

This list shares some inspiration for what someone could do with a vacant lot in the community.

## Bioswale



**What is it?** Bioswales help trap and manage stormwater runoff by using grading and native plants.

**What does it take to start one?** Given the scale and complexity, bioswales—like other green infrastructure—require technical expertise on the team. They can be expensive and labor-intensive, but with huge community benefits for managing stormwater and reducing flooding.

## Community Garden



**What is it?** A garden provides fresh food, especially useful in “food deserts,” and bring people closer to where their food comes from.

**What does it take to start one?** It depends on the condition of the lot you want to use, how big your ambitions are, your access to a water source and other infrastructure, and how many volunteers are involved. Starting a community garden can be easy—keeping it going is the tricky part.

## Renewable Energy Production



**What is it?** Wind, solar, and biofuel are all clean sources of energy. Vacant and underutilized land could be used for solar farms, or for growing biofuel crops.

**What does it take to start one?** Building energy-producing infrastructure requires a lot of land and partners at different levels of government and utility companies. However, if your community has a large number of vacant lots—and especially larger lots—it may be worth exploring.

## Pollinator Garden



**What is it?** A garden with native plants (or plants that naturally grow locally) that attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds to strengthen the local ecosystem and promote biodiversity.

**What does it take to start one?** Pollinator gardens usually take more work in the first few years, with more watering and weeding so that the native plants can get established. However, maintenance will gradually decrease over time. Cost may be high or low depending on how much material is purchased.

## Public Art and Gathering Spaces



**What is it?** Public art can include sculptures, murals, and other gathering spaces that beautify a space and foster pride in a community.

**What does it take to start one?** Cost, time, and labor-intensity varies depending on the size and type of project. Connect with your neighbors to see what type of public art could be a great addition in your neighborhood!

Learn more about Vacant Land Stewardship: [communityprogress.org/resources/vacant-land](https://communityprogress.org/resources/vacant-land)

Find more project inspiration in our Vacant Land Projects database: [communityprogress.org/resources/vacant-land/projects](https://communityprogress.org/resources/vacant-land/projects)