

A guide to  
**Community Gardening in City of  
Wanneroo**



**This publication aims to guide and assist you and your community group to establish and manage a successful and sustainable community garden within the City of Wanneroo.**

Community gardens are places where people come together to grow food and community. These outdoor environments nurture community connectedness, outdoor learning and sharing of skills to grow stronger communities.

Community gardens provide productive, high quality, creative and accessible open spaces in local communities and deliver a range of benefits in physical and nutritional health, mental health and wellbeing, environmental sustainability, food security, social inclusion, education and training, economic development, cultural vitality and community resilience.

More and more communities and organisations across Western Australia are recognising the enormous potential for community gardens to be sustainable venues for local community-led development.

**In the City of Wanneroo, community gardens are the responsibility of the community to manage.**

### **Contact**

For more information about community gardening in the City of Wanneroo please contact the City's Community Development Team.

Phone : (08) 9405 5600

# Are you looking to establish a Community Garden?

Before you start, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is there enough local interest and energy to sustain a garden in the long term?
- Is a community garden the most effective way to address the community's needs, for example, social opportunities, health promotion, environmental improvement or learning for sustainability?
- Are there other established community gardens that would be a better way to achieve your aims?
- Would another form of 'gardening in community' be more appropriate such as sharing produce between neighbours or joining a conservation group?

Once established a community garden takes a great deal of time, energy and commitment from a collective group of people to manage and maintain it. By planning systematically and resisting the urge to rush into the implementation stage you will build a strong foundation for your project and provide the best chance of success. Consider the following tasks:

- Develop a strong and committed garden group that will share the load, and form partnerships with other organisations in the community.
- Research your project thoroughly.
- Work together as a group to agree on and articulate a clear vision for your project.
- Prepare a plan that will identify your priorities and guide you towards achieving your shared vision.
- Design your garden carefully with your vision in mind.

## Things to Consider

### 1. Site Selection

City of Wanneroo land is limited by availability and competing development priorities. The City advises that alternative land options should be considered. Community gardens can occur on either your own, or privately-owned land.

If you are unsure who owns the land at your proposed community garden site, please contact the Community Development team on 9405 5600.

If the community garden is to be established on Council owned or managed land, you will be asked to consider the following factors:

- Size, availability and location of the site.
- Existing services on the site.
- Existing services near the site including public toilets, transport, bicycle tracks and footpaths.
- Accessibility for a range of users including people with a disability.
- Proposed nature of the activities – this may include a draft proposal.
- Methods of engaging the local community in the garden development process.
- Quality of the soil, drainage and sunlight as well as plants and weed control.
- Financial costs and sustainability.

The table below lists criteria for assessing potential sites for the establishment of a community garden on council owned or managed land.

<b>Community Garden Site Considerations</b>	
Location	How much space do you need? Is the land on a slope or flat? What structures and infrastructure are required, and can the site accommodate these structures?
Safety	Sites should have no major safety or health concerns and have good passive surveillance (for example, can the site be easily seen from nearby houses or shopping areas)?
Accessibility	Sites should be accessible for a range of user groups. Sites should be located close to public transport and toilets, and enable disabled access, appropriate car parking, and accommodate groups wanting to visit the garden. Sites should also have street frontage wide enough to enable access by maintenance vehicles and deliveries (such as topsoil, mulch etc.).
Sunshine	Sites need to be suitable for growing vegetables and receive full sunlight - ideally for at least 5 -6 hours per day.
Size	There are no minimum site size stipulations for community gardens. Community garden sites will need to ensure they do not compromise public space accessibility and any of the current or planned functional requirements of public land or have a significant detrimental impact on neighbouring land uses.
Water	Sites should have easy access to water or buildings from which rainwater can be collected.
Soil Contamination	Sites may need to be checked to ensure there is no soil contamination.
Co-located	Sites where a community garden can be integrated without conflicting adversely with other land uses and where the community garden can still be used by non-gardeners for passive recreation and educational workshops.

## **2. Establishing a Community Garden Group**

Community groups interested in establishing a community garden should consider being an incorporated association, under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

Benefits of being an incorporated community garden group include:

- Assists with your group's structure and governance.
- Enables your group to be a legal entity, separate from individual members.
- Provides an ability to obtain and manage your own public liability insurance.
- Allows you to apply for funding grants.

### 3. Establishing a Community Garden Management Plan

Once you have a core community garden group, you will need to develop a Community Garden Management Plan (CGMP). Your plan should include, although not be limited to the statement of purpose of the proposed community garden, aims and objectives of the group including how these will benefit the local area and community, contact details of project coordinators and provision for public and product liability insurance.

Your plan should also include your proposed:

- type of community garden, for example is it a communal garden, combination of communal and allotment, or purely an allotment (private plots).
- governance and management structure including decision-making framework, conflict resolution processes and planned review periods.
- risk management framework and risk assessment.
- policy for the allocation and management of plot gardens.
- funding model, for example membership fees, fundraising, grants.
- recruitment and induction process for members/volunteers.
- method of gardening and what plants will be grown.
- policy regarding sustainable land management including management of soil, water, energy, organic and non-organic waste, chemicals, pests, biodiversity and building materials.
- plan for community impact management including excessive noise, odour, parking, untidiness, and maintenance, drugs/alcohol/smoking onsite and decommissioning of the site should the group disband.
- community engagement strategy including pre-project consultation and ongoing engagement.
- policy regarding hours of operation, security, member access and public access

### 4. Public Liability Insurance

Garden groups have a duty of care to people who visit their garden and need to be aware of the risks associated with publicly accessible garden spaces, therefore all gardens must consider obtaining relevant Public Liability Insurance to a minimum of \$10,000,000.

### 5. Planning Approval Requirements

Community gardens, structures and infrastructure may be liable for legislative approvals. Before commencing any works it is recommended that you contact the City on 9405 5000 or via the [online enquiry form](#).



## How to establish a Community Garden on City of Wanneroo owned/managed land

### Step 1: Make an initial enquiry

Your initial enquiry for the possible establishment of a community garden will be directed to the Community Development team who will discuss the need, requirements and intended purpose.

### Step 2: Request for further information

You will be asked for further information in support of your request to start a community garden, this will include land requirement and location, services/utilities including access, costing, proposed management and sustainability of the garden.

### Step 3: Site identification and preliminary assessment

The information provided by you is reviewed and assessed by various teams at the City of Wanneroo who will take into account the site's viability, your capacity to manage and deliver the project and sustainability.

**Where a site has been identified**, is on City owned land and is a feasible option the enquiry will progress to a detailed assessment. This may include requests for further information, community consultation, detailed plans you etc.

**Where no site has been identified** but it is determined there is significant community need and benefit to the project – the City may research land options for you noting land is in high demand for community purpose.

### Step 4: Site agreed and Issue of Licence

On completion of detailed review and subsequent City approval of the garden a Licence for Development of a Community Garden on City managed land will be issued to you as the applicant, this provides in-principal support for a garden to be developed on the preferred site.

### Step 5: Enter Lease Agreement

The Property Services team considers all the information and prepares a report for final Council approval for a lease to be offered to the applicant. Where approved the lease of land is prepared to be signed by both parties. Only Incorporated groups are able to enter into a lease agreement with the City.

## Some key ingredients to growing a successful community garden:

1. **Plants** – build on the special qualities of gardens
2. **People** – you can't do it alone
3. **Planning** – develop a shared vision
4. **Process** – how you get there is important
5. **Partnerships** – many and diverse
6. **Place** – make a great community place
7. **Physical maintenance** – gardens need constant love
8. **Patience** – it won't happen overnight
9. **Pleasure** – it needs to be fun!

Taken from Growing Communities WA (2010) *Community Gardening Success Factors*

## Helpful Resources and References

Community Gardens WA website [Home - CGA \(communitygarden.org.au\)](http://communitygarden.org.au)