

Community Gardens Policy

Council policy

1 Policy statement

We support community gardens, acknowledging their valuable contribution to community cohesion, and to building skills in growing fresh food as a healthy outdoor activity.

We take a community development approach to community gardens, encouraging community garden groups to be self-managed and community owned. We provide information and advice for those establishing new gardens or managing existing gardens.

2 Scope

The Policy applies to community garden groups that operate or intend to operate a community garden on land that is owned and/or managed by Council.

3 Definitions

Community garden	A specific area of Council-owned land that is: • managed by an incorporated, not-for-profit association for the purposes of people collectively growing food • licensed by Council for the group's use. Typically, community gardens facilitate social engagement in a healthy outdoor setting and can contribute to a sustainable urban environment.
Community garden group	A group of people who regularly participate in gardening and related activities at a community garden or who intend to establish a community garden on land that is owned and/or managed by Council.
Community garden management committee	A group of people who have been elected by a community garden group to manage the community garden.
Community garden management plan	A document developed by the community garden group which outlines the group's objectives, goals and responsibilities, and the agreed garden design.
Incorporated association	An incorporated association is self-managed and has its own legal identity, protecting members in legal transactions. NSW Fair Trading administers the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and regulates incorporated associations.
Auspiced	To become auspiced, a community garden group would arrange to be managed by an existing organisation that is legally incorporated in Australia as a not-for-profit entity, e.g. church or other religious group,

	Indigenous group, or charity. Council would enter the licence agreement with the auspicing organisation.
Licence agreement	This is a contractual agreement drawn up by Council or its legal representative. It sets out details of the community garden location and the rights and responsibilities of Council and the community garden group in relation to that site. It will generally be for a 5 year term.
Sustainable gardening	An approach that minimises the impact on the environment. This may include harvesting rainwater, composting and worm farming and using recycled materials in the construction of the garden.
We, us, our	Blacktown City Council

4 What we require of community garden groups

To establish a community garden, a community garden group must:

- consist of 12 or more members aged 18 years or more
- be an incorporated association or auspiced by a group that is incorporated
- purchase and continuously maintain Public Liability insurance for a minimum of \$10 million
- arrange an appropriate, mutually acceptable site with Council and provide a community garden management plan for that site
- arrange a licence agreement with Council for that site.

5 Our commitments to support community gardens

We will provide information and advice on:

- setting up community garden groups as incorporated associations
- potential auspicing organisations
- potential sites and obtaining a license agreement with Council
- applying for grants, funding and other resources
- community garden management plans, garden design and sustainable gardening
- connecting to relevant community garden networks.

We will also promote established community gardens through Council's website, events and networks.

6 References and approvals

Category	Environmental Sustainability
Reports	CL410023
Date created	1 November 2020

Version	3
Last review	April 2021
Approval	Adopted by Council on 28.4.21
Next review	July 2023
Owner	Director City Living
Responsible Officers	Environmental Engagement Officer
Related policies	P000508.4 Vegetated Road Verge & Nature Strip Maintenance Approval P000495.1 Access to Fresh Food Policy.
Related delegations	N/A.
Related law	Work Health and Safety Act 2011 No 10 Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.
Related documents	Community Garden Establishment Standard.
Attachments	