Once the idea for a community garden has been initiated, organizers can use this information diagram to guide their decision making process. The major headings are those concepts identified through research as being critical for establishing a long term successful community garden. The smaller headings are critical aspects of the concepts that should be taken into consideration. Under the smaller headings are the key elements to consider when creating a community garden. They might not all apply to a particular garden, but the purpose of this chart is to identify them so that an informed decision can be made at the start of a garden project.

**LAND TENURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long Term</th>
<th>Lease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrange through any willing organization such as a church, city department, private landowner, hospital, housing development</td>
<td>Minimum of 3 years, 10 years is ideal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requires good relationships with the city or town and other local community organizations</td>
<td>Most secure option as the land will be protected as permanent open space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community garden group must be established since it can be a timely process to get a garden into a land trust and, once in, the garden is arranged as either a permanent or long term land use</td>
<td>Requires the availability of a land trust with like minded interests or that is dedicated to protecting community gardens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUSTAIN INTEREST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Outreach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garden site should be no more than a short bike, walk or drive from intended gardeners</td>
<td>Host all parties and events for gardeners and nongardening community members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target demographics where a community garden can fulfill a need such as: elderly, low-income, renters, immigrants</td>
<td>Offer interactive learning opportunities such as gardening technique classes and cooking classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If it is a transient community make sure to include a diversity of demographics</td>
<td>Provide an outlet for gardeners to communicate through such as a newsletter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationships</th>
<th>Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create opportunities or gardener and nongardener interactions through activities and social events</td>
<td>6-8 hours of sunlight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample events include: cooking classes, gardening classes, crafts, and mentoring programs</td>
<td>8-9 inches of topsoil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build coalitions among gardeners and nongardening community members</td>
<td>Access to water with at least 1 hose bib for every 4 plots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a network for community gardeners to share ideas and information. This can be done through email bulletins, newsletters and conferences</td>
<td>Compact site (avoid long linear sites)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Government Partners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Trust</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requires the availability of a land trust with like minded interests or that is dedicated to protecting community gardens</td>
<td>Churches, schools, healthcare facilities, nonprofits and housing developments are all potential partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most secure option as the land will be protected as permanent open space</td>
<td>Common for the partner to be involved in the organization of the garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requires good relationships with the city or town and other local community organizations</td>
<td>Can be selective in membership depending on the type of organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community garden group must be established since it can be a timely process to get a garden into a land trust and, once in, the garden is arranged as either a permanent or long term land use</td>
<td>Future of the garden may depend on the long term stability of the partner rather than on the land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policy and Planning Tools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial motivation and passion for the project should come from a committed leader in the community</td>
<td>Be aware of a basic budget for starting a garden (between $1,000 and $3,000, but can be as high as $60,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a method of distributing and sharing leadership roles</td>
<td>Host fundraising events such as bake sales, car washes and potluck dinners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish an invovative decision-making process</td>
<td>Seek donated material from local businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrange for mentoring and leadership training</td>
<td>Apply for grant money through federal, state, city or nonprofit organizations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy and Planning Tools</th>
<th>Relationships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can be utilized to establish community gardens as a permanent land use</td>
<td>Create opportunities or gardener and nongardener interactions through activities and social events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can incorporate community garden goals into the comprehensive plan</td>
<td>Sample events include: cooking classes, gardening classes, crafts, and mentoring programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can include provisions for community gardens in zoning ordinances</td>
<td>Build coalitions among gardeners and nongardening community members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Questions to Ask**

- **What is the purpose of this chart?**
  - The chart is designed to guide decision making for creating a community garden. It aids in identifying critical concepts to consider and their elements.
- **What are the major headings for the chart?**
  - The major headings are critical aspects of the concepts that should be taken into consideration when creating a community garden.
- **What are the smaller headings for the chart?**
  - The smaller headings are the key elements to consider within each major concept.
- **What are some of the key elements to consider when creating a community garden?**
  - Key elements include the purpose, decision-making process, and community involvement.
- **What are the potential partners for creating a community garden?**
  - Potential partners include government organizations, religious organizations, and local businesses.
- **What are the funding sources for creating a community garden?**
  - Funding sources include grants, donations, and fundraising events.
- **What are the design considerations for a community garden?**
  - Design considerations include accessibility, gathering spaces, and community development.