

# Considerations for a Community Garden in Raleigh

Community gardening is allowed on private property almost anywhere in Raleigh, provided the following conditions are met:

## Appropriate Zoning



Swiss Chard

In Raleigh, community gardens are allowed as a principal use of a property in all Residential or Mixed Use zoning districts, although they may be subject to certain conditional or special use approvals. Details are listed in the Unified Development Ordinance, Section 6.1.4 (Allowed Principle Use Table) and 6.6.1.B. (Community Gardens). A site's zoning may be checked on the City-wide [Zoning Map](#) or iMaps (interactive mapping program).

## Code-Compliant



Baby Bell Pepper

Structures and/or site uses related to creating a community garden must meet applicable standards of the City code (e.g., shed size/placement, site maintenance, etc.).

## Other Items for Consideration

**Soil:** Check the soil for contamination by having a soil test performed by the [Wake County Cooperative Extension](#)

**Sun:** Ensure that the site is not shaded by nearby buildings or trees. An open south facing space is best because vegetables need at least 6 to 8 hours of sunlight per day. Shade in a small area can be beneficial for creating a shade garden and a comfortable seating area.

**Access:** Make sure the community garden is accessible to the street and sidewalk.

**Slope:** Slope is an extra challenge and may make it difficult for people with mobility challenges. Flat lots are usually preferable. Terracing can also be used to create flat plots.

**Water:** Verify that there is access to piped water at the site. Wise water management should be (and generally is) a basic tenet of community gardening. It can be expensive to install a water line and water meter.

**Local Regulations:**

- Check on the zoning for the site;
- Comply with all current ordinances; and,
- Confirm that the site is not in a floodplain.

**Neighbors:** Discuss with the adjoining neighbors.