



1.0 Purpose

This policy sets out the requirements for establishing a community garden and undertaking community gardening activities by residents on Canterbury-Bankstown Council (Council) owned and/or controlled lands.

2.0 Scope

This policy and accompanying 'Guidelines for establishing Community Gardens' (guidelines) applies to community planting activities on Council owned and/or controlled lands and outlines Council and resident requirements for establishing and managing community gardens.

This policy does not apply to the activities of Council or contracted land management activities.

The policy will not be applied retrospectively. All existing community gardens and 'Adopt a Patch' sites must continue to adhere to their current formal approvals and licence agreements.

3.0 Terms and Definitions

Term	Meaning
Community Garden	<p>A not-for-profit, community-based enterprise producing food primarily for the consumption of the gardeners. Community gardens are also places for learning and sharing about sustainable living practices and for actively building communities through shared activities.</p> <p>It is a unique form of open space which is accessible to everyone, in which everyone can participate. This is self-managed by the community and contributes to the development of a sustainable urban environment. Community Gardens must allow for access or membership by all members of the community.</p>
Management Plan	Document developed by the community garden group to describe their vision, the details of the garden, their objectives, the activities and responsibilities of the group.
Indigenous Plants	Plants that are native to the local area which have been identified as growing in the immediate local area pre 1788. The "Your Native Garden" publication by council is recommended for plant selection.

4.0 Policy Statement

Council encourages residents to participate in and develop community gardens within the City of Canterbury Bankstown in line with the requirements outlined in this Policy.



5.0 Policy Principles

Council supports residents to participate in and develop community gardens across the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area (LGA) and encourages the planting of local indigenous plants.

Community gardens provide social, environmental and economic benefits to the community and supports Canterbury-Bankstown Council's Community Strategic Plan 2028: *Clean and Green destination 'A clean and sustainable city with healthy waterways and natural areas'*.

The following principles capture Council's approach to establishing and maintaining a community garden:

- The garden must allow the general community to participate;
- The group must have local residents who participate in and support the garden;
- The proposed garden must be approved by Council and the local community;
- The group must demonstrate the capacity to fund the garden and provide ongoing maintenance

5.1 Application Process for Community Gardens

Applications for new community gardens must address key criteria set out in the guidelines and identify a community garden group (group) that will manage the site. Not all Council land or open space is suitable for community gardens; exclusions are outlined in the guidelines.

The group must seek formal approval from Council before establishing a community garden. If successful, the group may be issued with a 12-month permit to be reviewed the following year.

Council will maintain a register of all Community Garden applications submitted.

5.2 Roles and Responsibilities

Council will:

- Assess and determine the Community Garden application;
- If successful, provide initial advice on design and maintenance of gardens;
- Connect local gardens and gardeners to each other, to help build relationships and encourage the sharing of information and experiences; and
- Promote community gardening through Council's website, publications and events.

Community Garden Groups will:

- Be responsible for the safe implementation of the submitted garden design, maintenance and up-keep of approved community gardens for the enjoyment of the community.

5.3 Insurance

All community gardeners and community gardening activities must be covered by a minimum of \$20,000,000 public liability insurance.



35.4 Removal

In the event that a community garden ceases to operate in accordance with this policy and associated guidelines, Council reserves the right to remove the community garden and return it to its previous state. Council will provide written notice prior to any community garden removal on Council owned and/or controlled land.

6.0 Monitoring and Review

6.1 Monitoring

Manager of Sustainable Future

6.2 Review

May 2023

7.0 Approval

7.1 Policy Owner

Manager Sustainable Future

7.2 Authorisation

Adopted by Canterbury-Bankstown Council on [INSERT DATE].

7.3 Modifications

8.0 Related Documents

8.1 Laws and Standards

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Companion Animals Act 1998*
- *Companion Animals Regulation 1999*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Food Act 1999*
- *Generic Plan of Management for Community Land and Crown Land (Draft)*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government Regulations*
- *City of Canterbury Bankstown Local Orders Policies*



- *Pesticide Act 1999*
- *Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- *Roads Act 1993 – decrees Councils as the owners of all public roads in their local government area, other than freeways or Crown roads.*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*

8.2 Policies, Procedures

- City of Canterbury Bankstown Community Land and Crown Land Generic Plan of Management
- *Guidelines for establishing Community Gardens*
- Guidelines for Establishing Nature Strip Gardens