

Food Growing in Parks A Guide for Councils

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What?
Why?
How?
Where?





Why grow food in parks?

- Health and Wellbeing benefits
- Social and Community Benefits

Growing Oldham

- Whole council approach
- Partnerships with reps
- 80 projects and 5 hubs
- Health and growing ambassadors
- 800 people engaged

Veg in the Park

- Passionate resident inspired by a session in another park
- Now a vibrant growing space and CIC, money raised from produce sales is reinvested



- Jobs & Skills
- Education
- Climate Change





What? Typology of food growing

	Type	Benefits
A. Open access	Edible Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Build a 'culture' of food growing ✗ Small scale / restricted by lack of facilities
	Open access garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encourages interaction ✗ Open to vandalism
	Orchard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open access opportunity for engagement ✗ Take a number of years to produce harvest
	Educational projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Potential for wider reach, deeper engagement ✗ Require resources, open to elements
B. Gated access	Community Growing projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrate benefits of food growing with high engagement, opening hours ✗ Not fully accessible
	Productive Growing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Generate revenue to help with sustainability ✗ Needs investment, closed and most food 'sold'

How? New Ways of Working

Council Role:

Leading, facilitating, trusting

vs

Tenure, Management, Funding,
Volunteers and Visitor Experience





Where?

Duthie Park, Aberdeen

- Council led involvement
- Rangers provide activities
- Park Force volunteers – 1000 hours
- Highly visible and open access
- HLF and council funding
- Set hours for volunteering
- Referrals from NHS
- RHS of A workshops

Albert Park, Middlesbrough

- Facilitating
- Central location, former plant nursery
- Partnership with local orgs
- Informal agreement to open and develop a project for migrants, residents and others
- Mixed responsibilities – cost neutral





Scotch Quarry Park, Lancaster

- Community-led Fruity corners created from open grassland
- Now 2 areas – Forest Garden and a Cottage Garden
- Community Garden Trust taken over management plan
- Funding from grants and donations and events that cover costs
- Gardening sessions led by trustees



What Next?

- Time is right
- Stemming decline
- Balanced approach

www.sustainweb.org
www.sharedassets.org.uk
www.sustainweb.org/publications/food_growing_in_parks/

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