

Shire of Mundaring

POLICY

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Policy Ref: CD- 03

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PURPOSE

To promote and support the development and sustainability of both new and existing Community Gardens in Shire of Mundaring.

BACKGROUND

Shire of Mundaring recognises community gardening as a valuable recreational activity that contributes to:

- improved health and well-being;
- positive social interaction;
- community capacity;
- environmental education and sustainability principles;
- protection and use of open space; and
- opportunities for engagement with local residents, key stakeholder groups and businesses within the Shire.

POLICY

Definition

A 'community garden' is defined as a space operated by the community (with Shire approval as required and assistance), where the site is used for:

- The production of legal produce for the personal use of its members through allotments or shared plots
- Demonstration gardening or other horticultural activities which encourage the involvement of schools, youth groups and citizens in gardening activities.
- Educational opportunities for sustainable practices.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To support the establishment of community gardens throughout Shire of Mundaring where feasible and appropriate, and in consultation with the Shire;
- To encourage that all community gardens are self managed in a manner that will increase community ownership;
- To assist the community and various educational institutions to acquire, share and increase knowledge and practice of gardening;
- To encourage a high standard of community gardens structure and design; and
- To utilise Shire vested or freehold land sites.

Shire Support for Community Gardens

Subject to available resources the Shire supports community gardens by providing the following to community garden groups.

Site

- Assist interested groups in searching for suitable public land for the development of community gardens.
- Where possible provide suitable public land for community gardens

Services

- Working with community partners in the development of the community garden.
- Provide in-kind support where feasible (i.e. water options, mulch, etc.).

Promotion

- Promote and raise awareness of community gardening through the Shire's website, publications and events.
- Provide information to the public about the operation of community gardens.

Support & Advice

- Facilitate meetings of community gardens working group to assist with community engagement processes and establishment of community gardens
- Provide advice and ongoing communication with garden coordinators and committees.
- Assist with the development of garden management plans
- Assist in obtaining grants and resources
- Support the establishment of recycling; worm farms and composting facilities.