

# HOW TO START A COMMUNITY GARDEN



APRIL 11TH, 2012  
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
SEAWAY VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

## WHO AM I?

TERRI O'NEILL  
COMMUNITY GARDENING NETWORK COORDINATOR  
JUST FOOD  
[WWW.JUSTFOOD.CA](http://WWW.JUSTFOOD.CA)

613-699-6850 X12  
[COMMUNITYGARDENING@JUSTFOOD.CA](mailto:COMMUNITYGARDENING@JUSTFOOD.CA)

2389 PEPIN COURT IN OTTAWA



## JUST FOOD

- UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION WORKING TOWARDS A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM IN OTTAWA
- PROJECTS THROUGH JUST FOOD:
  - OTTAWA BUY LOCAL, GROW LOCAL FOOD GUIDE
  - SAVOUR OTTAWA
  - FOOD FOR ALL: FOOD POLICY AND PLANNING
  - FOOD AND SUSTAINABILITY HUB
  - FARMER TRAINING & SUPPORT
  - COMMUNITY GARDENING NETWORK OF OTTAWA



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## BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY GARDENING

- FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
- ACCESS TO GARDENING SPACE
- ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



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## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GARDEN?

- ALLOTMENT GARDEN VS.
- COMMUNAL GARDEN VS.
- COMMUNITY GARDEN



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## WHAT YOU NEED WHEN STARTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN

- A GARDEN TEAM
- COMMUNITY SUPPORT
- LAND
- WATER
- WORKING WITH THE LAND-OWNER
- COMMON CHALLENGES WITH COMMUNITY GARDENS
- WORKING WITH THE CITY
- RESOURCES AVAILABLE



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## A GARDEN TEAM

- 2-3 CORE TEAM MEMBERS
- SHARE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
- SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES AND WORKLOAD
- SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES



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## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- POST NOTICES ON OUTBUILDINGS
- KNOCK ON DOORS
- COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS
- COMMUNITY GROUPS
- SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS
- BIA
- CITY COUNCILLOR



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## WHEN IT COMES TO SITE SELECTION...

- SUN EXPOSURE
- WIND EXPOSURE
- WHAT IS CURRENTLY ON TOP OF/UNDERNEATH THE SOIL
- TREES/ROOTS
- DRAINAGE
- COMPOSITION OF SOIL
  
- ACCESS
- LIGHTING
- IS THERE AN EXISTING BUILDING ON THE SITE
- IS THERE WATER ACCESS ON THE SITE



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## LAND OWNERSHIP

- PRIVATE OR PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTY
- LAND REGISTRY OFFICE
- HISTORICAL LAND USE



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## PRIVATE/CITY LANDOWNER

- MUST GO IN WITH A STRONG PROPOSAL AS TO WHY THEY WOULD SUPPORT A COMMUNITY GARDEN ON THEIR PROPERTY
- A VISION FOR THE SITE WHICH INCLUDES:
- KEY ORGANIZERS
- GARDEN PLAN – SITE PLAN, HOW THE GARDEN WILL BE MANAGED, WATER PLAN, DEMONSTRATED SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT (W. LETTERS)



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## COMMON CHALLENGES

- HOW LONG WILL THE GARDEN BE THERE FOR
- UPKEEP ON THE AESTHETICS OF THE GARDEN
- HOW TO DEAL WITH VANDALISM AND THEFT
- WHO IS LIABLE IF SOMEBODY GETS INJURED
- WHO WILL PAY FOR GARDEN TO BE BUILT (THIS INCLUDES WATER ACCESS)



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## AGREEMENTS

- PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (LANDOWNER/GARDEN GROUP)
- LICENSE OF OCCUPATION (CITY/GARDEN GROUP)
- GARDEN AGREEMENT (CITY/JUST FOOD/GARDEN GROUP)
- INSURANCE AGREEMENT (CITY/GARDEN GROUP)
- GARDENER AGREEMENT (GARDEN GROUP/GARDENERS)
- FUNDING AGREEMENT (JUST FOOD/GARDEN GROUP)



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## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- HOME DEPOT/RONA
- PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL SUPPLIERS
- FUNDING GRANTS THROUGH PRIVATE BUSINESS (HOME DEPOT, HELMAN'S, EVERGREEN)
- LOCAL NEWSPAPERS
- USED OTTAWA/KIJIKI
- MUNICIPAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



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## COMMUNITY GARDEN DEV. FUND

- 2009 – ANNUAL RENEWABLE FUND OF \$75,000 TO START NEW COMMUNITY GARDENS AND TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE EXISTING GARDENS IN THE NETWORK
- COMMUNITY FUNDING DIVISION AT THE CITY OF OTTAWA MANAGED AT JUST FOOD
- 2012 – TOTAL FUND WAS \$84,000
- BY THE END OF 2012, 8 NEW GARDENS WILL BE GROWING AND 22 GARDEN PROJECTS FUNDED



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## HOW THE CITY OF OTTAWA SUPPORTS CGS

- COMMUNITY GARDEN DEVELOPMENT FUND
- COMMUNITY GARDENING LIAISON AT THE CITY
- LIABILITY INSURANCE ON ALL COMMUNITY GARDEN (NOT JUST CITY PROPERTIES)
- MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPORT ON CITY SITES
- SOIL TESTING AND REMEDIATION SUPPORT



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## LEES AVE. COMMUNITY GARDEN

- FISKARS GARDEN MAKEOVER – 2/YEAR
- JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> ALL DAY EVENT
- BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACKS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE
- GARDEN DESIGNERS AND ENGINEERS WILL BE ONSITE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
- NEED 50 VOLUNTEERS TO BUILD THE GARDEN
- CGNINTERN@JUSTFOOD.CA

FISKARS®



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