

Community Gardens

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<i>Policy Name:</i>	<i>Community Gardens</i>
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<i>Responsible Officer:</i>	<i>General Manager Urban Services</i>
<i>Relevant Legislation:</i>	<i>Local Government Act 1999</i>
<i>Related Policies:</i>	<i>Be the Future of Burnside, Our Strategic Community Plan 2016-2026</i> <i>Connected Communities Strategy 2017-2021</i> <i>Better Living Health, The Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan for the Eastern Health Authority Constituent Councils 2014-2018</i> <i>Community Access, Inclusion and Participation Policy</i> <i>Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation Policy</i> <i>Code of Conduct for Volunteers</i> <i>Streetscape Policy</i> <i>Open Space Policy</i> <i>Environment and Biodiversity Policy</i> <i>Asset Management Plans</i> <i>Council By-laws</i> <i>Fees and Charges (non rates) – Waivers, Discounts and Subsidies Policy</i>

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the *Community Gardens* Policy is to provide direction to Council on the concept and management of community gardens and to provide a policy which outlines the requirements for community gardens within the city.
- 1.2 Community gardens are a unique 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.

2. Strategic Plan Desired Outcomes

- 2.1 A range of high quality sport and recreational opportunities and facilities that foster healthy lifestyle pursuits;

- 2.2 Sustainable, engaging and functional community public spaces and streetscapes;
- 2.3 Sustainable use of natural resources, and minimisation of waste to address climate change;
- 2.4 A vibrant and diverse community that has a strong sense of belonging;
- 2.5 A safe community that values and supports its people;
- 2.6 A community that can access a range of information, services and opportunities that enhance their lives.
- 2.7 Creation and activation of community spaces.
- 2.8 Increasing opportunities for community and cultural participation.
- 2.9 Place-making and development of enduring community relationships.
- 2.10 Provision of both active and passive recreational opportunities.

3. Our Approach

- 3.1 Ensure public spaces meet the future needs of our community and provide for a variety of vibrant and inspirational opportunities, encouraging participation by the community;
- 3.2 Ensure that an accessible network of public spaces exists that responds to the needs of the community;
- 3.3 Build capacity and raise awareness of individual responsibility to maintain a sustainable environment;
- 3.4 Enhance the use of our community and cultural hubs as resource and leisure centres to meet local needs and enliven activity, supporting all age groups;
- 3.5 Provide opportunities for people to connect and interact locally;
- 3.6 Deliver and support integrated community services and programs to create opportunities for all ages to participate in community life.

4. Legislative Requirements and Corporate Policy Context

- 4.1 Pursuant to section 6 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (The Act), the Principle role of a Council includes encouraging and developing initiative within its community for improving the quality of life of the community.
- 4.2 Section 7 of The Act notes the Functions of a Council includes providing services and facilities that benefit its area, its ratepayers and residents, and visitors to its area (including health, welfare or community services or facilities, and cultural or recreational services or facilities) as well as establishing or supporting organisations or programs that benefit people in its areas of local government generally.
- 4.3 This Policy is intended to complement and be implemented in conjunction with other Council policies, including those listed in the 'Related Policies and Procedures' section of this document.

5. Interpretation

A 'community garden' is defined as a parcel of public open space operated by the community (with Council assistance), where the site is used for:

- 5.1 The production of produce for use of the community through allotments or shared plots; and
- 5.2 Demonstration gardening or where other environmental activities are undertaken to bring together people from diverse backgrounds and different abilities, ages, and cultures.

6. Policy

- 6.1 Council will seek to deliver on the following guiding outcomes as per the *Connected Communities Strategy 2017-2-21*:

6.1.1 Activation

Well used and valued community spaces and services which enable community development, learning, connection and wellbeing.

- Provision for both active and passive recreational opportunities
- Creation and activation of community spaces
- Increasing opportunities for community and cultural participation

6.1.2 Connections

A connected community with a sense of belonging.

- Place-making and development of enduring community relationships.

6.1.3 Partnerships

Partnerships which enable delivery of needed and valued community facilities and services.

- Recreational facilities and services to youth.

- 6.2 The City of Burnside recognises community gardening as a valuable activity which contributes to health and wellbeing, positive social interaction, community capacity building, education of environmental and sustainability principles as well as the protection and use of open space. The key objectives of the Policy are:

6.2.1 Recognising the need and benefits of community gardens;

6.2.2 Establishing community gardens throughout the City of Burnside on public space, where feasible and appropriate;

6.2.3 Recognising the value of community gardens as a public amenity;

6.2.4 Ensuring that all community gardens are managed in an efficient manner and maintained to an agreed accepted standard;

6.2.5 Acquiring, sharing and increasing knowledge and gardening practices, such as organic gardening with various educational institutions and the local community; and

6.2.6 Offering a suitable site for Council environmental workshops and educational days.

- 6.3 The City of Burnside supports community gardens by working with community groups and volunteers, assisting to identify and contribute to new site identification and activities. Subject to available resources Council may:

6.3.1 Promote and raise awareness of community gardening;

- 6.3.2 Provide information to the public about the operation of community gardens;
- 6.3.3 Assist interested groups and volunteers in searching for suitable public land for the development of community gardens;
- 6.3.4 Assist with site development, such as site planning and design, surveying and site preparation, basic infrastructure; and
- 6.3.5 Provide in-kind support where feasible (i.e. water options, mulch, etc.).

6.4 Site Selection Criteria

The City of Burnside supports the development of community gardens in the city. The City of Burnside will assist in identifying new garden sites, where available land exists, where neighbours are supportive, and where community groups or volunteers demonstrate interest and commitment. In identifying new sites for community gardens, the following guidelines should be considered:

- 6.4.1 Consistency with the relevant Community Land Management Plan for the reserve;
- 6.4.2 Interest and commitment of a gardening group and volunteers;
- 6.4.3 Informed and supportive neighbours;
- 6.4.4 Availability and usability of site;
- 6.4.5 Proximity to medium to high density living areas and retirement villages;
- 6.4.6 Soil quality and drainage;
- 6.4.7 Sun exposure;
- 6.4.8 Accessibility to public transport; and
- 6.4.9 Close proximity to supporting infrastructure such as water and car parking.

6.5 Car Parking

- 6.5.1 Consideration will also be given to ensure existing park users are not displaced as a result of the installation or siting of a community garden. To that end potential locations will be cognisant of the impact or potential reduction in public car parking availability for existing park users.
- 6.5.2 Where community gardens are proposed to be created close to adjoining residences and that may affect existing on street car parking availability, Council will consult with the affected residents and, where objections are raised, report on the matter to Council for its consideration.

6.6 Management Framework

- 6.6.1 There are two models of community garden management framework, which will oversee two different types of community gardens.
 - 6.6.1.1 Community Garden – Fenced and Leased
 - 6.6.1.2 Community Garden – Open Access
- 6.6.2 Information regarding community gardens will be promoted through the Council's website and publications.
- 6.6.3 The management and operation of the community garden will also need to support the Council's Environment and Biodiversity Strategy, which has specific procedures in

place to minimise impacts of the Council's operations on the environment.

6.6.4 Both models of management framework will agree to develop, manage and operate the community gardens according to a user agreement, which will specify the terms of use, management responsibilities, user fees (if applicable) and access procedures.

6.6.5 Community Garden – Fenced and Leased

6.6.5.1 Community Garden – Fenced and Leased will be leased to an incorporated community group to develop, manage and operate the community garden. This incorporated group will be required to have approved public liability cover and manage safe access in and around the site;

6.6.5.2 As part of the Fenced and Leased Community Garden management framework, a user agreement will be developed between the Community Group and the City of Burnside.

6.6.3.3 The incorporated community group will encourage members, through its functions and activities, to act more sustainably;

6.6.3.4 The incorporated community group will liaise with Council staff in regards to any new infrastructure or projects planned for the garden. Prior to the erection or installation of any infrastructure, written approval from the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate and, where relevant, Development Consent will be required;

6.6.3.5 The incorporated community group will be required to report on an annual basis to the Council on the function of the garden and how they are meeting the agreed objectives for a community garden;

6.6.6 Community Garden – Open Access

6.6.6.1 The Community Garden – Open Access will not be fenced and will be managed by volunteers with the garden beds providing open access to the public.

6.6.6.2 The Volunteers who manage the Open Access garden will be managed through the City of Burnside Volunteer Program and fall under the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme.

6.6.6.3 Volunteers will self-manage the community garden and will foster an inclusive ethos.

6.6.6.4 Garden beds will be managed in the 'spirit' of providing food or pleasure for the community/public.

6.7 Funding

The incorporated community group or volunteers will also be responsible for appropriate income generation or fund raising to support the operation of the community garden. In part, this will be through the establishment of appropriate membership fees (if applicable) and also through application for funding from external grant providers.

7. Grievances

7.1 Any grievances in relation to this Policy or its application should be forwarded in writing to the General Manager, Urban and Community, City of Burnside.

8. Review and Authority

8.1 This Policy will be reviewed biennially and in accordance with Council's Policy and Procedure Framework.

9. Availability

- 9.1 This Policy is available to be downloaded free of charge, from Council's website www.burnside.sa.gov.au and/or may be inspected without charge at the Civic Centre during ordinary business hours. A copy may be purchased for a fee in accordance with Council's Fees and Charges Schedule.

City of Burnside Civic Centre
401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore SA 5065
Telephone 08 8366 4200
Fax 08 8366 4299

10. Further Information

- 10.1 For further information about this policy please contact:
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