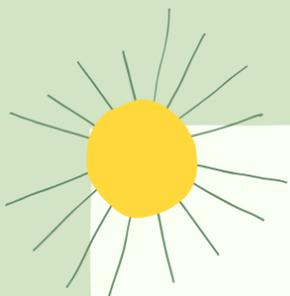


PLACING YOUR GARDEN

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDANCE ON WHAT YOU SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SELECTING YOUR GARDEN'S LOCATION.



SUN AND SHADE

A garden needs a minimum of eight hours a day on average in the sunshine to be productive- make sure that your garden is facing either East, South, or West!

Buildings and tall trees provide shade when East, South, or West of the garden, while buildings facing East, North, or West will also provide some heat. Shade can be beneficial in an urban environment as it can get hot in the summer. Too little shade may dry up the garden too fast, and too much shade will stunt growth.

Count a few meters between the garden and the nearest building. If possible, try to have a bit of tree shade for your garden in the afternoon as it will prevent plants from overheating and lower their water consumption.



WATER

A garden needs regular watering. Make sure you have a source of water nearby!

You do not want to place the garden in a depression or on top of a hill. The former may waterlog your garden during heavy rains, and the latter might dry up your garden during hot weather.



ROADS, PARKING AND VEHICLES

They are the most dangerous hazards to the garden, beneficial wildlife, and children. They generate heat, which can quickly kill a garden. Vehicles produce a soup of chemical pollutants that permeates the air and surfaces near and around roads. Children and wildlife are at risk of being injured trying to access the garden.

The farther away your garden is from the street, the better!



TREES AND WILDLIFE

In addition to providing shade, tree roots love to search for humid, fertile soil to grab nutrients. To prevent trees from hogging all your plant food, make sure that the garden is located a few meters outside of a tree's canopy- also called dripline. Much of the tree roots are located within the perimeter set by its canopy.

Trees and the cover they provide are home to much of the wildlife in the city. Placing a garden too close to a patch of trees will ensure that you compete with local squirrels, chipmunks, groundhogs, raccoons, skunks, and birds for food.

Summer break allows wildlife to feast while children and teachers are on vacation! Try to place the garden a few meters away from tree patches, forests, and grasslands.



ACTIVITY ZONES

Children usually stay within a specific space in the schoolyard. Ensure that your garden isn't in the middle of these activity zones, as they might inadvertently damage plants. It is also an excellent practice to place the garden a few meters away from pavement, gravel, and sand as they will heat up considerably during the summer.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Consider wheelchair access for your gardens!



ANY QUESTIONS?



Contact us at guo-ottawa@cog.ca

