Establishing a Community Garden

WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

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 the various locations shown on this webpage. All community gardens on Council land are shared community gardens where all the garden land is shared by members and there are no private allotments.

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   ☐ Water availability

☐ Wind protection   ☐ Accessibility

☐ Safety   ☐ Current land use

☐ Size of area   ☐ Tool storage

☐ Land ownership

☐ Community Support

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 plants do you want to grow?

☐ herbs   ☐ vegetables   ☐ fruit trees

☐ bush foods   ☐ flowers   ☐ other

What facilities will you have in the garden?

☐ shelter   ☐ tool storage

☐ water tank   ☐ 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 ....