There are many options for building your own raised garden bed. Here are two we use at our community and school garden sites:

**Low Bed - 4’x8’x10” high**

**Materials you will need:**
- Three 2”x10”x8’ untreated* spruce boards (one board cut in ½ to give you two 4’ pieces)
- One 2”x4” untreated wood cut to 9” pieces for corner posts (optional)
- Approx. 3” exterior screws
- Landscape fabric
- Drill

**Construction:**
- Identify where your garden bed will go. It should receive at least six hours of full sun a day and not be shaded by overhanging branches.
- Even the spot out by raking if needed.
- Cut a piece of landscape fabric slightly larger than the size of the raised bed you will build and place it in your identified spot. Landscape fabric provides a weed barrier and prevents any possible contamination from lead in soil below.
- Check lumber and plan to position the lumber with the best looking sides facing out.
- It is best to have two people for bed assembly. If using the 2x4 corner posts (cut to 9” size), start by assembling one of the boards to the 2x4. Then form a corner with the other side board so you have a full 8’ section meet in the corner with a 4’ section, reinforced with a 2x4. Use at least 3 screws per side.
- Continue around to connect all 4 corners and place over the landscape fabric.
- Fill the assembled bed with a blend. We recommend Black Earth Compost Raised Bed Soil Blend or you can use a comparable product as long meant for vegetable beds.

* Very important: only use untreated wood for vegetable gardening. Treated wood poses a health risk.
High Bed - 4’x8’x22” high

Materials you will need:

- Six 2”x8”x8’ untreated* spruce boards (full length)
- Three 2”x8”x8’ untreated* spruce boards (each piece cut in ½ to create 6 total 4’ pieces)
- 4”x4” untreated fir cut into four 21” pieces for corner posts
- Approx. 3” exterior screws
- Landscape fabric
- Drill

Construction:

- Identify where your garden bed will go. It should receive at least six hours of full sun a day and not be shaded by overhanging branches.
- Even the spot out by raking if needed.
- Check lumber and plan to position the lumber with the best looking sides facing out.
- It is best to have two people for bed assembly and you want to build the bed in the spot you intend to keep it since it will be heavy to move once fully assembled.
- Start by assembling one of the long or short boards to a 4x4 corner post. Then form a corner with the other side board so you have a full 8’ section meet in the corner with a 4’ section, with each side screwed into the 4x4 corner post. Overlap the ends of the boards if possible. Use at least 3 screws per side.
- Continue around to connect all 4 corners and place over the landscape fabric.
- Cut a piece of landscape fabric and place it inside the newly built bed frame before filling with soil. Landscape fabric provides a weed barrier and prevents possible contamination from lead in soil below.
- Fill the assembled bed with a blend. We recommend Black Earth Compost Raised Bed Soil Blend or you can use a comparable product meant for vegetable beds.