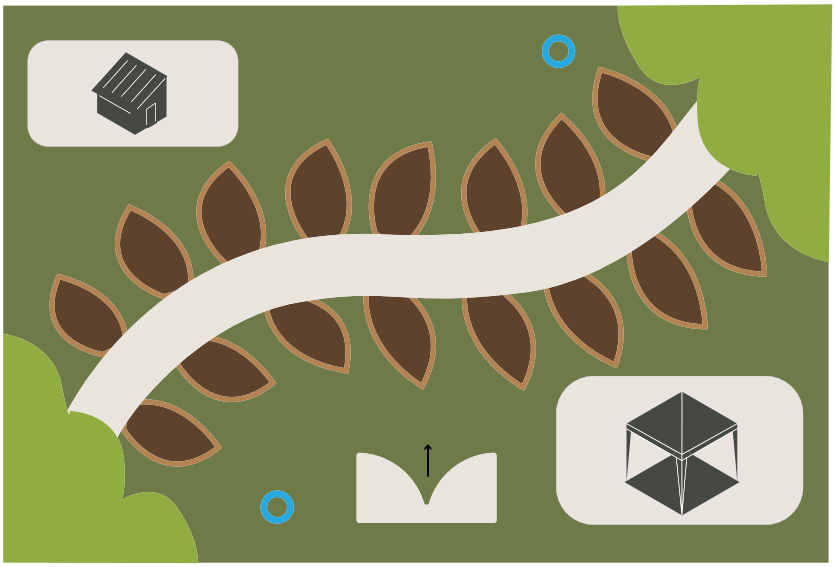
For a community garden with an area above 100 m^2, allocate 10% of the space for gardeners to bond and interact. Allocating bonding spaces nearer to the garden's entrance will facilitate gardening activities as well as promote gardening events and other social activities that can be organised for residents and visitors. Installing lights and electrical access points in sheltered bonding spaces will enable the gardening group to use the spaces in the evenings.

Kampung Admiralty – Rooftop Community Garden

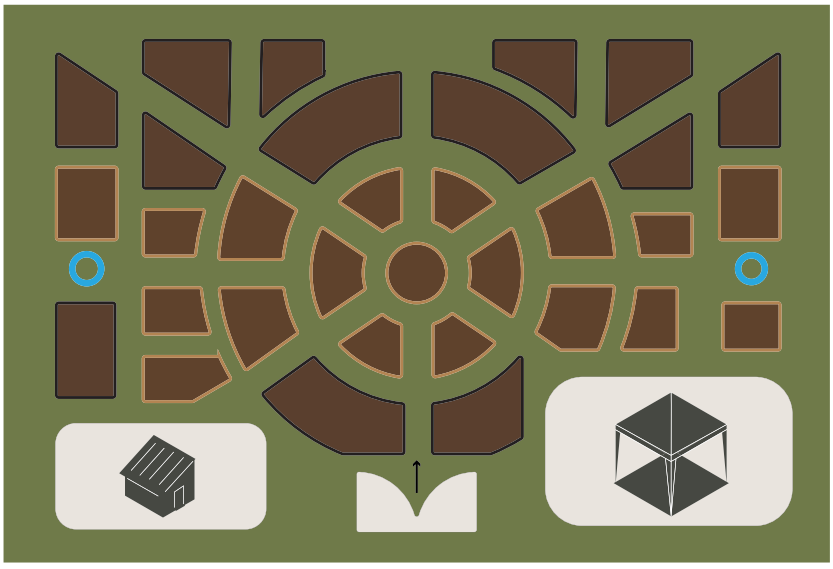
Woodlands Zone 2 RN – Garden of Bees and Blooms

Style

The group can also decide on the garden style, such as whether they would prefer an informal garden layout or a more formal design.



Informal Design



Formal Design

LEGEND WATER POINT SHED ENTRANCE SHELTER

For more information on different layout options, refer to
'Community Garden Template Designs',
www.nparks.gov.sg/gardening/community-gardens/start-a-community-garden

Footpaths and Access

Footpaths should be made of sturdy, non-slip material to ensure safety for gardeners and visitors. All footpaths should be easily accessible and level with a gentle gradient towards the garden's edge to allow water to drain off.

The recommended widths for footpaths are given below.

- Minimum width of 0.9 m for **main footpaths**
- Minimum width of 0.4 m for **secondary footpaths**

Planter Beds

If the existing soil conditions are not suitable for growing plants, the community gardening group can consider using planter beds. Planter beds can also help to make gardening more accessible to those who may be physically challenged, and the height may be adjusted to fit the needs of the group and enable gardeners to garden more comfortably.

Benefits of Planter Beds

- **Quality of Soil** – One of the benefits of planter beds is the opportunity to control the soil quality. The group can create an optimal growing medium, referred to as an Approved Soil Mix (ASM), by combining the following components:

    - 1-part loamy soil or topsoil
    - 1-part organic material (e.g., matured compost)
    - Organic fertiliser (as directed by the manufacturer)

- **Increased Accessibility** – Planter beds make it easier to garden in a smaller space, and allow gardening to be carried out comfortably without bending over or kneeling.

- **Creation of Usable Space** – Planter beds can be placed over a concrete surface or compacted urban soil which may not be ideal for growing plants.

- **Better Drainage** – Planter beds decrease soil compaction and damage to the plants; drainage improves with the height of the bed, with taller beds having better drainage than shorter ones.

Types of Planter Beds

There are many options for the community gardening group to create planter beds. A simple and inexpensive option is to make a raised mound with ASM; bricks or another type of edging material can be added to keep the mound in place. The group may also consider purchasing ready-made planter beds or building their own using planting containers, drainage cells or any other available materials.

Raised earth mounds

Brick planter beds

Concrete block planter beds

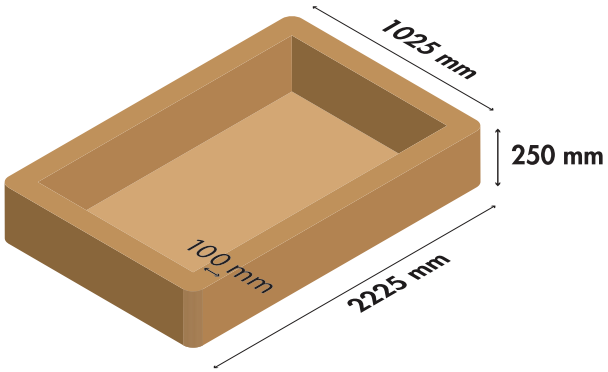
Planter beds using drainage cells

Planter beds using tray containers

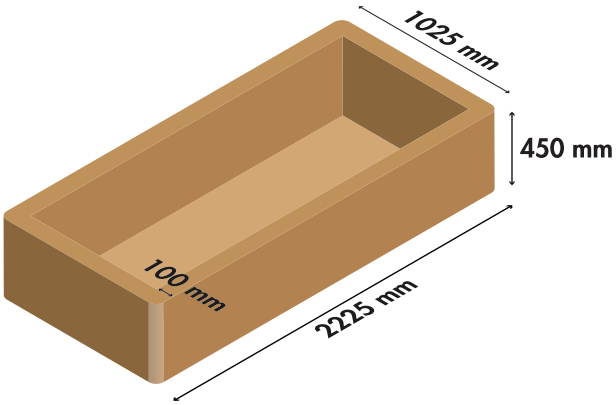
Planter beds using plastic planter containers

Customised Concrete Planter Beds

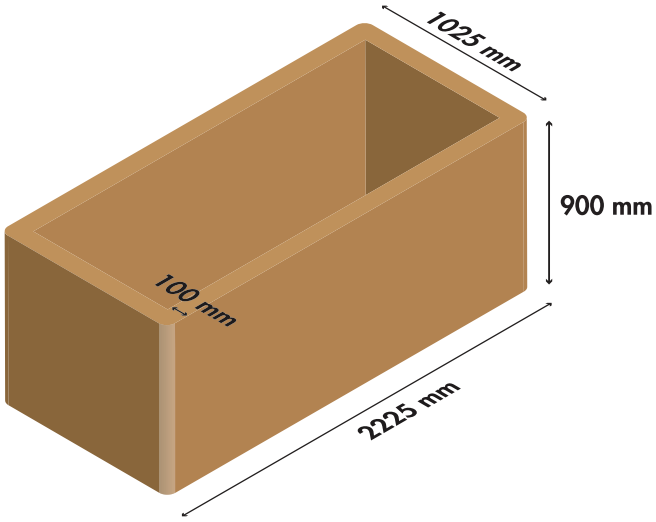
The gardening group can also construct concrete planter beds that are customised to meet the height requirements of the users.



Ankle-height raised beds (0.25 m tall)



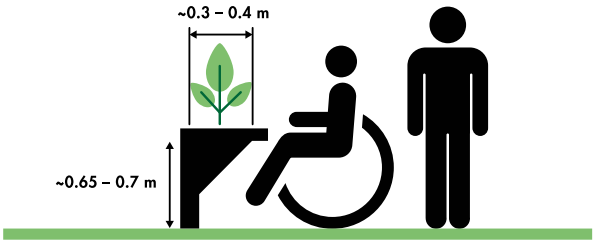
Knee-height raised beds (0.45 m tall)



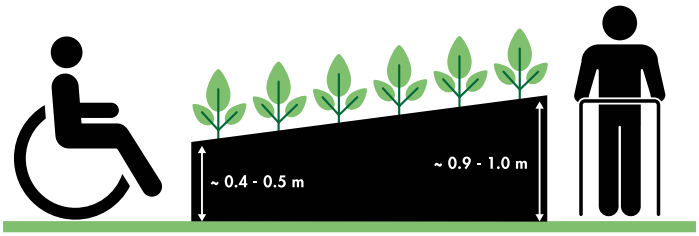
Waist-height raised beds (0.9 m tall)

Wheelchair Accessible Planter Beds

Planter beds can also be specially designed for wheelchair users, whether for general gardening, horticultural therapy or for ease of viewing. In order to make the beds useful for them, the width of the bed must enable the wheelchair users to reach across their bodies and work from the side within reach of the plants.



The recommended height and width of planter beds to enable wheelchair users to comfortably garden



Recommended dimensions for angled planter beds to enable wheelchair users to comfortably enjoy viewing the plants within

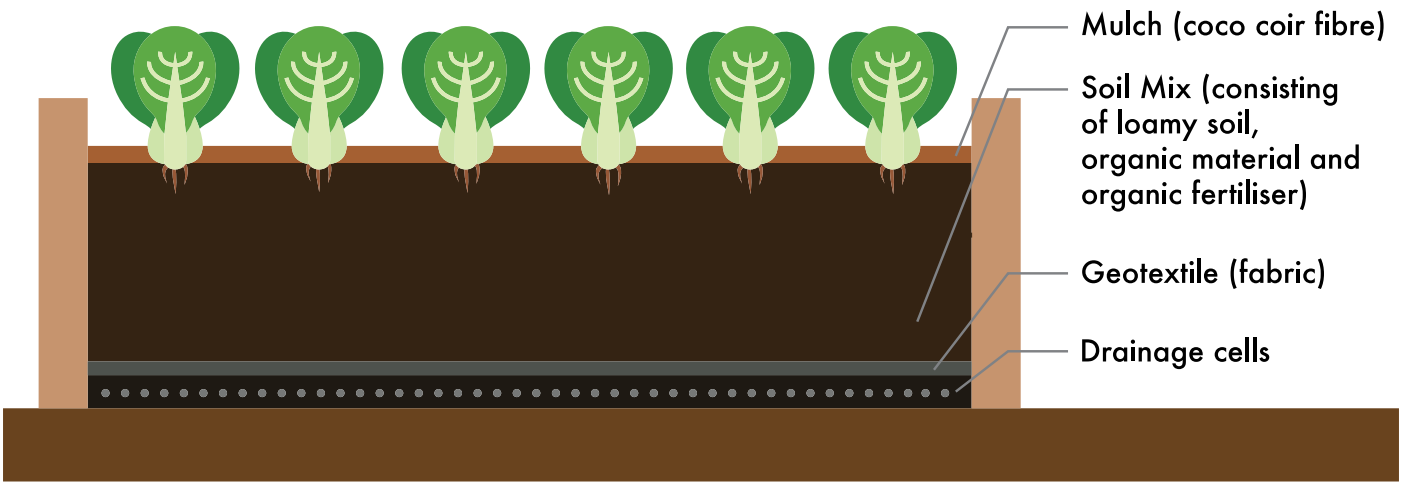
Wheelchair accessible planters of different heights

A wheelchair user in Jurong Spring Zone A RC Community Garden

For more information on building wheelchair accessible planter beds, refer to 'Design Guidelines for Therapeutic Gardens in Singapore',
www.nparks.gov.sg/gardens-parks-and-nature/therapeutic-gardens/research-and-design-guidelines

How to Fill A Raised Planter Bed

Here is a guide on filling raised planter beds.



Steps:

1. Place a layer of drainage cells at the bottom of the bed, which will prevent excessive amounts of water from ponding within the bed. Cover the drainage cells with a landscape fabric layer (geotextile).

2. Add the preferred soil mix. The group may purchase a commercial soil mix or produce their own ASM. Adding mature organic matter will help to improve the soil's condition and structure, enhance moisture retention, and encourage beneficial microbes, fungi and insects, which will help loosen and enrich the soil. Gardeners can also add worm castings, kelp meal, bone meal or processed chicken manure as organic fertilisers to boost the growth of their plants. Mix them into the soil as directed by the manufacturer.

3. Plant the bed with the desired plants and place a layer of mulch around the plants and across the top of the bed. This will help keep the soil moist and suppress the growth of weeds. Coco coir fibre makes an excellent mulching material.

Focal Points and Key Features

Sitting areas, patios and decks are enjoyable places to gather and can make a community garden a more pleasant space. Creating focal points with interesting arrangements of eye-catching plants or decorative garden structures like sculptures can make a community garden more aesthetically pleasing.

Decorative garden structures

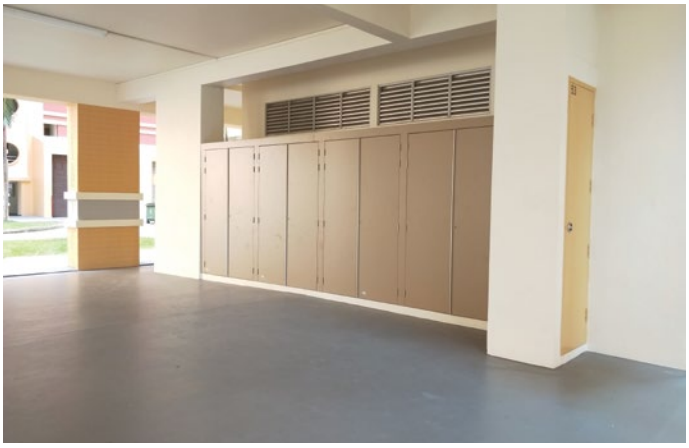
Strong focal point to encourage exploration

Focal point to draw visitors into the garden

Strong focal point to enliven the garden

Garden Storage

A community garden should include storage space to store tools and keep the garden tidy. Unused pots, dishes, pails and containers should be kept in a dry, sheltered area to prevent water from accumulating in them.



Storage built at a void deck

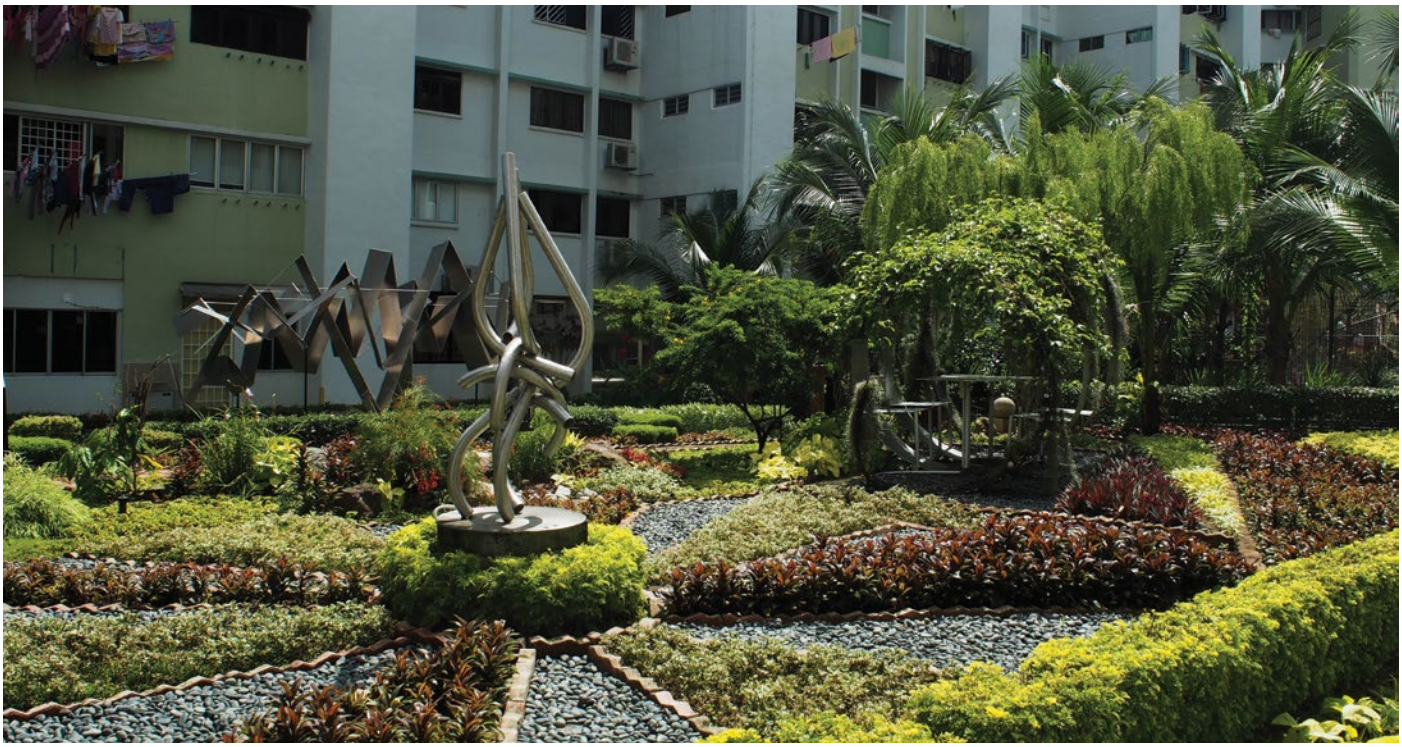
Concrete storage

Stand-alone storage unit

Storage built underneath planter beds

Permanent Hardscape Features

Before installing permanent structures, consider their function, material and size. Installing a hardscape is a long-term investment in the functionality and aesthetic appeal of the garden. Typically, the hardscape is designed first, and the plants are incorporated later to soften and fit into the community garden space.



Architectural structures at Bukit Batok Zone 2 RC – Cosy Garden

Circular concrete planter edge – Trivellis Green RN

PLANT AND REFINE YOUR GARDEN

The next step is selecting your plants and refining your garden. You can do this through the installation of edging and/or irrigation (if desired), demarcation of the garden (if needed), and the placement of signs and notices about the garden.

Considerations for Choosing Your Plants

Conditions within the site will affect the types of plants that can be grown in each area of the garden. The group should select their plants based on the following considerations:

- **Amount of sunlight** – Most plants need to receive at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight every day; hence, the sunniest planting beds are recommended for sun loving plants such as edibles. If there are areas of the garden that do not receive this much sunlight, the group may choose to grow foliage plants or other ornamental plants.

- **Soil conditions** – Fertile and well-draining soil is essential as this will allow plants to take up nutrients rapidly and prevent root rot. Condition and amend the soil with other media such as organic material to achieve the ideal growing medium.

- **Water** – It is crucial to have a nearby water source and understand the plants' watering requirements. The frequency of watering will depend on the prevailing environmental conditions and plant choice. Introducing a drip irrigation system will help to sustain and ensure the frequency of watering.

- **Air Circulation** – Good airflow between plants can help to reduce pests in your garden. Poor airflow creates a damp and humid environment for pests such as garden snails. Therefore, plants should be spaced out properly within the garden.

- **Available Space** – Proper planning and efficient use of space will maximise the community garden's yield. Having a clear intention and function for the garden will prevent wasting valuable space.

- **Amount of Time** – The amount of time required to maintain your garden, including watering, fertilising and weeding, will depend on the plants that you grow and the size of the planting area.

Use of Colour in Plant Selection

Community gardens can be colourful and attractive, or soothing and calming, by applying the colour wheel in the plant selection process.

Warm Colours

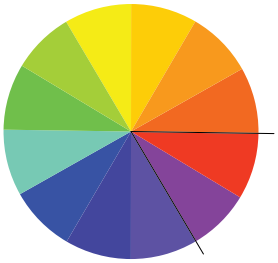
Warm colours such as red, orange and yellow stimulate the mind and excite the senses. Selecting plants with warm colours such as sunflowers, roses and lantanas will evoke feelings of happiness and optimism and draw attention to the community garden.

Cool Colours

Cool colours such as violet, blue and green create a calming and relaxing effect. Selecting plants with cool colours such as foliage plants and blue-flowering species such as the Blue Pea will help develop a sense of tranquillity in the community garden.

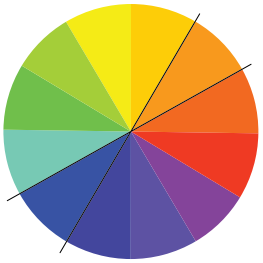
Corresponding and Complementary Colours

Adding colours to the landscape can make the garden more attractive. Make use of the colour wheel to decide on different colour combinations, depending on the intended effect. Corresponding or adjacent colours are groups of colours next to each other on the colour wheel, while complementary colours are opposite each other and create a strong contrast.



Corresponding Colours

A corresponding or related colour scheme uses colours and shades that are next to each other on the colour wheel, such as red and violet. This type of colour scheme is richer, with more variety than a monotone scheme.



Complementary Colours

A complementary colour scheme uses colours that are opposite each other, such as blue and orange. Contrast is created by using cool colours against warm ones.

Irrigation System

The community gardening group can consider putting in an irrigation system to reduce the time and energy needed for manual watering. However, the group should bear in mind that an irrigation system will not ensure that every plant in the garden will be watered. Programmable timers and smart controls can be used to allow the gardeners to set different schedules for different plots or plants in the garden.

Overhead type of sprinkler system at Longvale RN – Our Kampong Farm

Overhead type of sprinkler system at Longvale RN – Our Kampong Farm

Overhead type of sprinkler system at Teck Ghee Jubilee RN

Temporary Structures

Garden Bed Edging

Key elements to consider when selecting edging material are structural integrity, aesthetic value and cost. For community gardens with high foot traffic, bricks and natural stone pavers are often selected for their aesthetic qualities and durability. Here are some examples of different materials that can be used for edging and their respective characteristics.

- **Bricks** fit with many different garden styles and come in assorted sizes and colours. They are used in both straight garden beds and curved ones.
- **Timber**, while being a cheap material, is not long lasting. More rigid materials such as stone or bricks will be more expensive but will give the community garden an extended life if laid properly.
- **Metal** edging is flexible enough to create both gentle and tight curves, and there's a wide enough range to make it suitable for most applications.
- **Granite** is probably the most widely used natural stone for pavers, mainly because it is incredibly durable and comes in neutral colours.
- **Stone** pavers can be 'cropped' or tumbled for a more textured, natural appearance or cut for a more contemporary look. Stone pavers need to be installed with adequate substructure and proper footings.
- **Plastic** is one of the cheapest edging materials and often comes in different colours. Many plastic edging options need to be replaced every few years because they will flake or crack as they become brittle in the sun.

Brick edging

Brick edging

Raised timber and metal edging

Raised timber edging

Granite edging

Plastic edging

Trellises

The community gardening group can make use of structures such as trellises to support climbing plants. Such structures must be stabilised using deep-set poles or weights such as concrete footing and embedded into the ground.

Metal trellis for edible climbers

PVC trellis for edible plants

Bamboo trellis for flowering climbers

Wooden trellis for flowering climbers

Garden Netting

Garden netting can also be attached to netting frames and trellises to prevent pests from damaging plants, to protect plants from heavy rain, and to provide shade for young or tender plants. Netting frames should be stable, with nets pulled taut across the edges. The colour of the garden netting will affect the amount of sunlight reaching the plants. White netting will let the most light through, while black mesh will provide more shade.

Fine nets to prevent pests from damaging the plants

Nets used to provide shade for the plants

Kaki Bukit Ville RN – Ville Eco

PCF Sparkletots @ Fengshan Blk 184 (CC)

Demarcation of the Garden

Fenceless Community Gardens

Community gardens that are located within HDB lands are for public use and should be accessible to all residents to enjoy the space. Outside of HDB lands, community gardening groups may also prefer to keep their gardens open to encourage visitors and other members of the community to get involved.

Jurong Spring Zone A RC Community Garden

Sembawang West Zone B RN Community Garden

Peripheral Planting

The community gardening group can use soft hedging and other peripheral plantings to demarcate the garden. Adding plants along the edges of the garden will soften the existing hardscape. Many community gardening groups plant edible plants and herbs and spices to share with non-gardeners, while other community gardening groups will incorporate flowering plants into the garden's periphery for a splash of colour and to attract pollinators.

Limau Estate NC – Bedok Terrace Playground Community Garden

Bukit Batok Zone 2 RN – Lush Garden

Signs and Notices

Signs

Signs can be put up to notify the public about the community garden's opening hours. The group may also consider putting up signs or posters to inform residents and visitors to contact the garden leaders for plants and gardening related matters.

A DIY sign indicating the opening hours of a garden

An NParks-provided welcome sign with a contact number for enquiries

Notice Boards

Notice boards in shared spaces such as void decks are suitable places to inform the community about upcoming garden events and activities. If a notice board is not already available in the vicinity of the garden, the gardening group may like to install one. The use of notice boards will facilitate good communication that will help to build strong relationships amongst the gardening group and also with other residents of the community.

Visible notice boards improve communication between gardeners

Notice boards in open spaces should be able to withstand weather conditions

3 MAINTAINING AND SUSTAINING A COMMUNITY GARDEN

MAINTAIN AND SUSTAIN YOUR GARDEN

Ensuring that your community garden is sustainable over the long term will involve efforts to maintain safety, encourage good gardening etiquette, and plan and promote activities and events to keep the gardeners engaged.

Safety

The community gardening group should develop clear instructions and information on garden safety. It is a good idea to conduct simple risk assessments periodically, especially for children and the elderly. Some of the critical areas that the group should keep a lookout for are given below.

- Footpaths, garden edging, planter beds and other **infrastructure** should be free from damage and should not have sharp edges.

- All **garden tools** should be stored neatly away to avoid tripping hazards and collection of water.

Garden tools should be kept tidy

Garden tools should be organised to encourage garden safety

Racks and hooks can be used to organise and store gardening tools

A strong wire frame can be used to hang gardening tools

Sustaining Interest in a Community Garden

As community gardens are in public spaces, it is important to adopt good gardening practices. This will keep the garden safe for the community, healthy and productive, while helping to foster a positive attitude and strengthen the bond between community gardeners. Here are a few good gardening tips.

1. Engage the community gardeners
Maintain the long-term interest of the gardening group by creating ongoing activities and learning opportunities.

2. Grow an inclusive community
Encourage the gardening group to share their skills and knowledge related to gardening, cooking, nutrition and health.

3. Attract new participants
Engage nearby residents by holding events and celebrations in the community garden.

4. Build community relationships
Host simple social events such as potlucks to encourage social interaction among the participants.

5. Conduct regular garden maintenance
Keep the garden free of weeds and regularly trimmed. Paths should be kept level and clear to allow visitors to access all areas of the garden.

Refer to Annex 2 for 'Tips on Creating and Maintaining A Successful Community Garden'

Gardening activities bring people together

A community garden is a place for people of all walks of life to come together

Gardening creates oppotunities for learning

Keeping the garden free of weeds will create a pleasant environment

Promotion of Garden Activities

Having a calendar of events and activities will help to sustain the interest of the community gardeners. Networking sessions with fellow community gardening groups in other housing estates will facilitate good self-help support groups and opportunities to learn from one another. Here is an example of how you could organise your events and activities.

2021

MONTH / WEEK	JAN – MAR	APR – JUN	JUL – SEP	OCT – DEC
1				
2				
3				
4				

Legend

Garden Launch

Garden Workshops

Promotional posts through social media

Garden Tours and Visits

Garden Harvests

ANNEX 1
COMMUNITY GARDEN DESIGN SELF-ASSESSMENT LIST

COMMUNITY IN BLOOM
Community Garden Design Self-Assessment List

Please submit the completed form, the preliminary garden design and any related inquiries to **communityinbloom@nparks.gov.sg.** All proposed infrastructure should comply with the current requirements from the relevant authorities. For more information on design consideration, visit our website at **www.nparks.gov.sg/cib**

Name of RC/RN: _____ Name of TC: _____

Location of Garden: _____

Garden Type (please circle) : Allotment / Communal / Mix of allotment and communal

Please put a tick in the box if the design fulfils the description. Otherwise, please provide an explanation under the remarks section.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS	Tick (√)	Remarks
1) Sunlight Ensure that the selected site receives adequate sunlight. The selected site should receive unobstructed 6 to 8 hours of sunlight daily. Observe the site in the morning, at noon, and in the late afternoon to determine the sun's path and asses potential obstructions from existing trees and buildings.		
2) Water Point There should be available water points for use within the garden as water is key to the survival of a community garden. Each water point should have a serving radius of 7.5 m. A water point can come in the form of a tap with a hose for watering plants and a wash basin for gardeners to wash their hands and vegetable harvests.		
3) Drainage Adequate drainage and sumps should be provided to avoid water ponding and stagnant water. These drains and sumps can be naturalised, such as in vegetated swales and rock swales, etc.		
4) Soil All planters should be backfilled with an Approved Soil Mixture (ASM) or suitable potting mix. Ensure soil mix is free from debris such as concrete, rocks and rubbish.		
5) Planter Beds Planters should be provided in the garden with a retaining wall of a minimum height of 0.2 m and a maximum height of 0.9 m. The recommended measurement of the planter beds is 1 m (width) x 2.2 m (length), to allow easy access to all sides of planter beds where possible. The selected material for the planter beds should be easy to maintain. It is highly recommended that planter beds are built to enable water to drain directly into the ground ('true ground construction') for better drainage.		

ANNEX 1
COMMUNITY GARDEN DESIGN SELF-ASSESSMENT LIST

COMMUNITY IN BLOOM
Community Garden Design Self-Assessment List

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS	Tick (√)	Remarks
6) Footpaths and Access The main footpath should have a minimum width of 0.9 m, and secondary paths should have a minimum width of 0.4 m. Minimum width of 1.2 m to 1.5 m is needed for wheelchair accessible areas. All footpaths should be easily accessible, safe and levelled with a gentle gradient towards the edge to allow water to drain off.		
7) Community Bonding Space For a garden with an area above 100 m^2, allocate 10% or the community's garden space to bond and interact. Bonding spaces can also be allocated within 50 m of the garden entrance to facilitate garden events and other social activities. A separate utility meter may be installed if required. Provision of electrical access point under sheltered space is recommended.		
8) Storage Storage spaces should be provided within the proximity of the garden. These storage spaces must be able to store small gardening tools such as hand spades and rakes when not in use. Integrate the storage space within the planter beds where possible. Alternatively, a separate storage space such as a storage shed can be considered. *For Allotment Gardens, the number of storage units should correspond to the number of planter beds. Each allotment garden unit should have access to a minimum of 0.15 m^3 of storage space for small gardening tools.*		
9) Fenceless or Peripheral Planting Gardens are encouraged to be fenceless and accessible to all residents and members of the public to encourage inclusivity. Garden spaces to be demarcated by using hedges, espaliers, and peripheral planting. Additional measures such as signs with the name of the garden and key contact details, as well as CCTVs, can help to mitigate vandalism. In the event where fences are erected, they should not exceed 1 m in height, including footing.		

Please attach a preliminary garden design in the submission. For more information on gardening, please refer to NParks 'Gardening Resources' at **www.nparks.gov.sg/gardening/gardening-resources**.

Acknowledgement by
RC/RN Chairman and Stamp Date

Acknowledgement by
Town Council and Stamp Date

Acknowledgement by
NParks CIB Manager and Stamp Date

ANNEX 2
TIPS ON CREATING AND MAINTAINING A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY GARDEN

1. Engage and empower those involved in the community garden at every stage of planning, designing and managing the community garden.
2. Create sub-committees to manage and grow the community gardening group.
3. Identify and acknowledge the needs of the community gardening group including funding and training.
4. Finalise the garden house-rules, put them in writing and place them in a visible area as a reminder to the gardening group.
5. Water plants at ground level as wet leaves are more susceptible to pests and disease.
6. Remove dead plant material as it can harbour pests and disease.
7. Consider conducting a soil test to analyse the nutrients and minerals in the current setting.
8. Plan and share the fertilising schedule with the community gardening group.
9. Inspect plants regularly to detect pests and disease early.
10. Promote beneficial insects to help prevent or control pests in the garden.

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ABOUT COMMUNITY IN BLOOM

Community in Bloom (CIB) is a programme that was launched by the National Parks Board (NParks) in 2005. It aims to nurture a gardening culture among Singaporeans by encouraging and facilitating community gardening efforts. Through gardening, individuals can come together to build community bonds and strengthen social resilience in our City in Nature.

For more information on the CIB programme, visit our website at **www.nparks.gov.sg/cib** or email us at **Communityinbloom@nparks.gov.sg.**

Visit NParks Flora & Fauna Web at **www.nparks.gov.sg/florafaunaweb** for more information on plants in Singapore.

For more gardening resources and tips, visit **go.gov.sg/gardening-resources**.

To learn more about our City in Nature, visit **www.nparks.gov.sg/CityInNature**

Share your love for nature and animals at
#NParksBuzz #AnimalBuzzSG