

COMMUNITY GARDENS 2.29

Responsible Directorate	Place and Community
Responsible Service Area	Community, Culture and Visitor Experience
Resolution	September 2025 SC-5-9-2025
Procedure Ref	N/A

1. PURPOSE

The Shire values community gardening as a beneficial recreational activity that supports health and wellbeing, social connection, community capacity, environmental education, sustainability principles incorporation and the protection of open spaces and the natural environment.

This policy aims to promote, support and ensure the long-term environmental sustainability and responsibility, along with the fair management of new and existing community gardens within the Shire of Mundaring, fostering inclusive, resilient and vibrant community spaces.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all community garden groups operating under a Shire community lease or management agreement, to manage a shared garden space for:

- a) growing legal produce for community use through allotments or shared plots;
- b) demonstrating gardening and horticultural activities that encourage broader community participation;
- c) providing education on sustainable, waterwise and climate resilient gardening practices; and
- d) hosting community capacity building activities that strengthen local networks and social cohesion.

3. DEFINITIONS

Community garden	A shared space self-managed by the community for gardening, education and social interaction.
Community garden group	An incorporated not for profit group or association who has been granted a community lease agreement to develop appropriate land into a community garden with direct benefit to the community.

Appropriate land	Is space that has been specifically selected by Shire of Mundaring for its suitability of a community garden.
Environmental sustainability	Responsible use of natural resources, protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, maximising energy and water efficiency and minimising pollution and waste.
Waterwise practices	Gardening methods designed to minimise water consumption, promoting sustainability.
Regenerative gardening	Gardening practices that restore soil health, improve biodiversity and increase carbon sequestration.

4. POLICY

4.1 The key objectives of this policy are to:

- 4.1.1. support establishment of community gardens in appropriate locations throughout the Shire of Mundaring, in consultation with the Shire;
- 4.1.2. prioritise garden locations that consider usability, cost efficiency, likely low level of environmental impact and long-term sustainability;
- 4.1.3. ensure all community gardens are self-managed, promoting community commitment, guardianship and accountability;
- 4.1.4. ensure all community gardens are planned with the goal of becoming financially independent;
- 4.1.5. encourage sustainable structure and design, incorporating waterwise and climate-resilient principles;
- 4.1.6. ensure appropriate setbacks from waterways are determined to prevent leaching of fertilisers and safeguard existing water quality;
- 4.1.7. assist the community and educational institutions in acquiring, sharing and increasing knowledge and practices of sustainable gardening, regenerative practices and waterwise methods;
- 4.1.8. align with the Shire's Community Leases Policy (2.13) to ensure community gardens are managed responsibly, supporting community benefit, transparency and equity; and
- 4.1.9. monitor and evaluate community garden performance and environmental outcomes, supporting continuous improvement and best-practice evolution.

4.2 The Shire may support community garden groups with the following:

- 4.2.1. identification of an appropriate garden site;
- 4.2.2. promotion of community gardens in line with the Shire's Communication Strategy;
- 4.2.3. provide advice, including infrastructure technical advice from shire staff and ongoing engagement with community garden groups;

- 4.2.4. encouragement of partnerships with other community gardens to help build relationships and encourage the sharing of information and experiences;
- 4.2.5. promote and facilitate access to Shire community funding, external grant opportunities and resourcing needs to support garden initiatives;
- 4.2.6. access to safety training, educational workshops, environmental events and advice from the Shire's Community Landcare Officer to support community garden best practice;
- 4.2.7. encouragement of waterwise and regenerative gardening techniques to improve soil health, reduce water usage and support biodiversity; and
- 4.2.8. provision of standing waiver of charges for community gardens to obtain an annual transfer station pass (three general waste entries).

5. RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Water Services Act 2012*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Community Leases Policy (2.13)
- Environmental Sustainability Policy (2.20)
- Local Planning Strategy
- Local Biodiversity Strategy
- Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy