

Council Policy – Community Gardens

Responsible Directorate	Community Engagement
Responsible Business Unit/s	Community Projects and Facilities
Responsible Officer	Manager Community Projects and Property
Affected Business Units	Community Activation Operations

Objective

To facilitate and promote community gardens in appropriate locations on Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (the Shire) owned or managed land, that are sustainably managed and led by the community in such a way that promotes healthy living practices and builds strong community relationships.

Scope

This Policy applies to all community gardens established, managed, or supported by the local government on Shire owned or managed land.

Policy

Roles and Responsibilities of the Shire

- Provide a streamlined and consistent approach to the assessment, approval and management of community garden requests on Council owned or managed land.
- Facilitate community gardens through the provision of advice and referral for interested groups.
- Connect community garden groups to encourage relationship building, encourage knowledge and skill sharing, and strengthen community cohesion.
- Encourage the incorporation of strategies that could enable the establishment of community gardens in new structure plan areas.
- Prepare and monitor the terms of the lease or license for Council approved community gardens.

Roles and Responsibilities of Community Garden Groups

Community gardeners are responsible for maintaining the garden so that the health and safety of the surrounding community is not adversely impacted.

Community Garden groups shall:

- Become incorporated associations in order to manage their own insurance and funds and apply for grants;
- Abide by terms and conditions of lease or license agreements;
- Source any necessary funding for the establishment of the community garden;

- Ensure any water leaving the garden is not contaminated by sediment, fertiliser, manure or excessive organic matter that might pollute waterways;
- Ensure rainwater harvesting systems are maintained so that water is of a high quality;
- Ensure compost, worm farming systems and fertilisers are maintained so as not to attract vermin, produce unpleasant odours or present a fire risk;
- Ensure any materials delivered to, or stored at the garden are maintained so as not to create an unpleasant or unsafe environment for other residents in the community;
- Ensure that, on request and with prior arrangement, visitors are welcomed to the garden;
- Maintain appropriate insurance cover for the group;
- Return the site to its original condition should the group disband, or the lease not be renewed.

Definitions

Community gardens are a not-for-profit, community-based enterprise producing food primarily for the consumption of the gardeners. They are community managed, multi-functional garden space that when carefully designed and managed can provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits

Community garden groups are incorporated associations or entities who have applied for a lease or licence to develop appropriate Shire owned or managed land into community gardens.

Council owned or managed land includes present and future Shire freehold land (land owned by the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale) and Crown land (land owned by the State, under the care and control of the Shire, usually by way of a management order). It excludes privately owned or controlled land, and land owned or controlled by State Departments

Related Documents

- Council Plan 2023-2033

Legislation / Local Law Requirements

- *Local Government Act 1995*

Amendment Record

Relevant Delegations		Nil	
		Date	Resolution Number
Council Adoption		29 September 2015	OCM187/09/15
Version	Date	Resolution Number	Amendment Details
2	18 December 2017	OCM179/12/17	
3	17 March 2025	OCM068/03/25	New template and updated Directorate, Business Units, and definitions.