

Policy Number:	5. Library and Community Services
Policy Name:	Community Gardens
Classification:	Public – Council Policy
Adopted:	10 July 2018
Frequency of Review:	Every four years
Last Review:	
Next Review Due:	July 2022
Responsible Officer(s):	Team Leader Recreation & Community
Policy and Code of Practice Manual File Ref:	CC10/2601
Council File Reference:	CR18/43551
Legislation Authority:	N/A
Related Policies and Codes:	Public Consultation Policy Sporting and Community Club Organisations Agreement Schedule for Ground Leases – Exclusive Rights Policy Asset Management Policy Sustainable Urban Development & Infrastructure Funding Policy Landscaping Verge Areas (Footways) by Residents Policy Environment Policy
Related Procedures:	

1. BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The vision for Gawler as stated in the Council Community Plan 2017-2027 is to be 'A liveable, cohesive, active, innovative and sustainable community'. This policy acknowledges the valuable contribution that participation in community development activities and recreation, both active and passive, has on the physical and mental health and overall wellbeing of the community.
- 1.2. Council will actively encourage and develop a community that provides members with the opportunity and means to access quality community development and recreation activities, facilities and programs regardless of age, gender, ability, cultural background or socio-economic status.

- 1.3. Council recognises that community gardens can be a valuable community based activity through which community members can learn, recreate and socialise.

Community Gardens can contribute to improved health and well-being, an increase in positive social interaction, an appreciation of environmental and sustainability principles and the greater use and protection of public open space.

- 1.4. This policy applies to community gardens on Council land or other private or public property.
- 1.5. This policy does not apply to commercial forms of urban agriculture.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- 2.1 **Community Garden:** a unique form of open space which is accessible to everyone, in which everyone can participate. This is self-managed by the community primarily for the production of food and to contribute to the development of a sustainable urban environment.
- 2.2 **Recreation:** any structured or unstructured, active or passive activity chosen and undertaken for the purpose of enjoyment, Recreation is engaged in during leisure time and offers a person an outlet for physical, mental and/or creative expression. (Office for Recreation & Sport SA, 2015)
- 2.3 **Demonstration Site:** Community garden sites that are well presented, regarded as best practice, accessible for all users and visitors to share ideas, skills and increase community awareness of sustainable garden practices with the local community.
- 2.4 **Management Plan:** Document developed by the community garden group and updated annually to describe their vision, the details of the garden, their objectives, the activities and responsibilities of the group.

3. POLICY OBJECTIVES

This policy recognises the vital role Council has in the provision, planning and leadership support of community development activities and recreation opportunities within the community. The objectives of the policy are:

- 3.1 Promote the development and maintenance of community gardens where people can meet, work together, build stronger community relationships and learn about sustainable living.
- 3.2 To promote diversity of recreation and cultural activity within Council and manage competing interests for Community Land.
- 3.3 Enhance the use and enjoyment of Council public open space by the community.
- 3.4 Promote positive health and wellbeing outcomes for Council residents, such as community capacity development, social inclusion and healthy lifestyles.
- 3.5 Assisting in the appropriate management of public resources, including Community Land, through due diligence and through transparent and accountable processes,

- 3.6 Contribute to attractive, sustainable and viable community facilities.
- 3.7 Providing advice and support when establishing new, or managing existing gardens,
- 3.8 Demonstrate environmentally sustainable practices through local food projects and encourage efficient and effective management processes for Community Gardens established on Community Land.

4. POLICY PRINCIPLES

The following Principles underpin the Council commitment to community gardens and other recreational activities:

4.1 **Community Participation**

All members of the community should have the opportunity to participate in community and recreation activities that positively contribute to their health and wellbeing, regardless of:

- 4.1.1 Age
- 4.1.2 Gender
- 4.1.3 Ability
- 4.1.4 Cultural Background
- 4.1.5 Socio-Economic status

Council will encourage and support opportunities that promote the community to be more physically active and reduce social isolation. In some instances this will include programs and initiatives targeted at specific population groups to assist all members of the community have the opportunity for positive wellbeing outcomes.

4.2 **Community Garden facility use**

Use of Council-owned land will be considered for community gardens on a case by case basis. The degree of support that may be provided by Council in the above cases will be determined by the following current and/or future factors:

- 4.2.1 Community needs and interests in a given location
- 4.2.2 Population growth
- 4.2.3 Available resources
- 4.2.4 Existing and/or planned facilities within and/or nearby to Gawler
- 4.2.5 The capacity for the community garden to deliver broader place making outcomes that celebrate and enhance a local sense of community and unique identity
- 4.2.6 The level of community-wide benefit provided by the community garden (including the inclusiveness of its membership structure)
- 4.2.7 Council will only enter a lease with community garden groups that are incorporated or willing to become incorporated in a mutually agreed time frame.
- 4.2.8 *The integration of environmental sustainability and environmental protection considerations within the Community Garden Management Plan.*

4.3 Partnerships

Council will be proactive in establishing and maintaining partnerships to allow for the delivery of an increased range and quality of active and passive recreation opportunities for the community.

Partners will include, but will not be limited to:

4.3.1 Local, State and Federal Government agencies

4.3.2 Local Service Clubs and Community Organisations

4.3.3 Educational institutions

4.3.4 Private enterprise

4.4 Community Knowledge

Council will provide information across a range of media to reach a broad section of the community to allow people to be aware of the community development and recreation opportunities that are available in Gawler.

Council will additionally provide information to the community promoting the positive aspects of community gardening as a contributor to health and wellbeing, the educational opportunity it presents and the ways in which it contributes to the development of a sustainable urban environment.

4.5 Sustainability

Council will support community gardens to become self-managed and encourage community ownership by requiring community garden groups to develop a management plan for their community garden, to be updated annually. A requirement to present the annual Management Plan to Council and an annual report reviewing the delivery of the previous year's Management Plan will be included in the lease agreement for gardens on Community Land. Facilities will be operated in a manner that encourages maximum community participation through inclusive promotion and provision of programs.

Council will provide support for local community organisations seeking external funding opportunities. Council will also promote the development of community gardens as demonstration sites where people can meet, work together, build stronger community relationships and learn about environmental sustainability.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The degree of support that may be provided by Council for community gardens will be determined by the following:

- 5.1 The level of demand and support for a community garden in a given location;
- 5.2 The level of community-wide benefit provided by the community garden (including the inclusiveness of its membership structure);
- 5.3 The capacity for the community garden to deliver broader place making outcomes that celebrate and enhance a local sense of community and unique identity;
- 5.4 Evidence of efforts to seek support from other sources;
- 5.5 The availability and suitability of resources within the Council to respond to the request for support.

Use of Council-owned land will be considered for community gardens on a case by case basis. It is noted that Council will only enter a lease with community garden groups that are incorporated or willing to become incorporated in a mutually agreed time frame.

The development of a community garden or associated structures may require a development application whether on Council-owned land or privately owned land. Staff will assist with the regulatory process, as required.

6. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The effectiveness of this Policy will be reviewed every 4 years.

The Chief Executive Officer will report to Council on the outcome of the evaluation and if relevant make recommendations for amendments, alteration or substitution of a new Policy.

The Policy will not be altered or substituted so as to affect a process already commenced.

7. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about this Policy can be obtained by:-

Telephone: 8522 9211
Email: council@gawler.sa.gov.au
Appointment: Town of Gawler Administration Centre 43 High St, Gawler East
Letter: PO Box 130, Gawler SA 5118

8. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

The Policy is available for inspection during ordinary business hours at the Council Administration Centre 43 High St, Gawler East or is available on the Council website at www.gawler.sa.gov.au.

A copy of this Policy will be provided to interested parties upon request, for a fee as contained in the Register of Fees and Charges.