

COMMUNITY RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT



AMERICAN COMMUNITY GARDENING ASSOCIATION

The American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) is a bi-national nonprofit membership organization with a mission to build community by increasing and enhancing community gardening and greening across the United States and Canada. To achieve this mission ACGA facilitates the formation and expansion of state and regional community gardening networks; develops resources in support of community gardening; and, encourages research and educational programs. At the ACGA website, www.communitygarden.org, you can find many resources for learning about community gardening, find out about trainings and conferences offered by ACGA, and connect with other community gardeners.

In its community development and gardening training course, offered periodically and in locations across the US and Canada, ACGA presents the following ten principles that it believes can help guide development of a successful community garden.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY GARDENING ASSOCIATION

Growing Community Principles

1. Engage and empower those affected by the garden at every stage of planning, building, and managing the garden project.
2. Build on community strengths and assets.
3. Embrace and value human differences and diversity. Promote equity.
4. Foster relationships among families, neighbors, and members of the large community.
5. Honor ecological systems and biodiversity.
6. Foster environmental, community and personal health and transformation.
7. Promote active citizenship and political empowerment.
8. Promote continuous community and personal learning by sharing experience and knowledge.
9. Integrate community gardens with other community development strategies.
10. Design for long-term success and the broadest possible impact.

Find more about ACGA and its various educational offerings at www.communitygarden.org.

