

# Ways to preserve garden space • pros and cons

## TRANSFERS TO CITY PARKS

**PROS:**

- Secures land without gardener ownership (and liability)
- Uses open-space funds or tax money for purchase
- Consistent administration if sites are under a community-run program
- Best technique when public land cannot be sold

**CONS:**

- Parks departments can unilaterally change open space use
- Land without an “open space” designation can be rezoned
- In some cities, parks departments can sell or transfer land
- Parks departments might not agree to manage small spaces

## LAND TRUSTS

**PROS:**

- Land owned permanently
- Land held in trust for public use
- Use as community garden assured

**CONS:**

- Trust must manage or arrange management of land
- Arrangement complex, involving owner, manager and tenants
- Core group of gardeners must be committed and responsible

## CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

**PROS:**

- Encourages conservation
- Land will remain greenspace
- May carry tax benefits for owner

**CONS:**

- Agreement perpetual and attached to the land
- Owner cannot sell the land for any other use

## LONG-TERM LEASES

**PROS:**

- Can work well for a long time
- Easier to end if garden closes

**CONS:**

- Community garden is perceived as interim use of land
- Leases expire, renewal not certain
- Owner may be able to break lease before expiration

