



# Roadmap to a Food Garden

## Initiator

**Perseverance of Gardeners**  
The process of establishing food gardens can be challenging and requires perseverance to overcome the obstacles.

## Location

**Find a Plot of Land Beforehand**  
Having a plot of land can speed up the process of getting permission for a food garden from the municipality. Also a business plan should be drafted that explains the vision and purpose of the garden.

**Active Participation**  
Gardens promote a socially active relationship to food and the community. By inviting volunteers to participate in the food garden, it allows for the creation of a space that the whole community can thrive in.

## Partnerships

**Involving Social Insurance Companies**  
Social insurance companies can financially help the establishment of food gardens and as it is in their interest for food gardens provide healthy foods, thus lowering health risks.

**Partnership with Organisations**  
Local organisations such as NGOs can help setting up initiatives, as networks and knowledge can be shared. Furthermore, by helping each other out, partnerships and collaborations also create a sense of community that is useful for establishing and also upholding a food garden.

**Missing Interaction Between Municipal Departments**  
Lack of coordination between different departments lead to contradicting and unclear requirements.

**Duration of Approval from the Municipality**  
Food gardeners often experience difficulties because of delayed communication and approval processes, making it harder to continue setting up the garden.

**Integrated Approach to Local Issues**  
By integrating food gardens into the local issues experienced, the implementation of food gardens may become more appealing to local governments

**Clear Guidelines**  
A clear guideline for the establishment of a food garden is helpful, for example in the form of a checklist that explains what to deliver for the permission from the municipality. However, there is no one-size-fits-all approach which should be considered when creating such guidelines.

**Lack of Effort from the Municipality**  
The reply from the municipality may be an standard no and there is no immediate support for the gardener.

**Priorities of the Municipality**  
Food gardens are not a big topic in the municipality and other sectors or projects are often prioritised.

**Lack of Knowledge from the Municipality**  
The idea of food gardens is new to the municipality and thus, there is a gap in knowledge for those that work in the municipality.

## Municipality

**"Food Garden" Not Defined in Area Development Plan**  
Food gardens don't fit into any of the land use types described in the Area Development Plan which creates an obstacle for getting a permission.

**Implementing Policies**  
Governmental structures at a local, regional, national and global level should focus on creating policies related to food gardens that include a conceptualization of these and create room for subsidies.

**Lack of Policies**  
There is a lack of policies specific to food gardens.

**No Financial Help from Municipality**  
Costs for starting a food garden can be high. For example, soil analysis can cost around 7000 euros. Financial help is hard to get if the food garden does not fit with the area development plan.

## Groninger Voedseltuinen



Stichting Groninger Voedseltuinen is a non-profit organisation guiding and supporting food garden initiatives in Groningen with the goal to establish a food garden in every village.



## Community

**Capacity of Volunteers and Gardeners**  
The capacity of gardeners and volunteers can be limited if the responsibility lies on the energy of individuals.

**Community not able to Visualise the Idea**  
Support of the community may not be guaranteed if they struggle to envision the concept and design of the food garden in their neighborhood.

## CSA Food Garden



**COLOUR KEY:**  
**Obstacles**  
**Recommendations for Gardeners**  
**Recommendations for Municipality**

## USEFUL WEBSITES AND INFORMATION:

- Area Development Plan**
  - [www.ruimtelijkeplannen.nl](http://www.ruimtelijkeplannen.nl)
- Environmental and Spatial Vision Westerkwartier**
  - <https://www.omgevingsvisiewesterkwartier.nl/>
- Groninger Voedseltuinen**
  - <https://groningervoedseltuinen.nl/>
- Overview of Initiatives in the Province of Groningen**
  - [www.groningerdorpen.nl](http://www.groningerdorpen.nl)