



## What You Should Know Before Starting - Key Findings

*Community gardens have long been a tradition in Victoria. Today, they are taking on new importance as citizens become increasingly concerned about food security and access to fresh food for those in need.*

Community gardens are most commonly established on “institutional land” – in other words, land that is not owned by community garden proponents themselves. Through a wide-ranging interview process with existing community gardens, eight key success factors have become clear:

1. A compelling vision, articulated early
2. Solid organisation and governance
3. Clear rules and obligations of membership
4. A trusting relationship with the landowner
5. Good infrastructure, supported by community gardeners and landowner
6. Designs that build-in accessibility and inclusivity up-front
7. Informed and supportive neighbours
8. The ability to plant “community” in Community Gardens

Turning these success factors into a thriving community garden involves roughly ten key implementation steps:

1. Meet with interested people to develop a “Vision” for the garden
2. Identify committed, energetic volunteers that can serve as key members of the garden team
3. Identify resources available and accessible in your community
4. Approach an Umbrella Organisation to act as sponsor for the garden
5. Determine the garden’s rules and put them in writing
6. Choose a site for the garden wisely and sign a longer-term agreement with the landowner
7. Prepare and develop a site plan
8. Organize the garden
9. Plan for children, seniors, and special-needs gardeners
10. Help garden members stay connected with each other

These success factors and implementation steps are elaborated in the full Report and in individual documents that can all be found on the [Community Garden Hub](#).