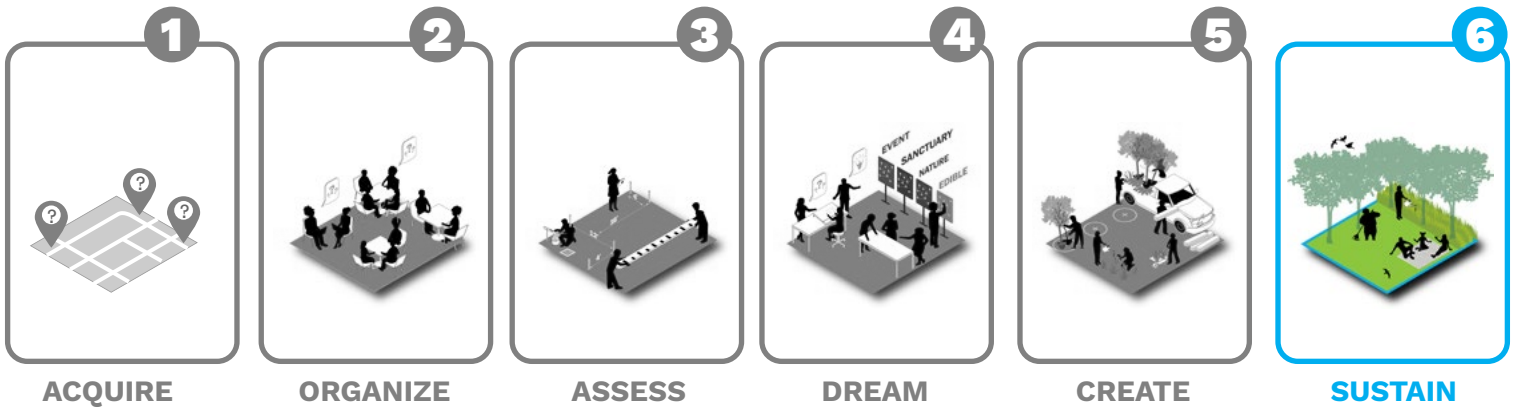


PARK in a TRUCK
SUSTAIN
WORKBOOK



A do-it-yourself toolkit for neighborhood parks

The Landscape Architecture Program +
The Lab for Social and Urban Innovation
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, PA



PARK IN A TRUCK TOOLKIT - WORKING VERSION 1.0

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This toolkit is a working toolkit, a formalized process of how a few communities have bettered themselves through designing, building and maintaining their own park. As a working toolkit, it is a work in progress. It is not perfect, but it is a great start towards a complex issue distilled into a few chapters. This is the first of several versions that will be published. Behind the scenes many parks are being build, communities bettering themselves, and people reviewing this process. Each park built, each community meeting, and every trip to home depot - something is learned. All this knowledge gained contributes to this book continuously as a feedback loop. Also crucial to the next version is getting feedback from professionals, organizations, and most importantly, community members like you! Please share your thoughts, questions, or ideas with us!

Welcome to the Sustain Workbook! This book assumes you have reviewed the Park in a Truck Toolkit, and have completed workbooks 1-5.



SUSTAIN CONTENTS

OVERVIEW
SURVIVE
THRIVE
SOCIALIZE

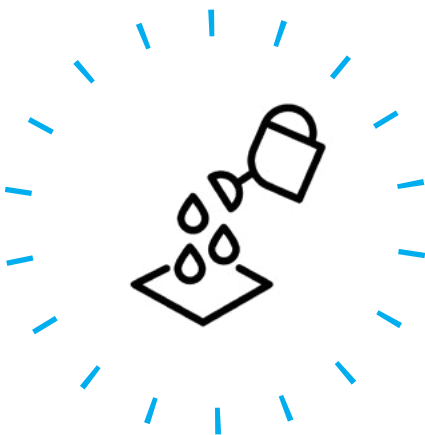
Park in a Truck parks strive to be an urban oasis filled with plants and trees that nourish all who visit them. As you can imagine, these plants need your help to thrive. While we have provided a list of urban tolerant and well-behaved plants, they will require continued maintenance. This workbook will outline how to care for your park.



OVERVIEW

This booklet is designed to ensure you sustain your park that you just created! It is critical that you maintain your park to ensure all that hard work you just did doesn't go to waste. Like a baby, your park needs lots of love and attention in its first few years of life in order for it to survive, thrive, and become social!

This book is broken down into three categories. Each category has a calendar for you to follow, and should be fully coordinated by one person. The only critical category is survive.. If someone in the community cannot or will not take on being that coordinator for the first two years, you will have to hire someone for the 'survive' portion of the parks infancy.



SURVIVE



THRIVE



SOCIALIZE





SURVIVE

Here is a schedule for caring for your park. You must weed and water weekly for the first two years. This is the most important thing to ensure your time, energy and money doesn't become an overgrown weed patch! After that, your

	WINTER			SPRING		
	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
					[Dark Green Bar]	
					[Dark Green Bar]	
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓





WATERING

- Water your plants weekly for the first two years**
- Pay attention to your plants to see if they need to be watered more or less by checking the following:
 - If the top 2 inches of soil are dry, it is time to water
 - If plants are visibly wilting, it's time to water
 - Use a rainwater guide to track how much water your plants are getting
- If you need to water, thoroughly soak planting area(s) by either turning on water for 3 hours using soaker hose or water by hand. Apply water slowly that it does not run off and long enough to penetrate soil to a depth of 6-8 inches in planting beds

HELPFUL LINKS:

Watering tips + Rainwater guide
 General Watering tips

[gardenerspath.com/how-to/hacks/use-rain-gauge/](https://www.gardenerspath.com/how-to/hacks/use-rain-gauge/)
<https://youtu.be/ueQCisD5AdM>

SUMMER			FALL		
JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
WEEKLY WEEDING					
WEEKLY WATERING					
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
					



WEEDING

- Weeding must be done weekly from 15th of April to 15th of October for a minimum of the first two years**
- Use pre-emergent on your beds to control weeds, see ‘seasonal cleanup’
- Instead of pulling weeds out, spay weeds with a solution of 20% Vinegar. If you’re having issues with weeds, consult your local nursery
- Common weed resources or an app like PlantSnap to identify plants and weeds

HELPFUL LINKS:

Pre-emergent | Flower Beds
 Pre-emergent | Veggie Gardens
 20% Vinegar
 Common weeds
 PlantSnap

[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
seenrcs.usda.gov
plantsnap.com



MONTHLY INSPECTION:

1. Inspect for insect or disease infestation
2. Evidence of weeds
3. Condition of mulch
4. Evidence of dead or dying plants
5. Cleanup of trash and debris
6. Keep track of the success or failure of plantings



SEASONAL CLEAN UP

SPRING

1. Lightly rake out beds
2. Cut back any unsightly perennials
3. Apply pre-emergent per directions on package. Spray weeds with 20% vinegar
4. Mulch beds, see 'mulching'
5. Add pansies and cool season annuals for early spring color if desired

LATE SUMMER

1. Prune evergreen shrubs, see 'pruning'
2. Apply pre-emergent per directions on package. Spray weeds with 20% vinegar

FALL

1. Inspect plant areas to make sure weeds are eradicated
2. Prune shrubs and trees after leaves have fallen so you can see the structure of the plant.
 - Do not cut back perennials as many pollinators use the stems for hibernation
 - Flowering shrubs should be pruned after they have flowered
3. Mulch beds (or plan to mulch in the spring), see 'mulching'
4. Water trees deeply before ground freezes



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Now that you have an understanding of the general schedule for what you need to do, here is a bit more information on how to go about doing those things. This section is sort of in

MULCHING

1. Mulch all planting beds with leaf mold or mature, triple shredded hardwood mulch.
2. Maintain mulch throughout planting beds. Maintain mulch at a depth of 2 to 3 inches, being careful not to over-mulch.
3. Be especially careful when mulching around trees. The wrong way to apply mulch is to push it up onto the sides of the trunk like a mountain slope. The correct way is to make it look like a flat donut, where there is an inch or more of open space between the mulch and the tree trunk. If you do not leave a space between the mulch and the trunk the decomposing mulch can rot the bark and expose the tree to insect damage, disease and possible tree death.

HELPFUL LINKS:

Laying Mulch

skh.com/thedirt/how-to-lay-mulch/

PRUNING

1. Use hand-pruning tools for all shrub pruning. Don't use power trimmers.
2. Prune shrubs and Trees only as necessary to guide future structural shape or to remove dead or diseased material.
3. Prune and trim tree branches to maintain a minimum head clearance of 7 feet along walks and 13 feet over roads and driveways.

HELPFUL LINKS:

How to prune like a pro

youtube.com/watch?v=BE2K_mClppM

PEST CONTROL

1. The Park has been designed to attract pollinators who will assist in pest control
2. Sometimes human intervention is required, so if you see strange things on your plants, be sure to investigate. Take some photos, do some research online, and/or contact your local nursery

HELPFUL LINKS:

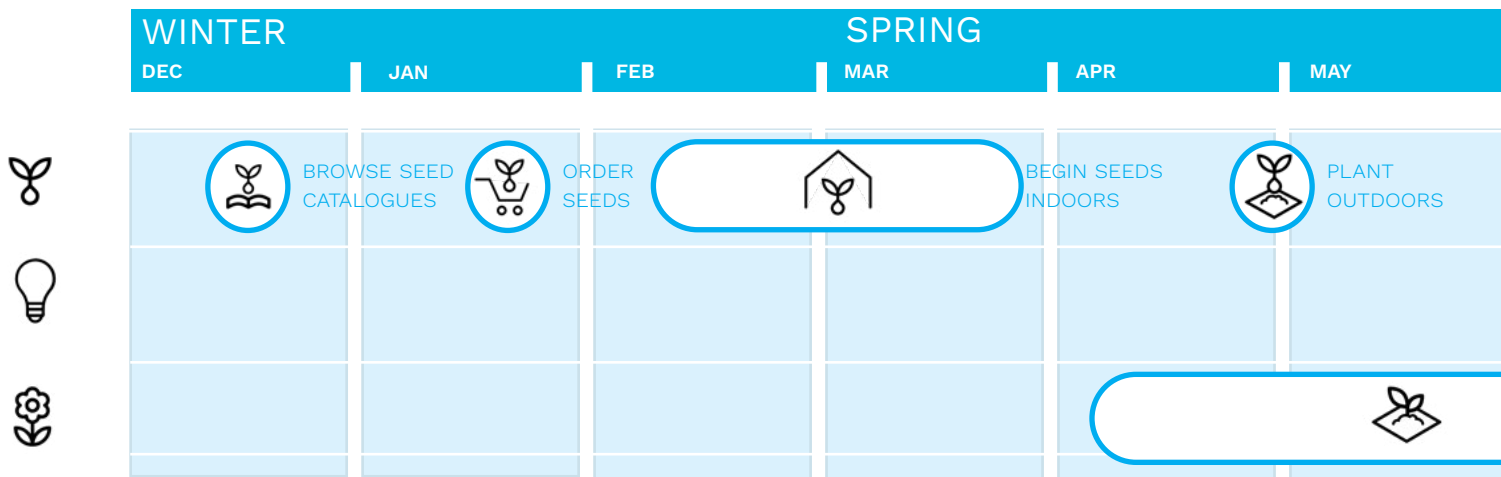
Pests and disease guide

extension.psu.edu/trees-lawns-and-landscaping/home-gardening/pests-and-diseases



THRIVE

If you'd like to add additional plants to your park, here is a way for you to bring that extra emphasis to your park to make them come alive and thrive! Annuals are a great way to get some more showy flowers that bloom all season, but then don't come back the next year. Bulbs, like tulips and dafodils, typically come back every year, and are a great way to add early season color to your park. Starting growing from seeds is helpful for vegetable gardens and is a cost effective way to get exactly what you want to grow.





SEEDS

1. Read seed catalogs to decide what you would like to grow and how to care for it
2. Order seeds for veggies and annuals
3. Start your seeds indoors for an edible garden
4. Transfer to planters once weather warms



BULBS

1. Order bulbs, store in cool & dry space
2. Plant bulbs (between Halloween & Thanksgiving)
3. Fertilize 4-6 weeks before anticipated bloom
4. 'Deadhead' flowers after bloom (remove flower heads after they are spent)
5. Wait for foliage to turn yellow; then remove entire plant

SUMMER			FALL		
JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
		 ORDER BULBS	 PLANT BULBS		



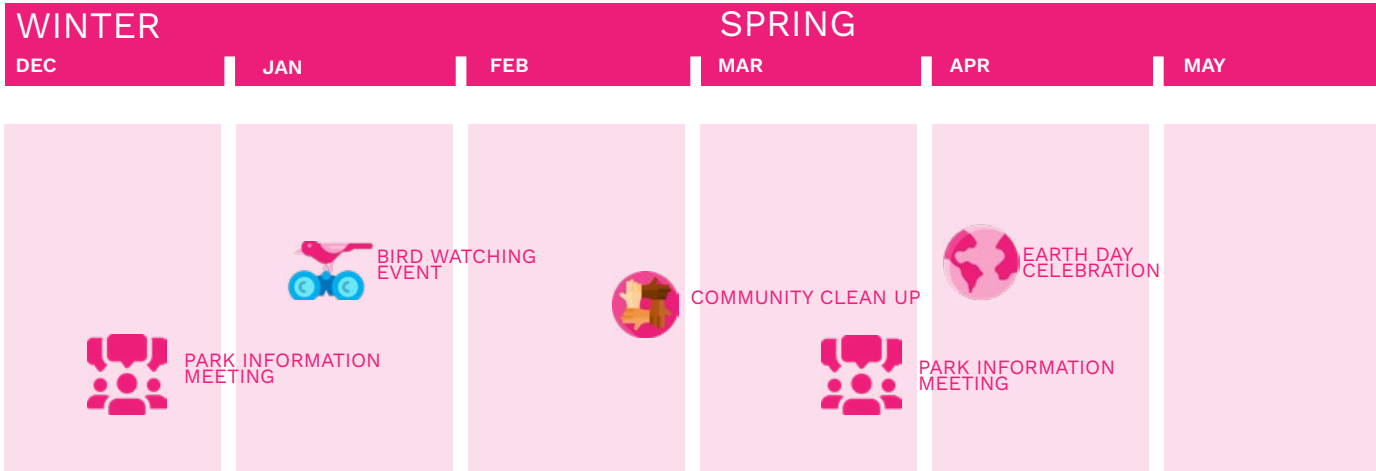
ANNUALS

1. Buy desired annual flowers
2. If the spring is warm, plant in April. If cool, plant in June
3. Keep well watered
4. Monitor pests. If needed, remove infested foliage



SOCIALIZE

This piece is entirely up to you, so instead of a calendar of things to do, you get to decide what and when! We have provided a few suggestions, feel free to write in what you'd like to do and when!



WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

FALL

JUNE

JULY

AUG

SEPT

OCT

NOV



SUMMER NATURECAMP



PARK INFORMATION MEETING



RIBBON CUTTING



COMMUNITY CLEAN UP



PARK INFORMATION MEETING

SUMMER

FALL
