

SAMPLE INNER CITY COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

SITUATION (e.g. problem/need/opportunity/mandate/goal): Inner City; approx. 200 households, mostly rental accommodation in apartment buildings and aging houses, low income, relatively high dependency on food bank and other income supports. Two vacant lots - once city block, designated green space. City entertaining community land use proposals. Community consultation reveals interest in community garden. With funding support an already existing core group and a community facilitator will mobilize support for a community garden as an opening step in a longer and larger community development process.		ORGANIZATION: Community Development Forever		
		PROJECT NAME Inner City Community Garden	PROJECT TIMEFRAME 2005-2007	
			PROJECT BUDGET \$150,000	
HOW?		WHAT WE WANT?		WHY?
INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	IMPACT
Staff time Rent Office Supplies Print Materials Legal Support Per Diems for Resource People Travel Landscape Tools	<p>Reach Out to the Neighbourhood Prepare and distribute flyers; submit articles to the community newsletter; make door to door visits; host periodic information coffee houses; ask for support and advice.</p> <p>Build Institutional Support for Garden Negotiate terms over the vacant land with the City, identify supporters among relevant social service, health and recreation organizations and the private sector.</p> <p>Establish a Gardening Group Recruit gardeners from among the 200 households, visit other community gardens and similar community development initiatives in the city, make plans, budget time and costs clarify roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Design, Landscape & Launch Garden Hold community design meetings facilitated by experienced a garden designer, recruit community work brigades, organize the workdays, hire or borrow tools and machinery, celebrate the accomplishment.</p> <p>Train in Gardening and Leadership Identify skills and knowledge group members wish to build, bring in inspiring resource people (gardeners, community leaders), follow training with coaching support, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Households are aware of the project's progress; there are expressions of moral, financial, in-kind and volunteer support from women and men; advice is incorporated into decision-making</p> <p>A land agreement is reached with the City and collaborative agreements are made with a variety of city organizations (public, voluntary and private sector)</p> <p>A broadly reflective Gardening Group (men, women, diverse backgrounds) is constituted, meeting regularly, setting direction and taking action to build and maintain the garden; plans and actions are realistic to resources available.</p> <p>The vacant land is transformed to garden plots with soil, irrigation, storage and fencing.</p> <p>Gardeners plant and tend their plots using new skills and techniques as they acquire them; they harvest and prepare their foods both for immediate consumption and for storage; they and other supporters consider a broadening range of livelihood and community issues in their discussions.</p>	<p>Household consumption of fruits and vegetables improves among those participating in the garden project</p> <p>Gardeners, other community supporters and their families make new friends and acquaintances within the neighbourhood, relying more on each other and less on social service organizations</p> <p>There is broader and more lively participation by garden participants in neighbourhood problem solving</p>	<p>The neighbourhood is healthier, more self-reliant and more purposeful.</p>

PRELIMINARY INDICATORS			
	Outputs	Outcomes	Impact
<p>Reach Out to the Neighbourhood</p> <p>Build Institutional Support for the Garden</p> <p>Establish a Gardening Group</p> <p>Design, Landscape and Launch Garden</p> <p>Train in Gardening and Leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of households up to date on the project's progress • Proportion of households providing \$, in-kind, and volunteer support • Levels of women's and men's inputs in terms of labour, tools, money, etc • Types of issues/concerns raised by households versus their handling by the Project • Availability of signed lease agreement and documents setting out agreements with city organizations • Change in the intensity of the leadership role of the Facilitator within the Gardening Group over time • Number of women and men in leadership roles • Comparison of commitments made by Gardening Group to the resources available • Comparison of the Gardening Group's progress to its plan • Comparison of landscaped land to design specifications • Number of varieties planted and production yields • Proportion of (men and women) gardeners trained in planting, tending, harvesting, or storage who adopt new practices • Observed change in the range of community related topics discussed in Gardening Group meetings or in more informal gatherings 	<p>Consumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after comparison of eating patterns among: a) the men, women and children of Garden Group households and b) non-Group friends and relatives living in the same neighbourhood. <p>Connectedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after comparison of the number and type of support relationships among those participating in the Project as Garden Group participants or as non-Group supporters • Before and after perceptions of 'connectedness' by men and women participants <p>Community Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after comparison of the number of participating households who indicate that they have ideas about how the neighbourhood, as a whole, can work together to improve the quality of life 	<p>Neighbourhood Self-Reliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and type of additional community development initiatives launched within the neighbourhood • Representation by (men and women) residents of the neighbourhood on community service/action committees • Changes in the patterns of support provided by social service organizations
PEOPLE /GROUPS/COMMUNITIES/SECTORS INVOLVED			
	Approximately 200 households surrounding vacant land, active supporters from among these households, participants of the Gardening Group	Households participating in the Garden Group and their friends and relatives living within same neighbourhood	The neighbourhood as a whole (approx. 200 households)
ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current economic boom and rapid development of the downtown core does not upset the City Planning Department's intent to zone the vacant land "green space". • Social service organizations operating in the area will see their mandates supported through this initiative • The City and local businesses will gain good public visibility for assisting with the project, since inner city poverty reduction is considered a high civic priority. 			