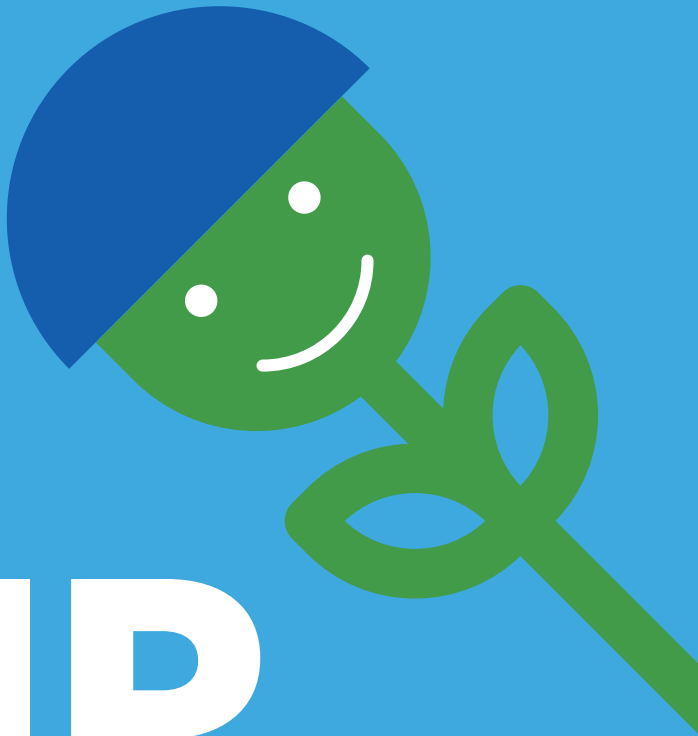


SUSTAINABILITY INDEX PLAN



SIP

Sustainability Index Plan (SIP)

Designed by
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06/30/2021

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SUSTAINABILITY INDEX PLAN

The Sustainability Index Plan (SIP) is a guide to facilitate the long-term planning and sustainability of Community Gardens as well as the sustainable reporting and management of these spaces.

The SIP is intended to offer community members and garden leadership with a tool to better track goals, progress and to self-evaluate their Community Gardens. The SIP is intended to allow Community Gardens to develop and foster sustainability goals within their spaces. Community Gardens are diverse spaces always evolving to address community needs and desires. They are often safe, green havens for community members that offer opportunities to escape the urban concrete neighborhoods many of us live in as well as a space that thrives with culture, art, food and people.

The Goals of the SIP is to:

- Facilitate tracking of goals and their progress
- Facilitate self-evaluation of gardens achievements and projects
- Facilitate long-term planning of gardens
- Facilitate reporting and sharing of achievements
- Facilitate the creation of sustainability goals
- Facilitate innovation and creativity

The SIP can be used by any community member or garden leadership to better understand where their space is in terms of sustainability and to better coordinate efforts to promote sustainable development and overall community well-being. The SIP is divided into eight Indexes or categories that focus on key themes related to Community Gardens. Each Index emphasizes different areas that are of importance to the community and the gardens themselves and to promote sustainability.

SIP SCORECARDS

The SIP also includes SIP Scorecards which are ways to track progress and measure achievements within individual community gardens. The SIP Scorecards allow community members and garden leadership a visible and easy way to self-evaluate and see where their garden's strengths are and what areas could use or need improvement. Each Community Garden is unique and engages with community members in different ways. The SIP Scorecards are not meant to encourage competition among Community Gardens but rather provide a template for reporting and sharing with leadership, management and each other their accomplishments and areas of improvements they are working on or planning around. The Scorecards include rankings such as Not

Started, Not Achieved, Behind Plan, On Plan and Achieved which allow users to understand where they stand in relation to their goals. It also includes a Target Date section that allows users to set expected or desired dates to achieve goals.

There are nine SIP Scorecards; a general SIP Scorecard with all eight Index and individual Scorecards for each Index.

HOW TO USE THE INDEX

The SIP contains 8 Indexes that represent key topics or themes related to Community Gardens and sustainability. Within each Index, there is an Introduction that explains the goals of the particular Index and its connection to the Sustainable Development Goals to connect Community Garden goals with larger sustainability efforts. Each Index contains several Indicators which are subcategories or focus areas related to the Index that help to refine sustainability goals. Furthermore, each Index contains Metrics which help to measure or track progress within each Index as well as Strategies which are recommended actions or approaches to achieve goals.

HOW TO USE THE SCORECARD

SIP Scorecards are designed to allow for easy reporting, tracking and sharing of achievements

and goals and to facilitate identifying areas within individual Community Gardens that could use increased planning or improvements.

For each Index, fill in the ranking for each Indicator to track progress within that particular Index. Then, use the SIP Scorecard to see where your community garden falls within the spectrum of sustainability and what areas your garden needs improvement in or has done amazing work in!

INDEX 01

COMMUNITY

Community Gardens are typically public spaces that foster environmental and cultural stewardship in neighborhoods. These spaces are often used for growing food, engaging in cultural or recreational activities and more. This Index emphasizes the community component of gardens including the people, the culture and the identity of the space and its users and how they interact, connect and learn within the garden. Community focuses on increasing community and regional participation in educational programming, engaging with broad and diverse community members in an equitable, sustainable and inclusive way, and building an enjoyable space for all.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Community Gardens are local spaces that play key roles in neighborhoods. This section highlights how gardens contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and to connect the local mission, values and goals to local, national and global sustainability efforts.

EDUCATION

Promote and offer educational programs and learning workshops that are inclusive, accessible and equitable to all in subjects important to the community such as food, housing and more.

METRICS

- Number of educational programming events your garden offers
- Number of educational workshops offered by others in your garden
- Number of students/youth engaging in these events
- Number of schools/community organizations partnered with
- Number of people from the community participating in educational programming
- Methods for deciding what educational opportunities to offer

STRATEGIES

- Partner with local schools to host events
- Offer programming led by youth
- Conduct community surveys to understand what workshops to offer
- Offer diverse educational opportunities related to garden and community desires (food photography course anyone!?)

PUBLIC EVENTS

Promote and offer public events steered towards but not limited to environmental stewardship and cultural and recreational activities and foster opportunities for community engagement.

METRICS

- Number of events your garden host
- Number of people who visit your garden
- Number of people that attend events at your garden
- Number of people who engage with your garden
- Number of events related to food
- Number of events related to cultural activities/community events
- Number of events related to environmental stewardship

STRATEGIES

- Partner with local community-based organizations to host events
- Host garden clean-up days, planting days and other garden-related events
- Block Parties
- Host seasonal events like outdoor movie nights, concerts, performances, etc
- Host a food pantry or food giveaway

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Promote and offer opportunities for diverse and broad community members to engage and interact in and with.

METRICS

- Number of community members who volunteer at garden
- Number of people outside the community who attend events
- Number of people who attend your events/visit garden by demographics; age, race, gender, etc.
- Number of community members who engage with your garden
- outside of the garden via outreach initiatives (ex. surveys, etc)
- Number of outreach efforts

STRATEGIES

- Host a community townhall
- Develop outreach for the garden that collects feedback from community members
- Coordinate Community Assessment Surveys
- Host events targeted for different audiences based on community demographics

INFORMATION SHARING

Promote the sharing of information related to opportunities of interest to the community including but not limited to public events, jobs, resources and services in a visible and accessible way.

METRICS

- Number of platforms used to share information
- Number of times you share information via platforms
- Number of viewers/respondents you have

STRATEGIES

- Use Social Media for outreach and information sharing including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and others.
- Create a community newsletter or e-blast
- Create a community Whatsapp Chat or other platform
- Advertise events and share information via flyers, posters, etc in communal spaces both in and outside garden

BROADER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Promote and encourage engagement and interactions with; neighboring communities, the borough, city, state and beyond.

METRICS

- Number of events you partner with or co-host
- Number of events you promote not related to your garden or direct community
- Number of campaigns, coalitions or groups you participate with

- Number of local conferences, meetings, etc that your garden leadership attend or participate with

STRATEGIES

- Join a community coalition who shares similar values
- Promote other garden's events or sustainability initiatives within your borough or city
- Participate in city-wide initiatives related to gardening, food, etc

ART/CULTURE

Promote and offer opportunities that foster art and culture appropriate to the communities culture and interest.

METRICS

- Number of cultural events you host
- Number of artistic events you host
- Number of art projects you offer or engage with
- Number of artist/creatives that engage with your garden
- Number of cultural/artistic events you participate in

STRATEGIES

- Murals, murals, and more murals!
- Host a movie night or live-performances
- Karaoke nights!

- Paint-and-sips?!
- Engage in broader community events like parades, festivals, etc
- Engage or hire a Artist in Residence
- Host arts and crafts events at garden

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Promote and offer opportunities that build youth leadership skills and that engage with community youth of all ages, incomes, race, gender, etc.

METRICS

- Number of youths who volunteer at garden
- Number of youths who attend events
- Number of programming targeted at youths
- Number of youth-targeted events you host
- Number of youth-targeted events your garden attends
- Number of youth-led events, projects, etc

STRATEGIES

- Partner with local schools to host events
- Offer your garden as a recreational space for schools or local youth organizations
- Develop an Urban Agriculture program for youth
- Host youth-oriented events

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Promote and offer opportunities for intergenerational programming that allows for interactions among people of all ages including Seniors, Youth and Children.

METRICS

- Number of Senior programming/events
- Number of Seniors who engage in space
- Number of events/workshops with both Youth and Seniors

STRATEGIES

- Partner with local senior centers
- Offer your garden as a recreational space for Seniors to recreate during the day
- Develop programming that partners Youth and Seniors
- Partner with local Home-Health Aide providers

GARDEN IDENTITY

Promote a sense of place and identity within the garden that connects to the community and community members that is diverse, inclusive and equitable.

METRICS

- Number of places/locations in which garden name is visible
- Number of organizations promoting your events, workshops or general garden.

STRATEGIES

- Give the garden a name and make it visible!
- Create a communication platform to share information
- Develop art projects that promote the gardens community and identity
- Create a garden logo and vision statement
- Create branding products such as reusable totes

INDEX 02
HEALTH &
WELL-BEING

Community Gardens are typically public spaces that foster environmental and cultural stewardship in neighborhoods. These spaces are often used for growing food, engaging in cultural or recreational activities and more. This Index focuses on the physical, mental, spiritual, emotional and communal well-being and health of the community. Health and Well-Being includes themes such as Nutrition, Healing, Therapy and general sense of Happiness.

Sustainable Development Goals:

Community Gardens are local spaces that play key roles in neighborhoods. This section highlights how gardens contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and to connect the local mission, values and goals to local, national and global sustainability efforts.

FOOD SECURITY

Promote the sustainable and equitable growth, production, consumption and distribution of food, especially in underserved communities and facilitate the access to healthy food options.

METRICS

- Amount of food given out at your space
- Amount of food pantries/food give aways that occur in your space
- Kinds of foods you distribute

- Number of partners in food distribution and growth
- Number of people who attend food-related events
- Amount of food you grow on-site
- Amount of food you distribute to the community
- Number of food-related programs offered
- Number of planting beds designated to growing food
- Number of food-related partnerships

STRATEGIES

- Partner with Food Banks to host giveaways
- Grow culturally appropriate and healthy foods
- Develop a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program
- Give out Community Health Bucks
- Food Cooking Workshops and Healthy Food information sharing
- Share other food giveaways in the neighborhood
- Healthy Beverage Zone!

COMFORT

Promote the physical and mental comfort of community members by reducing barriers that create discomfort and improving the space to create more pleasant experiences for all.

METRICS

- Amount of seating options available on-site

- Amount of seating available
- Bathrooms located on-site or nearby
- Options for shade
- Cooling options on-site

STRATEGIES

- Create shading on-site
- Plant trees on-site
- Pop-Up Cooling mechanisms like misters
- Provide information on near-by cooling centers or local initiatives for staying cool during hot weather
- Provide information about staying warm in cold weather
- Diverse options for seating that includes seating for people with different functional needs.
- No Smoking Zone
- Restriction on Noise levels

SAFETY

Promote the public safety of the garden and community by creating secure and enjoyable spaces for all.

METRICS

- Safety protocols in place
- Visible garden open hours/days
- Proper storage of tools

STRATEGIES

- Share information of garden open hours and days
- Collect input on how safe gardens are
- Properly store away tools when not in use
- Have a First-Aid Kit on-site
- Have Trained CPR Trained Garden leaders
- Have Needle Drop-Off containers near Garden if this is an issue in your community and garden
- Train community leaders in Overdose Prevention and Reversal

MENTAL HEALTH

Promote the mental well-being of the community by offering opportunities for therapeutic experiences and spaces.

METRICS

- Amount of quiet spaces available within your space
- Therapeutic programming—how many and how often

STRATEGIES

- Provide quiet hours/days within the space
- Offer therapeutic programming or workshops such as yoga, acupuncture and other wellness workshops
- Provide information on local and regional mental-health resources and services

- Train staff and open to others Mental Health First-Aid trainings offered by the City

PLAY & RECREATION

Promote and offer opportunities for the community to enjoy themselves and interact with each other in a respectful and leisurely way.

METRICS

- Number of sport or other recreational programming available
- Amount of play area or facilities available

STRATEGIES

- Add a small playground or games to your site
- Offer recreational or sport workshops
- Domino tables!
- Community plays or movie night
- Start a running group!

INDEX 03
INCLUSIVITY &
ACCESSIBILITY

Community Gardens are typically public spaces that foster environmental and cultural stewardship in neighborhoods. These spaces are often used for growing food, engaging in cultural or recreational activities and more. This Index focuses on promoting a space that is accessible, inclusive and diverse that promotes enjoyable experiences for a broad and diverse audience and facilitates easy circulation throughout the space.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Community Gardens are local spaces that play key roles in neighborhoods. This section highlights how gardens contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and to connect the local mission, values and goals to local, national and global sustainability efforts.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Promote and offer opportunities for the physical accessibility and accommodation of people with functional needs and disabilities in accordance to ADA standards for the enjoyment and access to the space.

Metrics:

- Site is ADA accessible
- Garden entrance/exit clearly indicated/visible
- Garden rules/policies or requirements clearly visible

STRATEGIES

- Build ADA accessible ramps
- Clearly mark entrances/exits into space

SIGNAGE AND CIRCULATION

Promote visible and navigable signage that is attractive within the space and promote easy circulation throughout the space.

METRICS

- Amount of signs
- Amount of way finding
- Clear paths in gardens
- Clearly marked entrances and exits

STRATEGIES

- Partner with local artist or youth to design creative signs
- Install signs/wayfinding in diverse languages
- Install or have available garden map that highlights important features
- such as entrance, bathroom, etc
- Install maps or clear path markers

INCLUSIVITY AND MEMBERSHIP

Promote an inclusive and equitable space for all members of the community and beyond.

METRICS

- Amount of languages signs are available in
- Amount of people from within the community and beyond that engage with the space
- Demographic diversity represented using the space
- Amount of people who can access your garden
- Amount of garden members

STRATEGIES

- Celebrate diverse cultural festivities on site
- Incorporate multi-languages into space in signs, newsletters, mural, etc

INDEX 04

RESILIENCY

Community Gardens are typically public spaces that foster environmental and cultural stewardship in neighborhoods. These spaces are often used for growing food, engaging in cultural or recreational activities and more. This Index focuses on the importance of climate change in today's society and seeks to encourage sustainable and resilient approaches to address the garden's needs without compromising the needs of future garden users.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Community Gardens are local spaces that play key roles in neighborhoods. This section highlights how gardens contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and to connect the local mission, values and goals to local, national and global sustainability efforts.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Promote opportunities to reduce risk and challenges related to climate change including but not limited to extreme heat, flooding, and more.

METRICS

- Actions in place to address climate change
- Actions in place to address extreme heat
- Actions in place to address flooding
- Garden has an emergency plan

STRATEGIES

- Have a CERT and develop Disaster-Relief plan
- Install cooling mechanism on-site for the summer such as misters, etc
- Promote green infrastructure where possible such as rain gardens, bioswales, etc
- Develop a Carbon Footprint Reduction Plan or Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory to track emissions

WATER

Promote the sustainable use & management of water.

METRICS

- Rain water harvesting system
- Amount of water your garden consumes
- Amount of water your garden recycles
- Amount of water collected on-site

STRATEGIES

- Install rain water cisterns or other rain water harvesting systems
- Install energy-efficient irrigation system
- Plant native vegetation that require less water

ENERGY

Promote the consumption of clean-energy on site.

METRICS

- Amount of energy used on-site
- Amount of energy coming from fossil fuels
- Amount of energy coming from renewable resources
- Amount of energy-efficient appliances on-site

STRATEGIES

- Install energy-efficient appliance where possible such as lightbulbs
- Install renewable energy on-site such as solar panels
- Purchase REC's

BIODIVERSITY

Promote and encourage opportunities for biodiversity on-site.

METRICS

- Amount of pollinators planting available
- Amount of biodiversity existing on-site
- Number of different species spotted in your garden
- Amount of vegetation present
- Variety of pollinators present or spotted on-site.

STRATEGIES

- Include vegetation that attracts natural pollinators
- Plant native vegetation

- BEES!
- Install bird-houses or bird-feeders

INDEX 05

GROWTH

Community Gardens are typically public spaces that foster environmental and cultural stewardship in neighborhoods. These spaces are often used for growing food, engaging in cultural or recreational activities and more. This Index focuses on the economic, social and environmental growth of the garden space.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Community Gardens are local spaces that play key roles in neighborhoods. This section highlights how gardens contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and to connect the local mission, values and goals to local, national and global sustainability efforts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Promote and offer opportunities for economic development such as connections or interactions with businesses, entrepreneurs and more as well as promote and pursue the acquisition of funds and grants for the well-being and growth of the garden space

METRICS

- Number of partners/work with local businesses
- Amount of revenue sources
- Amount grants applied to
- Amount of funds obtained

- Amount of fundraising events hosted
- Amount of donors

STRATEGIES

- Offer space for local entrepreneurs
- Partner with local businesses to use outdoor space during warm weather
- Host fundraising events such as movie nights, concerts, workshops, etc
- Apply for grants to offer programming, do clean-ups, gardening, etc
- Develop a Membership and/or Donating system
- Bake Sales and Community BBQ's!

PROGRAMMING

Promote the growth of programming that is inclusive and diverse in relation to community needs.

METRICS

- Amount of total programming offered
- Amount of total workshops offered
- Amount of programming suggested by community members

STRATEGIES

- Offer diverse programming catered towards different populations and interest

- Partner with local organizations or institutions to offer diverse workshops on-site

VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS AND VACANCIES

Promote community members visiting and volunteering within the space and filling garden needs with local community members.

METRICS

- Amount of volunteers engaging in garden space
- Amount of visitors engaging in garden space
- Amount of community members in direct leadership roles within garden space
- Amount of visitors directly from community
- Amount of volunteers directly from community

STRATEGIES

- Offer leadership roles to community members first
- Promote all garden-related programming, events etc within the community
- Encourage all visitors and volunteers to bring a friend!

INDEX 06

GOVERNANCE

Community Gardens are typically public spaces that foster environmental and cultural stewardship in neighborhoods. These spaces are often used for growing food, engaging in cultural or recreational activities and more. This Index focuses on how the space is managed, maintained and what regulations are in place. Governance also focuses on transparency, inclusivity and equity.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Community Gardens are local spaces that play key roles in neighborhoods. This section highlights how gardens contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and to connect the local mission, values and goals to local, national and global sustainability efforts.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Promote clear and fair rules and regulations that facilitate the proper use and enjoyment of the garden for all.

METRICS

- Number of rules and regulations in place
- Places where rules and regulations are accessible or visible
- Number of people who enforce rules & regulations

STRATEGIES

- Review rules and regulations with community members and have them vote in favor or opposed.
- Post rules and regulations in a visible location- make it fun!
- Annually, bi-annually or quarterly send out notifications to remind community members of garden space rules and regulations.

REPORTING AND SHARING

Promote methods for reporting on garden needs, challenges and achievements and sharing these with the larger community.

METRICS

- Number of garden needs
- Number of garden achievements
- Number of reports submitted
- Number of people involved in reporting process

STRATEGIES

- Use the SIP Score cards to track projects and to develop Sustainability goals!
- Post on social media garden achievements
- Have local newspapers write stories about your garden or post ads.
- Share goals with other gardens and compare.

MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Promote the proper maintenance of the space that allows the garden to remain clean, safe and accessible and promote a fair and sustainable management of the garden that does not create burdens or challenges for the use of the garden or for garden leadership.

METRICS

- Number of times garden is cleaned
- Number of people involved in garden maintenance
- Number of people involved in garden management
- Number of meetings held in relation to management
- Number of people satisfied with gardens maintenance

STRATEGIES

- Develop a Maintenance Plan
- Host Community Clean-Ups to get community members involved
- Host Community Paint-Days or Renovation Days
- Partner with local schools for community service hours
- Designate Community Leaders to manage garden space

TRANSPARENCY

Promote transparency in regards to the regulations, maintenance and use of the garden space and create an environment where community members feel aware of all things related to the garden.

METRICS

- Amount of people involved in management
- Number of people satisfied with overall transparency
- Number of platforms for people to voice complaints
- Number of methods for follow-up

STRATEGIES

- Develop a system for people to file complaints— a Drop-Box?!
- Provide contact information of community leaders.
- Clearly address complaints either personally or publicly.
- Hold Garden Office Hours

INDEX 07
MATERIALS
MANAGEMENT

Community Gardens are typically public spaces that foster environmental and cultural stewardship in neighborhoods. These spaces are often used for growing food, engaging in cultural or recreational activities and more. This Index emphasizes the materials such as waste, soil, supplies and other materials that are used and consumed with the garden. Materials Management seeks to foster sustainable methods of procurement, usage and disposal of biological and technological nutrients within the site.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Community Gardens are local spaces that play key roles in neighborhoods. This section highlights how gardens contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and to connect the local mission, values and goals to local, national and global sustainability efforts.

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

Promote and offer opportunities for the procurement and usage of supplies and materials that are locally available and reduce unsustainable consumption within the garden.

METRICS

- Amount of supplies purchased
- Amount of local places where supplies are obtained

- Amount of supplies from recycled sources
- Amount of soil acquired at site
- Types of soil

STRATEGIES

- Purchase from local suppliers
- Purchase supplies that are recyclable, biodegradable, etc
- Donate unused supplies to other gardens that may need them
- Avoid toxic or hazardous materials
- Establish a **NO PLASTIC BAG** zone.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Promote sustainable methods for the disposal of undesirable materials within the garden and promote the reusing and recycling of materials within the space.

METRICS

- Amount of waste produced on-site
- Amount of litter collected on-site
- Amount of items recycled in garden
- Amount of compost garden produces
- Amount of compost garden intakes
- Amount of waste bins available on-site
- Amount of different wastebins available

STRATEGIES

- Provide various wastebins on-site; trash, recyclables, organics
- Partner with City to become a Compost Curbside Drop-off site
- Recycling drop-off site
- Offer composting and recycling workshops

PESTS MANAGEMENT

Promote the control and reduction of pests in a healthy and sustainable manner.

METRICS

- Amount of pests that are an issue at your site
- Pest management practices in place

STRATEGIES

- Participate in the City's Rat Academy
- Develop innovative ways for pests control such as planting undesirable plants for rodents
- Adopting a Garden Cat!

INDEX 08
INFRASTRUCTURE
& HORTICULTURE

Community Gardens are typically public spaces that foster environmental and cultural stewardship in neighborhoods. These spaces are often used for growing food, engaging in cultural or recreational activities and more. This Index emphasizes the physical components that facilitate the growth, use and management of the garden. Infrastructure promotes the easy functionality of the space while Horticulture promotes the actual growth of vegetation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Community Gardens are local spaces that play key roles in neighborhoods. This section highlights how gardens contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and to connect the local mission, values and goals to local, national and global sustainability efforts.

TOOLS AND FURNISHINGS

Promote the sustainable procurement and disposal of tools and promote accessible and comfortable seating and protective fences and other furnishings.

METRICS

- Amount of adequate supply of tools
- Types of tools
- Amount and type of tools needed
- Amount of benches/seating furnishings
- Amount of other furnishings available

- Amount of furnishings needed

STRATEGIES

- Host a “Design a Bench” competition
- Create a tool-lending program;
Millennials love the Sharing Economy!

TECHNOLOGY

Promote and offer opportunities for technological growth and functionality within the garden including internet access.

METRICS

- Wi-fi access
- Amount of other technology or social media
- Amount of Apps used for garden maintenance or management

STRATEGIES

- Offer free wi-fi for community members
- Promote garden space via social media
- Use apps and online tools for surveying, information sharing, etc
- Create an online newsletter or e-blast
- Create a website
- Develop short documentaries to celebrate your garden and capture the community’s vibrancy!

- Use solar powered or self-watering irrigation systems
- Timers!

LIGHTING

Promote adequate lighting and sun exposure that meets the needs of the site.

METRICS

- Amount of hours of direct sunlight the garden receives
- Best locations for sunlight on-site
- Amount of lighting fixtures on-site

STRATEGIES

- Plant vegetation based on seasons
- Install a greenhouse
- Re-organize garden space to best situate plantings around sun exposure
- Reduce shade around plantings
- Partner with local artists to install lighting features that are fun!

PLANTING

Promote the growth of vegetation on-site.

METRICS

- Amount of vegetation planted on-site

- Amount of vegetation/food harvested on-site
- Amount of planter-beds available
- Number of seeds planted

STRATEGIES

- Create an “Adopt-a-Plant” program
- Host Seasonal Planting Days
- Rotate vegetation that garden plants

GARDEN INNOVATION

Promote garden features that improve the space and create pleasurable experiences.

METRICS

- Amount of other garden features such as amphitheatres, fountains, etc
- New innovations/projects brought into garden space

STRATEGIES

- Install an amphitheatre for live performances
- Install fountains or water features
- Install a water fountain for drinking water
- Green walls!
- Vertical Gardens!
- Hydroponics!

APPENDIX

SUSTAINABILITY INDEX PLAN RESOURCE MAPPING**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. Community
2. Health and Well-Being
3. Inclusivity and Accessibility
4. Resiliency
5. Growth
6. Governance
7. Materials Management
8. Infrastructure + Horticulture

Connecting with New York City's networks of mutual aid, sharing knowledge, and building collective power is an important part of the sustainability of community gardens. This resource guide is intended to support the health, education, and organizational capacity of gardeners and their communities by providing tangible opportunities for partnerships, education, and resource sharing. The following inventory is organized by the type of services and opportunities provided to strengthen existing community gardens, start new gardens, and build grassroots partnerships in health, food justice, and horticulture. While the guide is focused on the South Bronx, many organizations included here work across New York City and beyond.

COMMUNITY**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING/ WORKSHOPS**

Green Thumb, the community gardening arm of NYC Parks Department, offers frequent virtual and in person workshops and talks, many of which are open to the public.

<https://greenthumb.nycgovparks.org/gardenevents.html>

Just Food's Community Food Education program offers educational training focused on different topics essential to combatting inequalities in food systems. These encompass healthy cooking and eating, food justice advocacy, and starting a community-based food project in your neighborhood.

<https://www.justfood.org/community-food-education>

Farm School NYC offers urban agriculture training for adults through certificate programs and individual courses. Courses are taught by experts in the field and focus on a wide range of topics from urban planting techniques, to food justice, to planning & design.

<http://www.farmschoolnyc.org/>

Grow NYC provides programming to more than 70,000 youth every year through recycling and sustainability programs, school garden initiatives and support, nutrition education, Greenmarket school tours, in-school curricula, environmental education, and more.

<https://www.grownyc.org/education>

The teaching garden at Governor's Island hosts school and youth group field trips as well as public programming on weekends such as tours, and garden and nutrition-related workshops.

<https://www.grownyc.org/gardens/manhattan/governors-island-teaching-garden>

NYBG Bronx Green-Up organizes different types of educational opportunities throughout the year for Bronx-based gardeners.

<https://www.nybg.org/gardens/bronx-green-up/learn/>

Offer a six-class horticulture certificate series designed to equip community gardeners, teachers, and city residents with the best organic techniques for growing vegetables safely and effectively, particularly in an urban setting.

<https://www.nybg.org/gardens/bronx-green-up/learn/certificate-programs/>

The Green Guerillas' Youth Empowerment Pipeline is a nine-month youth-driven training program that creates paths to employment and leadership within the food justice movement through skill-building workshops, engagement with community gardeners and urban farmers and leaders in the food justice movement.

<https://www.greenguerillas.org/youth-empowerment-pipeline>

ART/ CULTURE

Earth Celebrations applies the inspirational power of the arts to build community, collaboration, and action for ecological and social change through workshops, community events and programming, and education.

<https://earthcelebrations.com/>

Groundswell takes commissions from community organizations to develop unique partnerships rooted in their collaborative artmaking process. Each community partnership culminates in a public art project that reflects the group's mission and furthers its strategic objectives. Community commissions often take place at a partner organization's site.

<https://www.groundswell.nyc/programs/community-commissions>

TheBronxDirect is a local digital directory for Bronx-based artists, creatives, professionals and a place for posting jobs.

<https://thebronx.direct/>

INFORMATION SHARING AND BROADER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COALITIONS & ADVOCACY

The Bronx Land Trust is a nonprofit organization established by gardeners that supports and sustains community gardening in the Bronx through open meetings, a network of community partners, and information on community support efforts, local events, and activism in the Bronx.

<https://www.bronxlandtrust.org/>

The Bronx Canasta is a collaboration of six Bronx based food and social justice groups that together form an innovative food production and economic empowerment program.

<http://bronxcanasta.nyc/about-us>

La Familia Verde is a coalition of community gardens in the Crotona, East Tremont and West Farms neighborhoods of the Bronx whose mission is to sustain the environment and culture of their neighborhood through education, community service and horticulture. They support local gardens and build community through food and farm tours as well as block parties and garden events

<http://www.lafamiliaverde.org/>

Black Urban Growers is an organization committed to building

networks and community support for growers in both urban and rural settings. Through education and advocacy around food and farm issues, they nurture collective Black leadership.

<https://www.blackurbangrowers.org/about>

The New York Restoration Project forms grassroots partnerships with nonprofits and community groups to host community events in their gardens, build connections, and strengthen local mutual aid and food systems networks.

<https://www.nyrp.org/en/get-involved/organizational-partner/>

New York City Community Gardens Coalition promotes the preservation, creation, and empowerment of community gardens through education, advocacy, and grassroots organizing.

<https://nyccgc.org/>

ENGAGEMENT AND VISIONING RESOURCES/ TOOLKITS

New York Restoration Project publishes printable workbooks, tipsheets, and virtual interactive educational resources on their website.

<https://www.nyrp.org/en/resources/>

‘What’s Good in My Hood’ Workbook

https://www.nyrp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NYRP_WhatsGoodInMyHood_Workbook.pdf

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Just Food catalyzes action and creates change through learner-centered trainings, annual conferences, and network of small- to mid-scale regional farmers. Just Food maintains a robust

network of CSA sites and community-run farmers' markets, builds relationships, and fosters community food education in the city.

<https://www.justfood.org/>

GrowNYC's Greenmarkets provide regional farmers with opportunities to sell their fruits, vegetables and other products at our open-air farmers markets throughout New York City. They provide a range of accessible purchasing options and can help set up a new farmer's market in your neighborhood.

<https://www.grownyc.org/greenmarket>

La Familia Verde hosts weekly farmers markets in the Bronx throughout the summer season.

<http://www.lafamiliaverde.org/>

The Center for Agriculture and Food Systems' Farmers Market Legal Toolkit provides a host of resources for those interested in setting up and maintaining a farmers market in their community.

<https://farmersmarketlegaltoolkit.org/resources/>

Neighborhood Health Action Centers are community centers throughout NYC that provide training in areas such as Mental Health First-Aid, CPR, Overdose Prevention and Reversal and wellness programs as well as connect community members to numerous city-wide resources and services.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/neighborhood-health/action-center-tremont.page>

INCLUSIVITY & ACCESSIBILITY

Soul Fire Farm's website includes a variety of resources, guides, video series, training, and other sources of knowledge on food justice, dismantling racism, and liberation written and developed

by their team.

<https://www.soulfirefarm.org/resources/>

Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo have published an accessibility guide for community gardens focused on how ADA regulations create a solid basis for the principles of Universal Design in gardening. The guide can be found online here:

<https://vcgn.org/vcgn2020/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/AccessibleCommunityGardensGuide-GrassrootsGardensofBuffalo.pdf>

AccessibleGardens.com hosts a PDF library with guides for designing, building and maintaining accessible community gardens. This includes instructions for building accessible raised beds, information on sensory gardens, supporting intergenerational gardening, and more.

<https://accessiblegardens.org/resources/gold-test-page-pdf-files/>

RESILIENCY

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance is a citywide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low income neighborhoods and communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. They spearhead campaigns on waste equity, climate justice and community resiliency, and more.

<https://www.nyc-eja.org/>

GrowNYC has several informational and instructional guides for improving different aspects of green infrastructure in urban gardens.

The Green Infrastructure Toolkit is designed to educate homeowners, community gardeners and others interested in storm water management techniques which can help minimize the effects of rainfall on water bodies in cities that have combined sewers and other places that experience flooding and stormwater problems.

<https://www.grownyc.org/gardens/green-infrastructure-toolkit>

Additional materials such as a Resilient Garden Manual, Green Infrastructure guides, and city lot fact sheets can also be found on their website.

<https://www.grownyc.org/gardens/publications>

GROWTH

GrowNYC organizes group and individual volunteer opportunities at food access points across the city.

<https://www.grownyc.org/volunteer>

Through NYBG Bronx Green-Up, Bronx gardeners may request workshops on topics like seed starting, fruit tree care, weed identification, and more. Workshops are organized in tandem with Bronx Green-Up and hosted by gardens.

<https://www.nybg.org/gardens/bronx-green-up/learn/>

Bronx Green-Up also partners with the NYC Compost Project to host a variety of workshops and events each month. They also regularly share community events and resources on their website. Sign up for their monthly e-newsletter, which lists upcoming workshops and events, here:

<https://www.nybg.org/gardens/bronx-green-up/events/>

GreenThumb has a Garden Group Development Toolkit to assist garden leaders with leadership, financial management, and planning.

https://greenthumb.nycgovparks.org/news.html?news_id=497

Ioby is a crowdfunding platform that connects donors and volunteers to environmental projects in their neighborhoods to inspire new environmental knowledge and action in New York City.

<https://ioby.org/>

Green Guerillas' Council of Gardeners is an inclusive, cross-borough group of community gardeners coming together to voice the needs of gardeners, initiate collective action, seek funding opportunities, connect well-resourced gardens with under-resourced gardens, and connect seasoned leaders with emerging leaders

<https://www.greenguerillas.org/council-of-gardeners>

GOVERNANCE

Green Thumb hosts virtual and in-person events and posts publicly-accessible publications on garden governance, organization, and maintenance on their website. Becoming an official GreenThumb garden under Parks jurisdiction requires adherence to the governance structure (membership tracking, points of contact, regular public open hours) used by all GreenThumb gardens and enables access to all resources provided by the organization.

Their public Garden Group Development Toolkit aims to assist garden leaders (affiliated with GreenThumb or not) with leadership, financial management, and planning.

https://greenthumb.nycgovparks.org/news.html?news_id=497

Farming Concrete Data Collection Toolkit helps gardeners track output to showcase the benefits of their farm or garden, to improve and share their practice, and to raise awareness of their impact to funders and policymakers.

<https://farmingconcrete.org/>

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

GrowNYC has a series of recycling information & resources on their website. They also run regular Zero-Waste training.

<https://www.grownyc.org/recycling>

Cornell Waste Management Institute develops and shares research-based knowledge to help stakeholders - from farmers to policymakers - make sound decisions on managing organic residuals.

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/about.htm>

Cornell CALS Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities is a research and education partnership with New York's urban gardeners and others interested in healthy gardening. They help people make more informed decisions to address concerns about lead and other contaminants in gardens, farms, and other community spaces.

<https://blogs.cornell.edu/healthysoils/>

New York State Department of Health maintains several Community Garden Resources, including a raised bed toolkit, a costs and materials toolkit, and research on urban soils and produce which raises awareness around contamination and promotes growing fresh, healthy food in the city.

health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/garden/urban.htm

Department of Sanitation (DSNY) NYC Compost Project works to rebuild NYC's soils by providing New Yorkers with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to produce and use compost locally.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/our-work/reduce-re-use-recycle/community-composting>

Guides to Composting

<https://www.makecompost.nyc/makecompost>

The program organizes and maps Food Scrap Dropoff Sites across the city. You can also sign up to host a food scrap drop-off location in your community. The Compost Project will set you up with a bin and tools to compost and maintain the site yourself.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/services/food-scrap-and-yard-waste-page/nyc-food-scrap-drop-off-locations>

Services include compost deliveries, giveback events (paused due to COVID-19), and curbside composting (opt in with an online form or by calling 311 starting in October 2021).

NYBG Bronx Green-Up runs educational and certification programming, technical assistance (creating compost action plans, organizing volunteer workdays, troubleshooting), and low-cost compost equipment sales in the Bronx.

<https://www.nybg.org/gardens/bronx-green-up/nyc-compost-project/>

INFRASTRUCTURE

GrowNYC helps start new gardens and provides renovation assistance to existing gardens on a rolling basis. Fill out the request form to request assistance.

<https://www.grownyc.org/gardens/help-my-garden>

New York Restoration Project's Gardens for the City Program helps communities transform public spaces throughout New York City. They provide materials, horticultural knowledge, environmental education, labor, and expertise to help create community gardens and accessible landscapes in underserved neighborhoods.

<https://www.nyrp.org/en/get-involved/gardens-for-the-city/>

GrowNYC hosts an annual spring plant sale to provide community groups with perennial and annual flowering plants, herbs, and vegetables from Greenmarket farmers at wholesale prices.

<https://www.grownyc.org/gardens/plant-sale>

Green Guerillas Harvest for Neighbors Campaign distributes soil, lumber, herbs, and vegetable seedlings to food-growing community garden groups in central Brooklyn, Harlem, and the South Bronx.

<https://www.greenguerillas.org/harvest-for-neighborhoods>

NYBG Bronx Green-Up brings people and resources together to bring Bronx greening projects to fruition. They contribute design and landscape ideas, gardening advice, hands-on workshops, and planting materials such as seeds and bulbs to community gardens local to the South Bronx.

<https://www.nybg.org/gardens/bronx-green-up/>

Their Plant Information Service provides valuable information on cultural requirements such as planting, fertilizing, pruning and propagation as well as assistance with landscape design inquiries.

<https://libguides.nybg.org/portalpage?ga=2.154320252.535755289.1623964390-1557564032.1621540374>

Green Thumb's Growing Food Toolkit is a comprehensive list of resources related to growing, constructing garden infrastructure such as raised beds and trellises, and resource management in community gardens.

https://greenthumb.nycgovparks.org/news.html?news_id=480

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN

THINKING & IDENTIFYING

ACTIONS

1. Needs Assessment Surveys
2. On-site boards with Questions of the Week/Month
3. Zoom Charette Sessions
4. Door to Door Canvassing
5. Games/Interactive Needs Map
6. Garden Tour Visits

GOALS

Engage local community members to understand what the major needs are in the community and what they would like to see in these spaces.

Use interactive tools and processes to engage community members.

Develop a list of Goals or Desired Outcomes and central Themes to orient the vision (ex: Agriculture, Events, Design, Lighting, Safety, etc)

DESIGN ACTIONS

Develop flyers and outreach materials for community organizers

Develop Outreach Plans for community organizers and gardens

Develop needed Surveys

VISIONING

ACTIONS

1. Draft recommendations
2. Draft Site Plan & Vision
3. Re-engage the community for feedback on the vision

GOALS

To establish a shared, community-driven vision and plan for the gardens.

DESIGN ACTIONS

Share results or recommendations with community members for feedback.

IMPLEMENTATION

ACTIONS

1. Implement one or more aspects of the vision
2. Engage the community to be involved in the implementation phase; volunteers, etc

GOALS

To implement some form of the vision/plan based on mutual agreement from community members.

Allow community members the opportunity to be a part of the process in all phases.

SHARING & CELEBRATING

ACTIONS

1. Develop community events to celebrate and enjoy
2. implementations to garden Develop a Case Study and share!

GOALS

Celebrate the process and accomplishments achieved by the community.

Educate other stakeholders about the process and achievements.

Create awareness of outstanding needs

Acquire further needed funding or resources to continue tot move vision forward.



NEIGHBORHOODS
NOW