



# Make your Community Garden Thrives


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Feb 13, 2024



# Land Acknowledgement

I am truly grateful that I  
can live, learn, and work  
on the traditional land of  
Songhees and Esquimalt.



# Who am I?



- I am a fresh graduate in Environment and Management and a new learner in sustainability.
- In 2010, I was inspired by a group of young activists who initiated the "farmland for farming" movement in Hong Kong.
- Since 2017, I started volunteering in a small farm, helping the old farmer promote his produce to the community.

# Today's Menu



## Life cycle

4 Stages



## Burnout

Red flag to the Garden



## Community Engagement

Key to development

# Life Cycle

4 Stages



# CG Life Cycle



Preparation

Proposal & Consulation



Establishment

Resources & Expertise



Management

Operation & the People



Development

Stagnant, Decline, Thrive

# Preparation

Goal: Approval

## Task

Core group formation

Proposal: Design

Endorsement: community, government

Funding, Volunteers, and Resources

# Establishment

Goal: Build the garden

## Task

Project Management

Coordination

Identification of specialists

Budget control





# Management

Goal: Compliance to regulations

## Task

Response to complaints & feedback

Member/Volunteer management

Budgeting

AGM

# Development

Goal: What next?

Outcome

Stagnation

Decline

Thrive

Task: Succession

# Story

7-year limit?

A group of enthusiastic founders started a community garden a few years ago. After it is built, they gradually abandoned it and eventually only one of them left after 7 years.

Another community garden was initiated by a group of organizers under a nonprofits. After 7 years of operation, they decided to set up a nonprofit and make it independent from this mother nonprofit.



# Burnout

Red Flag to the Garden





# Story

I don't want to do anything about the CG. I was just out of the radar.

It turned out no one showed up in the work party. It is my Saturday!



# Individual & Team

Take care of yourself. Work-life balance. Never work too hard.

Support your team mate.

Trust building. I can ask for help.



# Organization

Rotation of roles

Succession plan

# Community Engagement

Key to Development







# School Project

Students built and enhanced the infrastructure of the community garden

Guided tour for college students.

Two organizers have previous experiences in UVic community garden.



# Story

A gardener shared a produce with young mother when she walked her dog with her daughter in the park nearby. She later becomes a gardener and shares her food with passers-by. She does gardening work a few hours a week for 7 years.

# Takeaways





# Takeaways

Foster trust in your a core group

Keep a work-life balance

Engage with your community

Make a succession plan

Networking makes us stronger

# Thank you!

Networking makes us stronger

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