



Garden Sharing – Questions for a gardener to ask a landholder

Before you start to talk with a landholder about sharing their space, here are some questions that will help you decide if the person and the place will be a good match for you. Start with the landholder questions. If you're satisfied with the answers, you can visit the space and answer the site assessment questions.

Questions to ask the landholder

Why does the landholder wish to share the garden?

What's the landholder's relationship to this space? Are they the sole owner of the property, joint owner or tenant? Does anyone else need to be consulted?

Who is expected to do the work in the garden? Will the gardener be responsible for all of the work or will the landholder or other household member contribute?

If the landholder wants to do some of the work, are there specific tasks they would like to do?

- Help set up the garden in the spring
- Some watering and other maintenance (how often?)
- Help clean up in the fall
- Other

How will the harvest be shared?

- All to the gardener
- Split 50/50
- 1/3 gardener, 1/3 landholder, 1/3 donation to a local food program
- Other share agreement

If you're interested in selling the produce, ask if the landholder agrees to this.

When will the gardener be able to work in the space?

- Any time
- Only at certain times
- Call, email or text first
- Other

Will the gardener be allowed to bring others to the space? Such as other gardeners, partner, children – if relevant.

How long will the space be available? One season, as long as the arrangement works? Does the landholder know of any reasons why the space may not be available in the future?

What are the costs of creating a garden and who will pay for them?

About the site

If there is more than one space for growing at a site, answer the following questions for each space.

How much sun does the space get?

- Full sun for 6 hours or more per day
- Full sun for 3-6 hours per day
- Full sun less than 3 hours per day
- Dappled sun/partial shade
- Full shade
- Other

Are there tree or shrub roots underground that will interfere with plants?

Are there dips in the ground or lower areas where water won't drain well?

What is the soil like? Heavy clay, sand, loam?

If growing in the ground is not a good option, is there a space for containers?

Is the space beside a busy street or other sources of pollution?

What was the space used for previously?

- Lawn
- Patio
- Paved
- Previous flower garden
- Previous vegetable garden
- Trees/shrubs
- Other

Is there a water tap and hose to use?

Does the hose reach the garden space?

Are there any pets that may have an impact on the garden?