

Skills Set Checklist



In the course of setting up and running a community garden, a garden organisation would benefit from having access to individuals with a wide range of skills and experience. We have developed a skill set 'checklist' below. This list is not exhaustive and also does not need to be completely filled before starting a garden - it just represents an ideal set of skills a garden would be able to access in a perfect world.

Success Story:	Description + Qualifications
Site Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agronomist, landscape gardener, or urban farmer with experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site assessment – sun, trees, drainage • Identifying/managing invasive plants like bindweed, or other difficulties. • Planning for watering, composting and pathways • Converting grass lawns into productive gardens
Soils Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master gardener or urban farmer with experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil conditions, drainage, strategies for improving soil • Local conditions relevant to this garden site • Directing testing for soil contamination, discuss lab reports, and plan next steps • Start-up choices for new garden i.e., in ground vs fiber planters
Composting Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden coordinator, site manager, or urban farmer who understands composting and knows what strategies to follow for soil improvement (i.e., local sources of carbon and nitrogen available to a community garden – leaves, coffee grounds, beer mash, manure, seaweed) • Can direct and ensure garden infrastructure for composting.
Urban Wildlife Assessment and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife management experience – especially with deer, rabbits, geese, rats, and other wildlife with negative effects on the garden • Knowledge of wildlife preventive measures such as fencing, gates, pathways and controlling food attractions
Garden Design, Gates, Pathways and Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden coordinator, site manager or landscape professional with garden design planning experience. Can take a lead role on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, costing, and building • Fence construction (perimeter fences) • Garden plot preparation/construction • Storage shed construction • Watering, irrigation and drainage systems