

# Site Assessment Checklist

## Community Mapping

### 1) What community and business groups and facilities are nearby?

- ☐ Church, mosque, etc
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Kindergartens
- ☐ Childcare centers
- ☐ Community & neighborhood centers
- ☐ Aged care facilities
- ☐ Neighborhood watch groups
- ☐ Local environment groups
- ☐ Other community organizations
- ☐ Restaurants
- ☐ Business councils
- ☐ Garden stores
- ☐ Other businesses

### 2) Who lives nearby?

- ☐ What are the age groups of people?
- ☐ What are employment and unemployment levels?
- ☐ Is housing public, community, private rental, owned?
- ☐ What are people's cultural and linguistic backgrounds?
- ☐ What is the crime rate in the area?
- ☐ What are other special characteristics of the people in the area?

### 3) Safety and security

- ☐ Is the site near community facilities (school, community center, etc?)
- ☐ Is the site in view of houses, roads, shopping areas, etc?
- ☐ Is there graffiti or vandalism visible?
- ☐ Is there any lighting?
- ☐ Is there a neighborhood watch group?
- ☐ Is the site fenced?

## Landuse

### 1) What are the main landuses surrounding the garden site?

- ☐ Businesses (what kinds?)
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Parkland
- ☐ Major roads
- ☐ High density housing
- ☐ Medium density housing
- ☐ Low density housing

### 2) What is the history of the land?

- ☐ Residential
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Parking Lot
- ☐ Gas Station
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Other

### 3) Current land use

- ☐ Who currently uses the land
- ☐ Do people walk through or use it as a shortcut?
- ☐ Rubbish dumped
- ☐ Illegal activities
- ☐ Children's play
- ☐ Sleep
- ☐ Other uses

### 4) Plants

- ☐ What plants grow well in the area?
- ☐ Who are the experienced gardeners and seed savers in the neighborhood?

**Tip: Use City Council, Community Development Corporations, and Census Data**

# Things to look at the garden site

## 1) Size

- ☐ How big is the land?
- ☐ How much of the land is suitable for gardens?

## 2) Land tenure

- ☐ Who owns the land?
- ☐ How is it owned?
- ☐ Are there zoning regulations in place? What do they allow and restrict?
- ☐ What are/ would be the leasing agreements, how long, cost, etc?

## 3) Sun, wind, soil

- ☐ What's the current ground cover? (grass, gravel...)
- ☐ What is the slope of the land?
- ☐ What plants (including weeds and trees) are already on site?
- ☐ What is the soil type?
- ☐ How many hours a day sun does the garden get?
- ☐ Are there any large trees, buildings, etc blocking solar access?
- ☐ Is there a water source on site?
- ☐ How does water move through the site?
- ☐ What direction does wind come from?
- ☐ What do you notice about the wind? (strong etc)

### Tip:

**Visit the site during or just after heavy rain to observe how water moves through the site, where it gathers, and how quickly it moves into the soil.**

## 4) Structures

- ☐ Are there any buildings on site?
- ☐ Seating?
- ☐ Shedding?
- ☐ Walls?
- ☐ Fences?
- ☐ Paved areas?
- ☐ Other structures?

## 5) Gardens

- ☐ What gardens, etc are already established?

## 6) Services

- ☐ Is there electricity on site or easy to access?
- ☐ Is there access for a vehicle for materials deliveries?
- ☐ Sewers, stormwater drains?
- ☐ Is there public transport nearby?
- ☐ Are there major roads nearby?
- ☐ Are there barriers to pollution from traffic?
- ☐ Parking?

**What other features does the site have? Draw a quick sketch of the property.**