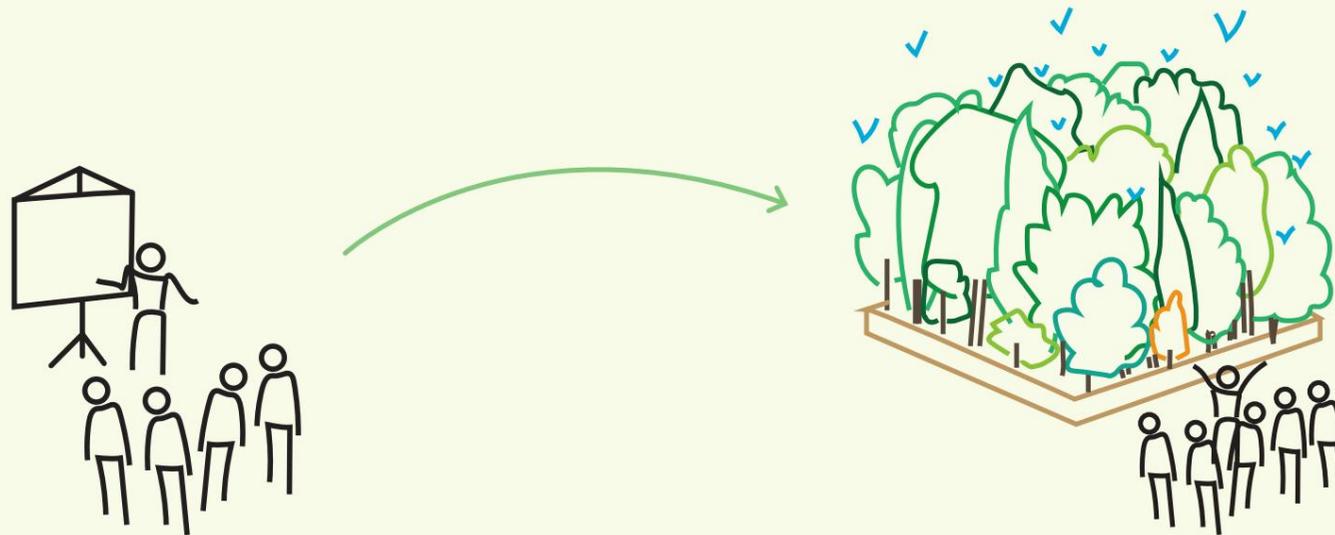


-Chapter 1-

A COLLECTIVE PROJECT



Why a collective project?

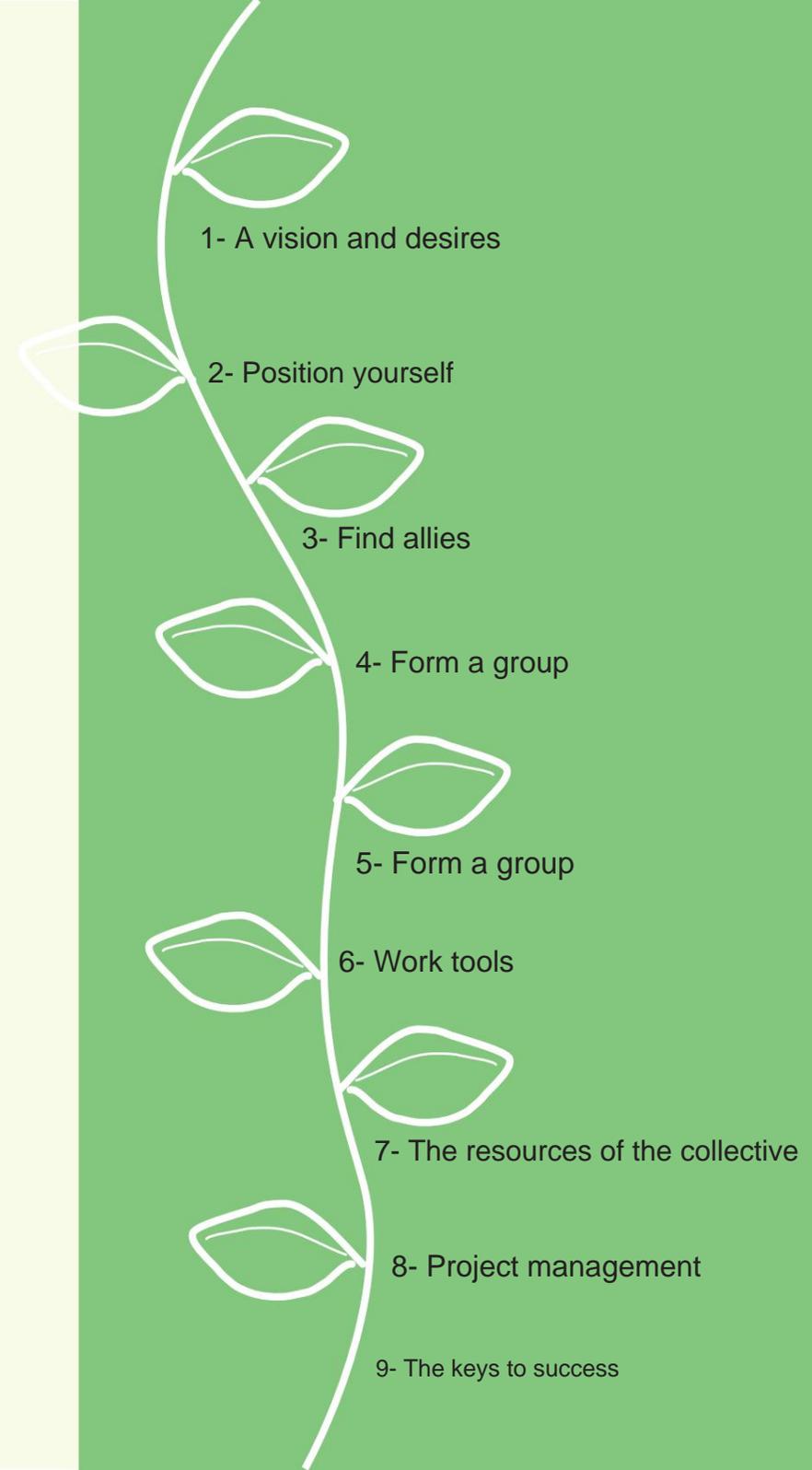
Every creation is born from a desire: you've discovered the desire to plant an urban microforest. You can already imagine yourself planting trees full of life in welcoming soil, under a heart-warming sun. Your dream is born. **Congratulations!**

By doing your research on the subject and collecting feedback from volunteers from other plantations, you realize that the adventure is long and strewn with pitfalls.

“How am I going to do it? Am I able to create a forest? What if everything becomes too much for me and too difficult? Maybe it's not possible...”

What if we created together then?

Your dream has every chance of coming true: in this chapter we will see how to co-create this project...



1- a vision and desires

Before diving headfirst into this adventure, it's important to ask yourself the right questions. What are your motivations? What type of project do you want to get involved in?

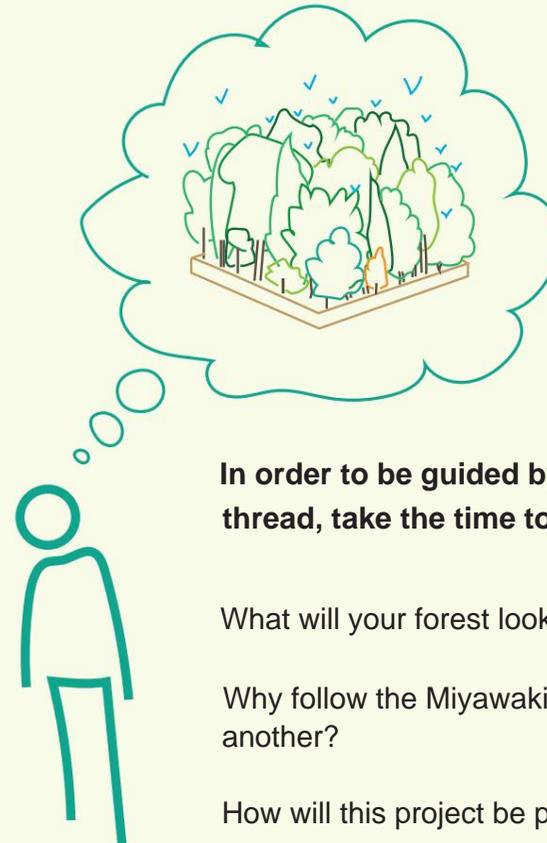
To build your project on solid foundations, it is important to formulate your desires (personal desires), and your visions of the project (desires shared by the collective)

DESIRES

- create an island of biodiversity
- bring nature into the city
- carry out a participatory project
- learn how to plant trees - promote the Miyawaki method
- develop skills in the management of voluntary and associative projects

VISIONS

- do something concrete for the climate
 - change local policy
 - increase citizen participation in city planning
- create a more welcoming city for all species



In order to be guided by a sort of common thread, take the time to ask yourself:

What will your forest look like?

Why follow the Miyawaki method rather than another?

How will this project be perceived by passers-by?

Who might be interested in participating in the project?

2- position yourself

Now that you've clarified your motivations and defined your project's vision, it's time to position yourself!
In what context do you want to carry out this planting?

MY STATUS

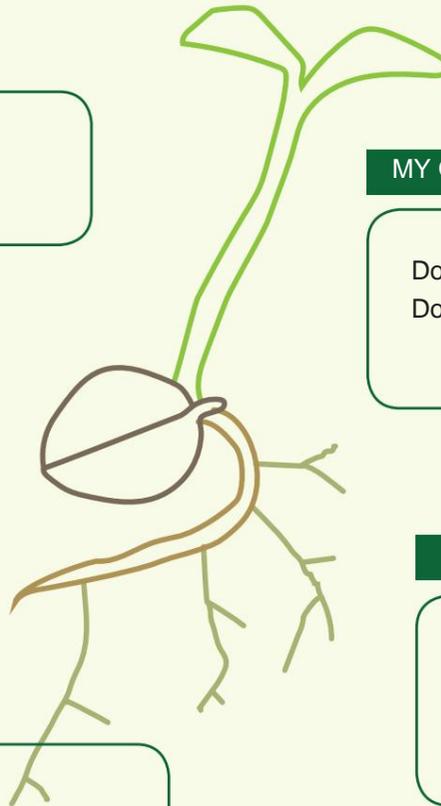
Is this a volunteer project?
A step towards professionalization?

MY KNOWLEDGE

Am I "legitimate" to carry out this project?
Can I start a project even if I'm not an expert? Can you learn by doing?

MY ROLE

Do I want to keep "control" of the project?
What does this imply for my relationship with the group?
What will my responsibilities be?



MY OPENING

Do I want to "choose" my group (my friends)?
Do I want to bring a whole bunch of very different people into my project?

MY GOAL

What is important to me?
Succeed in "my" project?
Plant trees myself?
How to increase the number of forest projects?

3- find allies

Once we have clear ideas, it is now time to share and discuss them!
Alone I go fast, together we go further...

Talk about your project

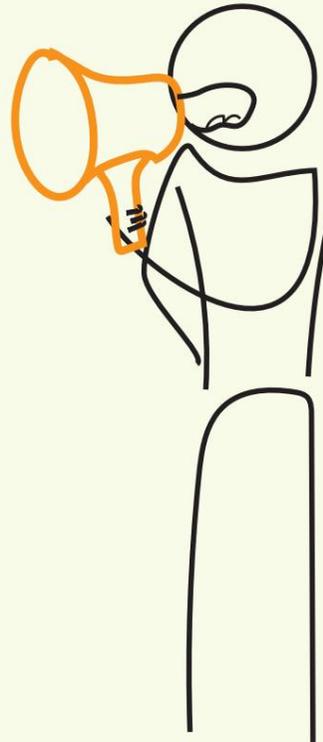
to your family, your friends, your entourage, your neighbors, your workplace, your places of leisure...

Display

in local shops, supermarkets, cultural venues and public places.

Social networks

You can create a Facebook page or other to show that a project is being set up and allow information to be shared.



Schools

play the proximity card: the project gains in sustainability with volunteers who live nearby!

The associations

They can help you on several levels: providing knowledge, contacts and networks, logistics, communication relays

The companies

Nurseries, gardening/DIY businesses, or any company wishing to make a donation...

ADVICE

Sometimes there are groups or individuals who might be interested and who aren't necessarily part of our usual environment. Use word of mouth to find scout groups, seniors' clubs, sports clubs, gardening enthusiasts, and especially people who live near the future site...

4- form a group

The best way to build a group is to create meetings. Once you've established communication through your chosen channels, it's important to allow people interested in the project to meet.

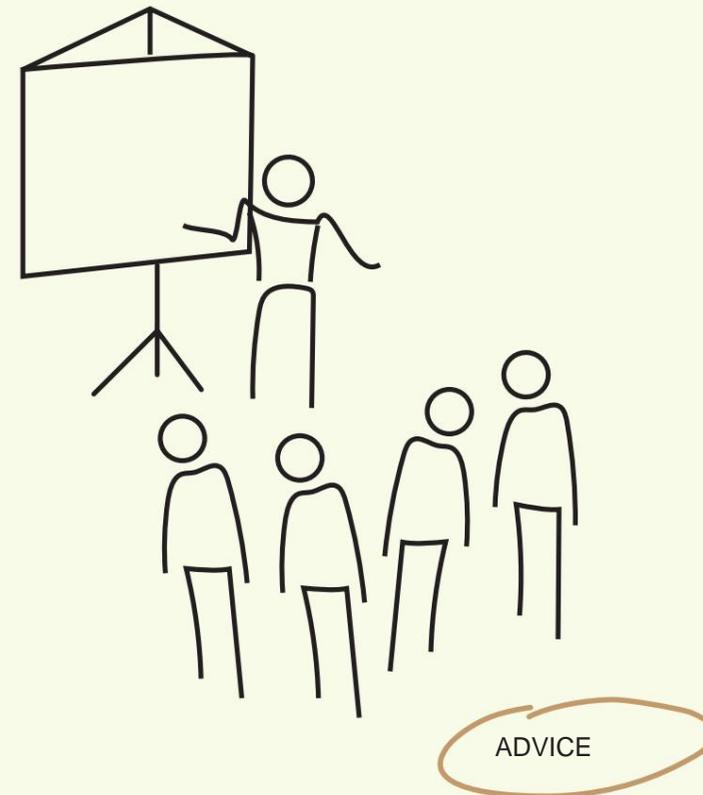
organize a meeting

- Set a day, time and place for the 1st meeting, it can be interesting to meet near a forest already planted to share the same vision of what the micro-forest is
- Invite everyone through various means of communication
- Prepare a short presentation of your dream and ideas
- Welcome people on site and choose a next meeting together

.....

If you have a lot of people coming to the first meeting, you can announce regular meetings and the creation of working groups (communication, field research, contact with administrations, animation, etc.)

This way, each person will be able to find their place in the progress of the project...



- Recognize complementarity by promoting dialogue and cooperation
- Promote inclusion, reassure and motivate so that hidden skills emerge

5- FORM A GROUP

Your communication efforts and the networking you've created have allowed you to form your first group. It's amazing!

The idea now is to put everyone at ease and get to know each other.

who is there?

Everyone presents themselves in their own way and with their own experiences. How did we learn about the project and what motivates us?

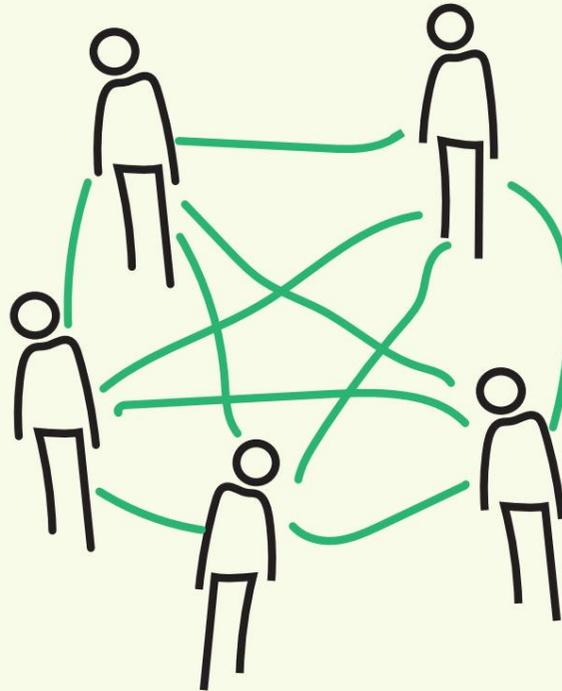
What are the needs?

Meet regularly?

Rather in the evening? Where?

What communication? Take stock?

Include specific ideas in the project? Develop a charter/rules...?



what are the desires/skills

Take a look at your desires and skills.

Form pairs/mini-groups on a theme...

what are the group's values

transparency

equity

good communication

horizontal governance

respect yourself

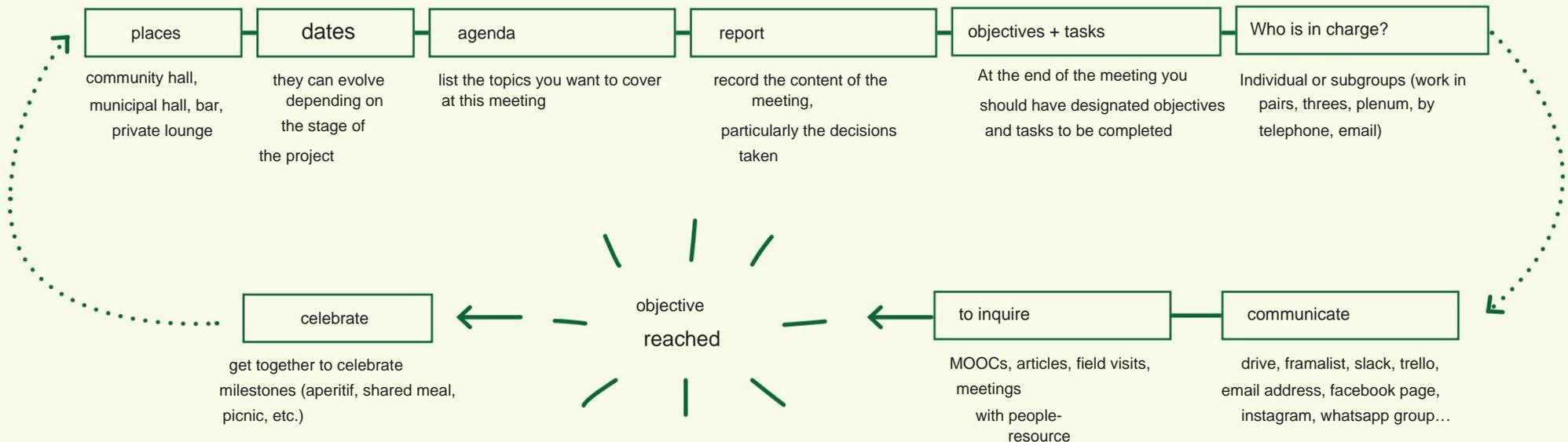
to engage..

human permaculture

Volunteer teamwork allows us to learn many things: getting to know ourselves, our bodies, our emotions, our beliefs, our limits.

6- work tools

Just as there are tools for gardening, there are multiple tools for collaboration, and each group will choose its own. However, meetings remain the main tool for the smooth running of the project.

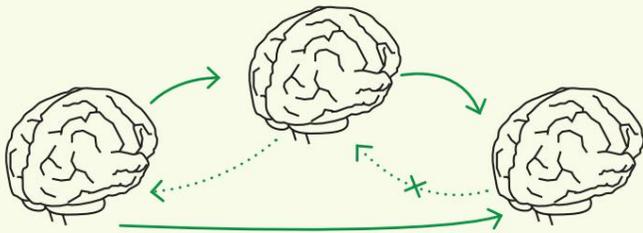


ADVICE

Not all the tools you find will be familiar to everyone. Please be patient and understanding of each person's learning process!
Caring mutual aid helps establish an energy of trust within the collective.

7- the resources of the collective

Each person in the collective represents a resource and it is important to know how to optimize them. Some people will prefer to work on concrete tasks, and others on substantive actions that are less so. So much the better! The important thing is to give free rein to everyone's desires.



skills and collaboration

Planting will require concrete skills; some people will be more comfortable working on the budget, others on the list of species to plant. But it's important to remember that working in a group also requires "softer" social intelligence skills. Without these "invisible" resources, cooperation within your group will be difficult.

Skills

visible

mastery of a tool

software

machine technique

Mastering tools is essential for carrying out specific tasks. e.g., knowing how to create a contact list, creating a budget on an Excel spreadsheet, etc.

invisible

mastery of a situation

emergency novelty

conflict

You'll have to deal with many different people and interests during a planting project. Knowing how to navigate tricky situations is essential to the project's success.

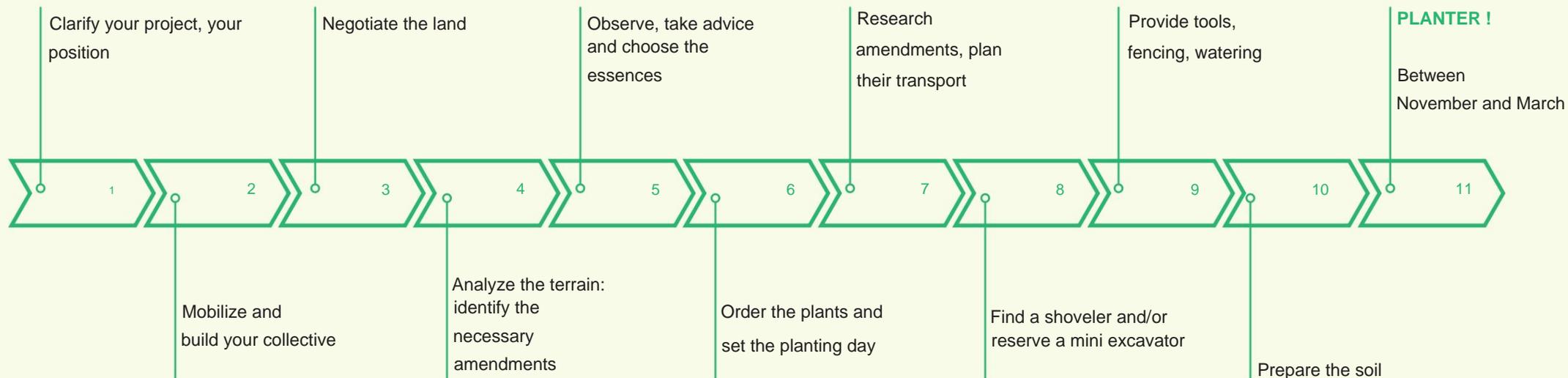
e.g. a partner who changes their mind, disagreements on group management

ADVICE

It is very important to create a climate of trust and transparency within the group. The words: compassion, gratitude, humility, generosity, commitment, sensitivity, kindness are to be practiced without moderation!

8- project management

It is important to bring your team together at the start of the project to get off to a good start. However, a planting project is often carried out in a hurry, with surprises, good or bad, so it is important to stay united and ensure the health of the group regardless of the stage of the project.



ADVICE

A planting project is subject to seasonality! You don't plant in the middle of July! And a good nurseryman will deliver the plants to you at the right time of year. Time management is therefore very important: delays in negotiating the land and the entire project is postponed until next winter. Not easy when you've mobilized a lot of highly motivated volunteers who are fully committed to the project!

9- the keys to success

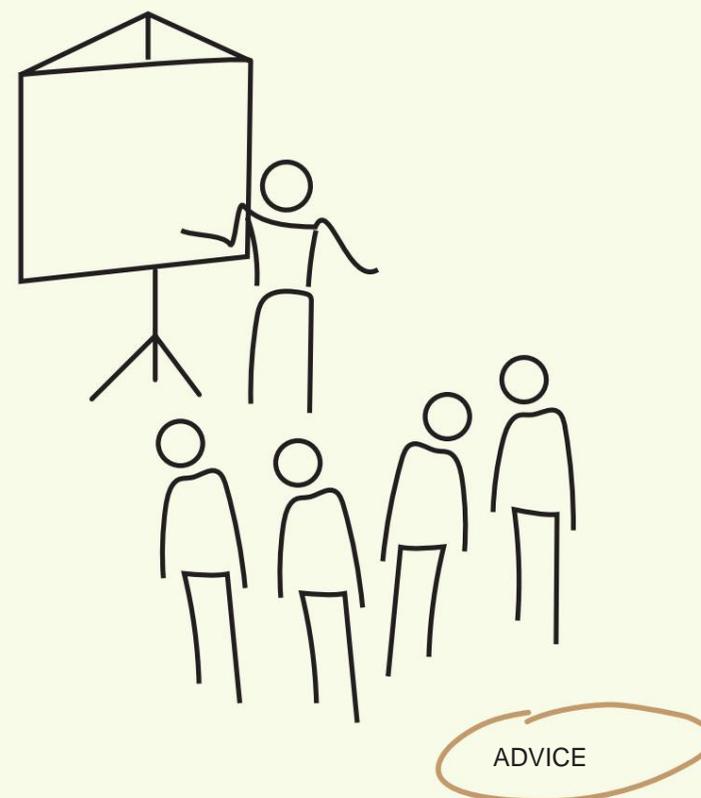
The journey from identifying a plot of land to obtaining an agreement to plant a micro-forest can sometimes be arduous. But the path will open up a wonderful human adventure that must be sustained!

perpetuate the project

- Convincing the municipalities
- Establish agreements dependent on the legal services of each entity
- Request the land to be made available for a minimum of 3 years
- List the maintenance points not to be forgotten (watering, ORE and request not to prune except in case of danger)
- Prepare a presentation to help defend the project

.....

It will also be up to you to plan for the future, passing on your knowledge and skills to a new generation of volunteers to continue weaving the dream.



- 1- surround yourself with the right people
- 2- good management tools
- 3- atmosphere of respect and kindness

and now ?

You formed a first group around the dream of planting a micro-forest...

Now you need to locate a piece of land and determine who owns it.
In the rest of our short practical guide, we present the “**finding land**” step.

We remain at your disposal to discuss your project.



Mail : collectifmicroforetstet@gmail.com

facebook : [@microforetstoulouse](https://www.facebook.com/microforetstoulouse)

<http://toulouse.entransition.fr/>



**Micro-forêts
Toulouse**