



# Establishing a Community Garden

## COMMUNITY GARDENS IN WILLOUGHBY



Council recognises community gardening as a valuable recreational activity that contributes to health and well-being, positive social interaction, community development, environmental education and sustainable principles and use of open space.

Residents are encouraged to work in partnership with Council and other relevant organisations in the establishment of new community gardens.

Establishing a community garden can be a complex process that requires consultation with a range of stakeholders and there are a number of issues that need to be considered before a community garden is initiated.

In order for Council to consider supporting the development of a new community garden, applicants will need to address the site selection criteria and follow the procedures for starting a new community garden.

To see how a community garden works you can visit a Council run garden at Warners Park, Northbridge or a privately run garden at the Barton Road Housing Estate, Artarmon.

Willoughby's Community Garden Policy is available on our website. Visit <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au> for further information or contact Council's Open Space Branch on 9777 1000.

## HOW TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY GARDEN

### Step 1

Form a group of interested people

### Step 2

Identify a potential site and complete the basic site assessment (A) and community garden checklist (B)

### Step 3

Discuss the proposal with the land owner. *(In cases where Council is not the owner of the land, Council may assist in facilitating discussions between the group and the land owner.)* Groups should prepare themselves for this meeting by establishing what they want to achieve from gaining access to the land, be able to prove their dedication to operating and effectively managing a garden, and being able to explain how the garden would operate.

### Step 4

Submit an application to the land owner and include any other supporting documentation.

### Step 5

Assessment by land owner.

### Step 6

Application Approval

*Where the application is not supported, an alternate site may be suggested. Written feedback will be provided by Council.*

### Step 7

Written agreements and licences established with land owner.

## **(A) BASIC SITE ASSESSMENT**

*You need to carry out a basic site assessment to determine if your site is suitable for a community garden. Attach additional information if needed.*

### **Assessment criteria:**

*Your assessment should take the following items into consideration*

- Sun exposure
- Wind protection
- Safety
- Size of area
- Land ownership
- Community Support
- Water availability
- Accessibility
- Current land use
- Tool storage

### **Additional Information:**

**Garden Location:** .....

### **Contact Information**

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

- Please add me to Council's Community Garden mailing list

## **(B) COMMUNITY GARDEN CHECKLIST**

*This checklist presents ideas to consider before starting a community garden. It will form part of your application.*

**How many people do you have in your community garden group?**

**What type of community garden do you want?**

Will the community garden be:

- a shared garden
- an allotment garden
- a garden with both shared and allotments

**What type of plants do you want to grow?**

- herbs
- vegetables
- fruit trees
- bush foods
- flowers
- other

**What facilities will you have in the garden?**

- shelter
- water tank
- tool storage
- other

If other, please specify .....

**What training would you find beneficial?**

- composting
- plant propagation
- garden establishment
- organic pest management
- worm farming

**How will your garden fit in with Council Programs?**

- waste reduction
- water conservation
- education
- other

If other, please specify .....

**How will the garden be funded?**

- membership fee
- apply for grants
- other types of self-funding.....

**How will the garden be managed?**

- incorporated association
- work committee
- other .....

**How will decisions for the garden be made?**

**How will conflicts in the garden be resolved?**

**How will the garden obtain public liability insurance?** *(see website for further information)*

- Have its own insurance
- Be covered by an existing policy
- Other .....