

Objectives: People

Outcome: 1.1 - A healthy, active, connected and inclusive community.

Strategy: 1.1.1 - Provide well planned and maintained public open space and community infrastructure.

Purpose

To facilitate and promote community gardens, on Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale owned or managed land, that are sustainably managed and led by the community in such a way that the needs of all stakeholders are taken into account.

Definitions

“Community gardens” a community garden is a piece of land operated collectively by a group of people for the primary purposes of community food production and recreational gardening. There are a number of different structures of community gardens. The most common types are:

- community gardens with individual allotments allocated to individual members;
- community gardens where the entire garden is run collectively as a shared enterprise; and/or
- community gardens that integrate both allotment and shared gardens.

“Council owned or managed land” includes present and future Shire freehold land (land owned by the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale) and Crown land (land owned by the State, under the care and control of the Shire, usually by way of a management order). It excludes privately owned or controlled land, and land owned or controlled by State Departments.

Policy

Roles and Responsibilities of the Shire

- Provide a streamlined and consistent approach to the assessment, approval and management of community garden requests on Council owned or managed land.
- Facilitate community gardens through the provision of advice and referral for interested groups.
- Connect community garden groups to encourage relationship building, encourage knowledge and skill sharing, and strengthen community cohesion.
- Encourage the incorporation of strategies that could enable the establishment of community gardens in new structure plan areas.



- Prepare and monitor the terms of the lease for Council approved community gardens.

Roles and Responsibilities of Community Gardeners

Community gardeners are responsible for maintaining the garden so that the health and safety of the surrounding community is not adversely impacted.

Community Garden groups shall:

- become incorporated associations in order to manage their own insurance and funds and apply for grants;
- abide by all relevant Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale and state legislation;
- source any necessary funding for the establishment of the community garden;
- ensure any water leaving the garden is not contaminated by sediment, fertiliser, manure or excessive organic matter that might pollute waterways;
- ensure rainwater harvesting systems are maintained so that water is of a high quality;
- ensure compost, worm farming systems and fertilisers are maintained so as not to attract vermin, produce unpleasant odours or present a fire risk;
- ensure any materials delivered to, or stored at the garden are maintained so as not to create an unpleasant or unsafe environment for other residents in the community;
- ensure that, on request and with prior arrangement, visitors are welcomed to the garden;
- maintain appropriate insurance cover for the group;
- abide by the terms of the lease with the Shire; and
- return the site to its original condition should the group disband or the lease not be renewed.

**References**

Name of Policy	5.2.3 Community Gardens
Previous Policy	PC106 – Community Gardens (E15/5096)
Date of Adoption and Resolution Number	Adopted OCM187/09/15 29/09/2015
Review dates and Resolution Numbers	Modified OCM179/12/17 18/12/2017 Ordinary Council Meeting
Next review date	
Related documents	Acts/Regulations <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Plans/Strategies Strategic Community Plan 2017 - 2027 Policies Nil References Nil Delegations Nil Work Procedures TBD

Note: changes to references may be made without the need to take the Policy to Council for review.