

Council Policy

Community Gardens

Policy Statement

This policy outlines Council's support for community gardens throughout the Northern Beaches. It aims to ensure a consistent, equitable and transparent approach to the planning, establishment, management and operation of community gardens.

Council recognises community gardening as a recreational activity that contributes to the health and well-being of our community as well as providing a range of environmental, social and educational benefits. Council also recognises that community involvement is essential in decision-making, planning, management and day-to-day activities to ensure the ongoing success of community gardens on the Northern Beaches.

Definition

For the purpose of this policy a community garden is defined as an area of shared land tended by an organised group where people can come together, learn about and cultivate a garden. The garden may include for example, fresh fruits and vegetables, ornamentals, natives, native bush foods and / or sensory plants.

Principles

Council is committed to:

1. Providing safe and accessible public open spaces for the establishment, management and operation of community gardens.
2. Ensuring a consistent, equitable and transparent approach to the planning and establishment of community gardens via an assessment of criteria including but not limited to: location; distribution across the local government area; need; safety; site access; access to sunlight and water; soil suitability; financial viability and 'self-funding'; compatibility with other use; nearby resident support and impacts; community benefit; environmental impacts and alignment with the principles of the 'local green grid' and 'green neighbourhoods'.
3. Ensuring that community gardens integrate with existing use and add value to the surrounding area and community.
4. Supporting a community led approach to the establishment and management of community gardens.
5. Working in partnership with community garden groups to ensure ongoing success of the gardens through sustainable and financially viable models. Partnership support, particularly funding for planning, establishment and management.
6. Establishing clear roles and responsibilities for Council and community garden groups for the planning, construction, maintenance and management of community gardens.
7. Providing support to community garden groups in ways such as access to land (if approved), advice, community events, education and networking opportunities where resources allow.
8. Promoting and supporting a commitment to sustainable practices, conserving resources and protection of the environment.

Scope & Application

This policy applies to land owned or managed by Council that either is or could be made available for the establishment of community gardens.

This policy is supported by the Community Gardens Guidelines which sets out the process for assessing requests as well as establishing and operating a community garden.

References and related documents

Local Government Act 1993.

Northern Beaches Council Community Strategic Plan 2018 - 2028.

Northern Beaches Council Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040.

Northern Beaches Council Community Engagement Framework.

Northern Beaches Council Guidelines for Community Gardens.

Roads Act 1993 and subordinate regulations sec 138.

Responsible Officer

Executive Manager Parks and Recreation

Review Date

June 2024

Revision History

Revision	Date	Change	HPE CM Ref
1	November 2019	Draft Community Gardens Policy	2020/128052
2	June 2020	Final Draft Community Gardens Policy	2020/128052
3	23 June 2020	Policy adopted by Council	2020/386291