



CRAFTING A GARDEN GOAL

Purpose: Before setting goals, it is important to reflect on the garden's current structure and function. Taking time to answer the questions below will help you envision your garden and set plans for the future.

Understanding Your Garden:

Are you starting a new garden, or is it pre-existing? If pre-existing, how long has the garden been operating?

What elements are part of the garden? If starting a new garden, which element(s) would you like to include? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Pollinator garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Compost/vermicompost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit trees/shrubs | |

Describe the garden (or, if starting a new garden, the area where the garden will be built) in terms of physical position (*location, area size*) and existing structures (*e.g. planters, greenhouse, raised beds, outdoor learning space*):

How the Garden is Used:

How many children and youth currently engage with the garden (*if applicable*)?

Frequency of use (*daily, weekly, monthly, seasonally, not applicable*):



How do/will you use the produce from the garden (*if applicable*)?

Do you have:

- A designated garden coordinator or garden-planning committee?
- Volunteers for care and maintenance of the garden (*if applicable*)?

Your Work So Far:

What has been the biggest success in the garden? If starting a new garden, what do you think the biggest opportunities are?

What do you see as the biggest challenge with the garden? If starting a new garden, what do you foresee as the biggest obstacle?

What is the most significant impact of the garden on children and youth? If starting a new garden, what do you envision will be the most significant impact on children and youth?



Setting Your Goal:

It's time to decide which aspect of the gardening program you would like to focus on. For each statement, indicate your answer by circling a number from 1 to 5.

1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Undecided 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree

- 1 2 3 4 5 I have the tools to plan the garden and related activities.
- 1 2 3 4 5 I have the tools to reflect on successes and opportunities.
- 1 2 3 4 5 Children and youth are connecting with nature in the garden.
- 1 2 3 4 5 Children and youth are learning in the garden.
- 1 2 3 4 5 Children and youth are developing a sense of leadership and pride in the garden.
- 1 2 3 4 5 Children and youth are physically safe in the garden.
- 1 2 3 4 5 The garden is a welcoming and inclusive space.
(e.g. accessible, embraces diversity)
- 1 2 3 4 5 The garden brings the community together.
- 1 2 3 4 5 The garden is well supported by the community.
(e.g. financial/human resources)
- 1 2 3 4 5 We share our garden stories and experiences with the community.
- 1 2 3 4 5 We are taking steps to ensure that our garden can be used for years to come.

Of the list above, which aspect of your garden would you like to strengthen? This will serve as the foundation of your goal.

Now that you've decided the theme, we can dig deeper into what you want to accomplish. Using the SMART goal guide and prompts provided on the next page, craft your garden goal!



Smart Goal Guide:

Specific: Describe what you want to achieve in as much detail as possible.

Questions to Consider: *Why is this important? Who should be involved?*

Measurable: Describe how you will track your progress and success.

Questions to Consider: *How will you know when you've accomplished your goal?*

Achievable: On a scale of 1-10, how confident do you feel that you can achieve this?

If your response is less than 7, describe how you can adjust the goal to increase your confidence.

Relevant: Is now the right time for this goal? Does it fit with other goals within your organization?

Timely: What is the time-frame to complete your goal?

Questions to Consider: *What parts of your goal need to be completed within the next 2 weeks?*

Within the next month? 6 months? Year? Are there milestones you can add to a goal timeline?

Using your answers above, describe your S.M.A.R.T. goal: