

# 03 SPRING

## OTTAWA COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDE

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<http://www.och.ca>

## 03 SPRING



- Finding Gardening Sites
- Form your Group



- Setting Garden Goals
- Involve Ottawa Community Housing



- Garden Structure
- Governance
- Garden Guidelines and Membership



- Choose your Site
- Get Permission



- Design your Garden
- What Do We Have? What Do We Need?
- Budget and Funding



- Keep in Touch



- Prepare your Garden Site



- Build your Garden



**Start Gardening!**

## STEP

14

## Step 14: Prepare your Garden Site

A general rule of thumb in gardening is to begin planting after Victoria Day (May 24). You will likely build your garden in late April or sometime in May. Below is a checklist for preparing the site of the garden. These questions should be answered in collaboration with your Property Manager (PM) and Tenant Community Worker (TCW).

15

1. Do items need to be removed from the site?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

16

2. If yes, what?



☐ Rocks/gravel



☐ Cement/pavement



☐ Trees/branches



☐ Weeds



☐ Trash/recycling



☐ Fencing

☐ Other items: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Can tenants and gardeners remove these items themselves?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

If yes, work with your TCW to organize a spring clean up or a garden preparation day. If some items are too difficult for gardeners to remove themselves, connect with your TCW and PM to see if any help could be provided.

14

STEP

15

16

## Step 15: Build your Garden

Once the site is selected and prepared, the gardeners will need to plan a day to build the garden. The questions below will help you prepare.

1. Our garden build day is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Have we ordered all the building supplies we will need?  
☐ Soil ☐ Lumber  
☐ Landscape fabric ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- They will be delivered on \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Have we ordered all the building supplies we will need?  
☐ Shovels ☐ Staple gun  
☐ Hammers ☐ Staples  
☐ Nail/screws ☐ Wheelbarrows  
☐ Drills ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Have we asked OCH to help in providing some equipment?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
5. Have we advertised our build day with the community?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
6. How can we thank volunteers for helping build the garden?  
Do we want to have a Building Party?



OCH staff, other tenants, neighbours, and other community partners may be available to help. Talk to your TCW and PM to plan a Garden Build Day.



OCH staff get their hands dirty at the build day for the Debra Dynes Giving Garden.

14

15

STEP

16

## Step 16: Start Gardening!

Now is the time to get your hands dirty and start growing!

If you have questions, there are many resources available about gardening. Some are listed on the Resource page at the back of this guide. There also may be experienced gardeners in your community or neighbourhood. Groups such as Senior Organic Gardeners or Just Food are also very knowledgeable about gardening. If you are unsure of where to go for advice, ask your Tenant Community Worker (TCW) for support.

1. When do we want to start planting?

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2. Do we want to organize a Planting Party?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Your Tenant  
Community

Worker can give you  
information on the following  
steps for gardening:

- preparing the soil
- planting
- weeding and watering
- managing pests organically
- harvesting
- saving seeds
- putting your garden “to bed” at the end of the season



Building planter boxes at Winthrop Court with volunteers from Foresters.





# 800 St. Laurent

800 St. Laurent is a 12-storey senior's residence in East Ottawa. Many of us residents here are incredibly passionate about gardening and have been working on our plots for many years.

The community garden is located at the back of the building and consists of 16 30" by 4" ft. low-rise wooden plot beds side by side where we take up the planting of various vegetables and herbs such as tomatoes, cucumbers, parsley, and ethnic variations of these. In partnership with the Senior Organic Gardeners (SOG), we are learning more about organic gardening practices.

We start planting mid-June. By the end of summer we have ourselves a delightful and delicious homegrown garden where we have fostered a greater sense of community by working cooperatively with each other, sharing our skills, knowledge, and resources and instilling a sense of pride for what we have accomplished.

Our next steps are to apply for funding to purchase better hoses, improve our garden beds, and replace the soil.





# Debra Dynes Giving Garden

The Debra Dynes Giving Garden has expanded and flourished beautifully since its birth in 2012. The garden spans across the Rideauview Park and behind the Debra Dynes Family House. There is a rich diversity of garden bed sizes including 4 children's beds, 22 large beds, and 12 low beds.

One of the primary reasons the garden was started was to encourage community members to harvest produce for themselves. About 5-6 tenants volunteer with planting and maintaining the garden, but all tenants are welcome to help themselves to the vegetables and herbs. The goals of the garden are to provide tenants with access to fresh foods, address the issues around food security, foster social inclusion in the community, and encourage youth to learn and become involved with gardening. Next steps are to plant fruit trees and berry bushes as the Giving Garden grows and evolves.



# Helpful Resources

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Resources mentioned in this guide:

**Ottawa Community Garden Network and Just Food:**

Community Gardening Network of Ottawa is an information and resource-sharing network that supports the sustainable development of community gardens within the City. Just Food's mission is to work towards a vibrant, just and sustainable food system in the Ottawa region.

[justfood.ca/community-gardening-network](http://justfood.ca/community-gardening-network)

**Hidden Harvest Ottawa:**

Hidden Harvest organizes harvests for existing fruit and nut trees and sells edible trees that make sense for Ottawa's future harvests.

[ottawa.hiddenharvest.ca](http://ottawa.hiddenharvest.ca)

**Senior Organic Gardeners:**

Senior Organic Gardeners (SOG) is the newest program from the Ottawa – St. Lawrence – Outaouais Chapter of Canadian Organic Growers (COG OSO). Its objective for this program is to offer opportunities to seniors in their homes, apartments, community housing apartments, retirement residences, and long term care facilities to engage in organic vegetable, herb and edible flower gardening, to benefit from the healthy activity, productive pastime, and restful therapy that gardening can offer.

<http://cog.ca/ottawa/our-programs/senior-organic-gardeners/>

## Gardening Workshops

**Master Gardeners of Ottawa:**

[mgottawa.mgoi.ca](http://mgottawa.mgoi.ca)

**Just Food Ottawa:**

[justfood.ca/community-gardening-network/workshop.php](http://justfood.ca/community-gardening-network/workshop.php)