

# Community Gardens within the City of Joondalup

## Frequently Asked Questions

The following aims to provide information on the establishment and management of community gardens within the City of Joondalup.

### What is a Community Garden?

A community garden is a not-for-profit, local space that operates on designated land for residents and volunteers to grow fresh food, participate in sustainable urban practices, improve food literacy, learn horticultural skills and build community connections through shared activities.

### What types of Community Gardens are there?

There are many different types of community gardens some of which include:

- **Communal Gardens**

Communal gardens are located on public land, where all members of the general community are invited to participate. Within the City, they are managed by an incorporated, self-sustaining, not-for-profit community group. Once an application has been received and approved, the community group is responsible for its establishment, design, finances, operations and day-to-day management.

- **Allotment Gardens**

Allotment gardens are plots of land made available for non-commercial gardening for individuals or families and usually attract an annual membership fee. These are normally fenced with entry only to members.

The City does not support allotment gardens on City land due to its preference for community gardens that are fully open to the public.

### What is the City's role in the establishment of Community Gardens?

The City's role in the establishment of community gardens is to provide information and guidance to community groups wishing to set up a garden. The City's role is also to give approvals for the land allocation and structures upon the land once the garden is established.

The City will not get involved in the operations of the community group and does not provide funding for community garden infrastructure.

### How are Community Garden sites selected?

Once an enquiry about the establishment of a new community garden is received, the City will work with the community group to assess a proposed site.

The City considers the following points when assessing potential community garden sites:

- Proximity of other nearby community groups or businesses;
- Proximity to residential housing;
- Proximity to bushland and other natural areas;
- Pathogen levels;
- Parking and accessibility for vehicles and people;
- Lighting;
- History of the site (e.g. any risk of existing soil contamination);
- Impact on existing assets, infrastructure or services;
- Contour of the land;
- Land suitability – soil quality, drainage, sunlight, shade;
- Competing interests for the site;
- Approvals required (e.g. crown land, planning approvals);
- Access to toilets, water, electricity, storage;
- Any other identified issues.

## **How many Community Gardens operate on City owned land?**

The City currently has one community garden operating on City land. The Duncraig Edible Garden, is located at the front of the Duncraig Public Library – Warwick Road, Duncraig.

## **What do I need to consider before starting a Community Garden?**

Community gardens can be incredibly rewarding and worthwhile. They can be also be hard-work, cost more than expected to run over the long-term and take a great deal of time, energy and commitment.

If the option of joining an existing community garden is not available, you may seek to start your own community garden.

- Community gardens must be managed by an incorporated, not-for-profit community group.
- The community group must be sufficiently resourced and prepared to fund and manage the governance, membership, finances, insurances and operations of the community garden.

Potential applicants should read the City's Community Garden Guidelines prior to applying.

## **How do I apply to start a Community Garden?**

To apply, please follow the process outlined in the City's Community Garden Guidelines.

## **How long does the process take to complete?**

It may take up to four months for an outcome from the City after you have submitted an Expression of Interest in line with the processes outlined in the City's Community Garden Guidelines.

After you receive approval from the City your group will need to sign a Land Use Agreement prior to the implementation of your garden. Your group will need to be incorporated and have appropriate insurance to sign the Land Use Agreement.

## **Who do I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the City's Community Development Officer on **9400 4226** or via email **[info@joondalup.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@joondalup.wa.gov.au)**