



CHECKLIST

SITE?

WHEN LOOKING A SITE, YOU NEED TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

0. Purpose – what do you want to do with the land?
1. Size - is it a suitable size for what the group wants to do?
Is there enough room for all your planned activities and future expansion?
2. Location – is gardening compatible with adjoining land use?
Are the neighbors likely to be supportive of a community garden?
Is it close to potential users / away from major roads and sources of concentrated air pollution / close to public transport?
A highly visible public location means vandalism is less likely.
3. Access – is it or could it be made accessible?
Is there access for trucks to drop off supplies? What parking space is their close by?
4. Exposure - how much solar access does the land get? Your site should be fairly open with six or more hours of direct sunlight a day. A northern exposure, with little shading from trees or buildings is ideal.
How protected is the site from the elements, i.e. cold winter winds?
5. Past uses - is the land contaminated by a previous use? The soil might be contaminated with heavy metals or pesticide residues. Get a soil test done.
6. Present condition - how good is the soil for growing plants? Dig down in several places to find out.
Is there a problem with weeds, rubbish, rocks or existing vegetation?
7. Slope and drainage – the best sites are level. If it is more than a 20° slop, terraces or raised beds may be necessary.
Be sure that soils will drain adequately - inspect the site after heavy rain to see if there is ponding.
8. Services - are there services on site or easy to access e.g. water, electricity, gas, sewers, drains, etc.?
9. Restrictions - what planning restrictions are there?
Are there any listed structures on the site?
Are there any plants that should be conserved?
10. Property status – are there zoning laws which restrict your activities?
Are there future development plans?
11. Terms – how long will the land be available?
At what cost?
Can you lease it and if so under what conditions – length, cost, etc.?