COMMUNITY GARDEN FRAMEWORK

CITY OF MARION

Broad horizons – Bright future

CONTENTS

"Community Gardens that are well planned and managed have the potential to achieve good community use and be a valuable recreation, social and education resource."

BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN FRAMEWORK

The City of Marion supports and encourages the establishment of appropriately located, designed and managed community gardens. Community Gardens that are well planned and managed have the potential to achieve good community use and be a valuable recreation, social and education resource. Community gardens also contribute to the objective of food security and encourage sustainable gardening practices.

The purpose of the Community Garden Framework is to provide information and guidelines that will assist interested community groups and community providers (such as community centres, churches and schools) to appropriately plan for, develop and manage a community garden.

The Community Garden Framework will also assist Council staff to encourage the establishment of community gardens at key locations in the City, including linked to Council managed community facilities and higher density development areas and also assess proposals for community gardens.

BACKGROUND

POLICY AND PLANNING CONNECTIONS

As indicated below, the Community Garden Framework should be read in conjunction with the City of Marion Community Garden Policy. The Community Garden Policy includes a policy statement and community garden principles that highlight Council's support for and desired approach to the provision, development and management of community gardens.

BACKGROUND

POLICY AND FRAMEWORK CONNECTION

Whilst the Community Garden Framework is an information resource and not a Council policy document, the Framework aims to be consistent with and build on Council's Community Garden Policy.

Community Garden Policy		Community Garden Framework
› Policy statement › Community garden principles › Definitions	⟷	› Information (benefits, trends, approaches, best practice) › Guidelines (provision, location, management) › Resource information

BACKGROUND

LINK TO CITY OF MARION STRATEGIC PLAN

The Community Garden Framework is consistent with the City of Marion Strategic Plan 2010-2020 and in particular contributes to achieving key Directions as follows:

CW1: Strong engaged communities	CW4: Healthy lifestyles and healthy communities	HE5: An environmentally aware and engaged community
› Community empowerment through establishing and managing a community garden	› Community participation in physical activity	› Community participation in water management, organic production, energy efficiency
› Social interaction through activities	› People experiencing outdoors and nature	› Reduced reliance on 'food miles'
› Potential increased sense of neighbourhood and belonging	› Potential emphasis on healthy eating	› Contribution to food security

Consideration has also been given to a number of resource materials developed by other organisations, as referenced at the end of this Framework.

BACKGROUND

APPROACH
TO THE FRAMEWORK

The Community Garden Framework is a concise document that draws together key findings and directions relating to community garden establishment, location, operations and management.

The Community Garden Framework includes findings and guidelines that aim to encourage well planned and managed community gardens in the City of Marion.

Whilst the Community Garden Policy has been developed to guide community gardens on Council land, the information in the Community Garden Framework could be relevant to community gardens on government and private land (churches, schools etc) as well as community gardens on Council land.

Specifically the Community Garden Framework outlines research findings and guidelines relating to the following:

1. Background (purpose, approach)

2. Community garden benefits, trends and existing provision

3. Guidelines for community gardens

Demand and Feasibility Guide
Hierarchy Guide
Site Assessment Guide
Community Garden Management Guide
Management Plan Development Guide

4. Valuable community garden resources

BENEFITS, TRENDS & EXISTING PROVISION

BENEFITS, TRENDS & EXISTING PROVISION

THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

Research has shown that community gardens potentially have many benefits for participants and local communities. Community gardens can improve the health of the local community, contribute to environmental sustainability, foster cultural and social development and assist the local economy.

Knowledge of these benefits can assist the community to plan and advocate for new community garden projects. Key benefits associated with community gardens are outlined below. The benefits are drawn from the document 'Growing Community. Starting and nurturing community gardens'; Community Centres SA and Claire Nettle; 2010.

Health Benefits

› Community gardens provide opportunities for relaxation and recreation.

› Where people live and work in an urban environment, a community garden gives them the opportunity to connect to a natural, green environment.

› Community gardens create physical activity and exercise opportunities for participants.

› Community gardens can improve the quality of life for participants. They provide a sense of satisfaction and purpose and opportunities for positive social interaction.

› Community gardens increase and support fruit and vegetable consumption, and offer educational opportunities around healthy food and eating.

Environmental Benefits

› "Community gardens improve the quality of urban environments, rehabilitating degraded land, contributing to urban greening, providing sanctuary to urban wildlife, and creating a setting for environmental education. They are also part of broader moves to ensure a secure and ecologically sensitive food supply." (Nettle; 2010; p. 3)

› Community gardens contribute to a sustainable food supply for their local community, and provide opportunities for composting and waste reduction.

› Community gardens contribute to enhancing high density living through urban greening.

› Soil improvement and biodiversity conservation are environmental benefits of community gardens.

BENEFITS, TRENDS & EXISTING PROVISION

THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS (CONTINUED)

Cultural Benefits

› Community gardens provide an opportunity to practice cultural food and gardening techniques, and provide access to cultural food.

› Community gardens provide opportunities for cross cultural interactions through general gardening, festivals and celebrations.

› Community gardens provide space for public art projects.

› A community garden can offer significant learning opportunities for all users and the broader community.

Social Benefits

› Community gardens can provide a connection to place for users, and opportunities for the community to reclaim public space.

› Community gardens provide a meeting space for the community. They are places where social networks can be increased and fostered.

› Community gardens are a place where the social capital of a community can be increased and community capacity building can occur.

› A community garden can provide a place for members to develop leadership skills.

Economic Benefits

› Community gardens can contribute to food security in a community, through providing a local source of healthy food.

› A community garden can have micro economic value, e.g. reducing a household's food budget.

› Community gardens, if designed appropriately utilising Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, can reduce crime in local neighbourhoods.

› A community garden can increase the value of neighboring properties.

BENEFITS, TRENDS & EXISTING PROVISION

COMMUNITY GARDEN TRENDS AND GOOD PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS

Key trends relating to community gardens and related good practices are outlined in the chart below. Details of documents from which this information has been drawn are provided in the Valuable Resources section of this Community Garden Framework (Section 4).

Item	Trend	Good Practice
Community Need	Community gardens are being used to facilitate and encourage community connectedness.	Ensure there is a genuine need and commitment from the community for the community garden. This will guarantee success and sustainability in the future.
Management	There appears to be no one trend regarding the management of community gardens (some are managed by communities, some are managed through community centres,some are managed by schools or churches, some are managed by Councils). However, there is usually a strong involvement of community in all community gardens.	Relationships between Council and community garden groups and managers should always involve democratic processes. Stakeholders must have the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect the garden and the users. Informal conflict resolution processes should be included in management plans.
Social	Community gardens are being developed to increase the social capital of a community and contribute to community capacity building.	It is important to acknowledge the significant role that community gardens play in building community. The social aspects, developing of relationships, increased social capital and community capacity are essential outcomes of community gardens.
Education	Community gardens are being developed as educational and gathering sites; where communities can meet, work together, build relationships and learn about gardening and sustainability.	Workshops and community education should be a key feature of community gardens. The garden should be multifunctional, where the broader community has access to display areas and the opportunity to learn and develop new skills. Training for new gardeners should also be provided.

BENEFITS, TRENDS & EXISTING PROVISION

COMMUNITY GARDEN TRENDS AND GOOD PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS (CONTINUED)

Item	Trend	Good Practice
Location	There is a trend towards linking community gardens to community spaces or centres, or within high density housing areas.	Locating gardens near community spaces and facilities provides opportunities to support and partner gardening projects. Sites in high density housing areas that are appropriately designed and managed for high productivity in a small area, will contribute to urban greening. These sites also provide appealing outdoor settings for residents.
Design	There appears to be no one trend relating to the size and type of community gardens. Community gardens can vary in size, design and features. However generally community gardens are designed to meet the needs of communities and the design often reflects the availability of land and the surrounding setting.	A mixture of communal areas and individual plots is considered good practice in a community garden. Large, family sized allotments, along with smaller plots will encourage a diverse range of users. Integrating raised garden beds into the community garden design to give people with a disability access to the garden bed is also good practice. Amenities such as seating, tables, shade and storage are important inclusions within a community garden. A meeting space, rain water tanks and solar panels can also be considered. Access to cooking facilities and kitchens can broaden the scope and use of the community garden.
Food Security	There is a trend towards encouraging community gardens to contribute to the food security of a local community. This includes encouraging the growth of 'food' plants rather than flowers and adopting sustainability practices.	By enabling people to grow their own food at a low cost through a community garden, food security can be improved. Food security and consuming local food contributes to sustainable living.

BENEFITS, TRENDS & EXISTING PROVISION

COMMUNITY GARDEN TRENDS AND GOOD PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS (CONTINUED)

Item	Trend	Good Practice
Environment	There is a greater emphasis on contributing to environmental issues such as global warming and peak oil through community gardens. "Community gardens demonstrate practical solutions to negative environmental impacts of commercial food production. Bringing food production into cities reduces its ecological footprint by cutting down 'food miles'-the energy used to transport produce over many hundreds of kilometers…" (CCSA & Nettle; 2010; p. 3).	Community gardens should include a well built and managed composting system. Community gardens should be designed to respond to climate change and have a positive impact on global warming. This includes various initiatives such as managed water use, drought tolerant plants, reduced use of chemicals, organic methods and energy efficiency.
Access	Fenced community gardens have a reputation for alienating public space and portray exclusivity; while it is assumed that unfenced community gardens attract vandalism. However, there are several unfenced community garden sites in Adelaide and interstate that have not attracted vandalism, and are still very popular with both regular users and the general community.	Community gardens should offer regular and consistent access to the garden and support broad community access. Opportunities for establishing low vandalism unfenced gardens (designed with CPTED principles) should be considered. Approaches to security within a community garden should be included in management plans.
Partnerships	Community gardens are becoming a catalyst for establishing partnerships within communities, between organisations and between Councils and other groups (through joint projects, shared use, contributions etc).	Links and partnerships with local schools and community groups should be encouraged and fostered.

BENEFITS, TRENDS & EXISTING PROVISION

EXISTING PROVISION

Glandore Community Garden

Glandore Community Garden is considered to be a regional facility that benefits a number of users and the broad community. It is a large community garden located within the Glandore Community Centre grounds.

Glandore Community Garden is characterised by raised and in ground beds, and has both individual and communal plots. Key facilities within the garden include natural shade, seating, a large paved and sheltered area, pizza oven, bee hives and a composting display section.

Glandore Community Garden is fenced and locked with access by members at any time. However, the garden is open to the public at a regular time each week and monthly gardening workshops are held at the community garden. A strong focus is placed on educating the community and providing support to gardeners using the facility.

Glandore Community Garden and its educational program are supported by a Council Project Officer. This officer also liaises with groups such as schools, churches, bee keepers, seed savers, the Permaculture Association and the Community Garden Network, who are all regular users.

Glandore Community Garden currently has 20 paying plot holders and six regular volunteers who assist with garden maintenance. The mixture of plots and garden beds and a composting area support a range of users and activities.

Key features of the Glandore Community Garden are on the page that follows:

BENEFITS, TRENDS & EXISTING PROVISION

EXISTING PROVISION (CONTINUED)

Glandore Community Garden (continued)

Focus	Features
Hierarchy	Glandore Community Garden is considered to be a regional community garden due to its size, community centre connection and education focus.
Profile	The Glandore Community Centre has a good profile, while the garden is more secluded at the back of the centre.
Access	The community garden is easily accessible to vehicles, bikes or pedestrians. The community garden is fenced for security and management reasons. However, the broad community has access at different times.
Community Facility Connection	There is a strong connection between the Glandore Community Centre and the community garden from a physical and management perspective.
Design	The community garden is well designed and includes a range of plots, shade, shelter and other amenities.
Compatibility	The community garden complements and broadens the usage of the Glandore Community Centre.
Partnerships	The community garden has forged positive partnerships with various groups including bee keepers, seed savers, the Permaculture Association and the Community Garden Network.

There are currently no other community gardens on Council land within the City of Marion.

COMMUNITY
GARDEN GUIDELINES

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

COMMUNITY GARDEN DEMAND AND FEASIBILITY GUIDE

This guide aims to assist community groups and Council staff to consider the demand for a community garden and determine the feasibility of establishing a community garden.

A suggested 7 STEP process for assessing demand and feasibility is provided below:

STEP 1: Define the Actual Demand

STEP 2: Consider Potential Future Demand

STEP 3: Assess Existing Supply

STEP 4: Determine Garden Features and Requirements

STEP 5: Undertake Cost Benefit Analysis

STEP 6: Consider Management Potential

STEP 7: Consider Site Options and Suitability

STEP 1: DEFINE THE ACTUAL DEMAND

› Consider the potential number and character of users based on expressed demand, including interest raised by individuals and groups such as schools, retirement villages and other community groups.

› Consider what type of community garden is desired, e.g. communal, individual plots, 'open garden', sensory garden, demonstration garden, orchard, mixture of types, other.

› Obtain specific details of all interested persons and groups including:
  - Contact name and address
  - Potential number of users in the group or household
  - Specific garden interests (food production, other plants)
  - Desired use of a garden (single plot, shared plot, communal garden)
  - Intended frequency of use

› Define the catchment area linked to the expressed demand.

STEP 2: CONSIDER POTENTIAL FUTURE DEMAND

› Consider the future characteristics of the population in the catchment area and the potential interest in gardening based on the population character (e.g. the proportion of ageing and older people, children and other potential users).

› Consider the future population density and the implications for community garden demand (e.g. medium and higher density areas with less space for a garden).

› Liaise with community groups that could have an interest in using a community garden, e.g. aged care, schools, environmental groups.

› Consider broader community demands, e.g. interest in education opportunities linked to home gardening.

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

STEP 3:
ASSESS EXISTING SUPPLY

› Identify existing community gardens located within and around the catchment area.

› Consider the capacity of the existing community garden/s to meet additional demands (taking existing and potential use, size and character into consideration).

› Consider the potential to upgrade or expand the existing community garden rather than develop an additional new community garden.

If there are no existing community gardens in the wider area, consider the potential of a new community garden to cater for the wider area rather than a local catchment area.

STEP 4:
IDENTIFY GARDEN FEATURES AND REQUIREMENTS

› Determine the desired garden character (e.g. communal, individual plots, 'open garden', mixture of types, other) and provide the reasons.

› Identify specific features that are likely to be required, e.g. storage, meeting space, education and display areas, disability access, car parking etc, and give a rationale for each item.

› Consider the appropriate hierarchy of the community garden based on the potential character, size and catchment of the garden.

STEP 5:
UNDERTAKE COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

› Consider the benefits of providing a community garden for the various potential age and user groups, including the number of people who are likely to benefit.

› Determine the cost of developing the community garden (capital cost) taking the features and requirements into consideration.

› Determine the potential ongoing operational costs.

› Determine the potential revenue that could be generated through the community garden.

› Compare the costs and benefits through a cost benefit analysis (including cost per user).

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

STEP 6: CONSIDER MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL

› Consider whether fencing the community garden is required and provide a rationale for doing so (security concerns etc).

› Consider the community's desire and ability to manage the community garden, including the skills and time availability of the interested individuals or group.

› Consider the need for a coordinator or support to ensure the community garden is well promoted and to generate diverse activities.

› Consider potential for management to be linked to an existing community facility, e.g. community centre, school, aged care facility.

STEP 7: CONSIDER SITE OPTIONS AND SUITABILITY

› Consider opportunities to physically link a community garden to existing community facilities, e.g. community centre, school, church.

› Identify site options for assessment using the Site Assessment Guide in the Community Garden Framework.

› Use the Site Assessment Guide to assess the site options.

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

HIERARCHY GUIDE

This Guide aims to assist community groups and Council staff to determine the appropriate hierarchy of a community garden and the appropriate development of a community garden in relation to hierarchy. The hierarchy guide does not relate to verge gardens as there will generally be limited infrastructure associated with a verge garden.

Hierarchy Level

Whilst the Community Garden Framework is an information resource and not a Council policy document, the Framework aims to be consistent with and build on Council's Community Garden Policy.

Three hierarchy levels are suggested as follows:

Hierarchy	Definition
Neighbourhood	A neighbourhood community garden could vary in size depending on the demand and site capacity, and it could include different garden types. Whilst a neighbourhood community garden should be safe and appealing, the level of infrastructure and quality will not be as high as a district or regional community garden. A neighbourhood community garden will generally draw people from one or two suburbs or be linked to a higher density development area.
District	A district community garden will generally be of good size and quality and include various garden types and features. This level of community garden should aim to have a strong focus on community involvement and education, and should draw people from across and beyond Districts (e.g. north, north central, south central and south).
Regional	A regional community garden will generally be significant in relation to size, scope or quality and include diverse garden types and features. A regional community garden should aim to have a 'whole community' focus through broad access or education, and should draw people from across and beyond the City of Marion.

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

HIERARCHY GUIDE (CONTINUED)

Local community gardens that cater for very small catchments (such as part of a suburb or a street) are not suggested due to the infrastructure and land allocation requirements associated with community gardens. Community gardens should benefit as many people as possible in the community and exclusive use by a small number of households is not considered to be appropriate.

It is important to note that a regional Community garden can also have a district and neighbourhood role and a district community garden can also have a neighbourhood role. Experience has found that most community gardens provide a particular focus for surrounding communities (neighbourhoods).

Hierarchy Provision

> A regional community garden already exists in the City of Marion through the Glandore Community Garden. The provision of other regional community gardens in the City of Marion may or may not be justified and will depend on community demand, site suitability and resource availability (for management and development).

> A district community garden may not be provided in each District of the City of Marion. The provision of district community gardens will depend on the level of demand in each district, site suitability and resource availability.

> Regional and district community gardens should be linked to higher profile community facilities, such as a major community or cultural centre, or a high profile school.

> Ideally a neighbourhood community garden will be linked to a community centre, school, church or other community based facility. However, this is not essential if there is demand for a community garden in an area that has limited opportunities to connect to other facilities.

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

DEVELOPMENT LINKED TO HIERARCHY

Potential community garden features and development are outlined below for each hierarchy.

Hierarchy	Potential Features and Development			
Neighbourhood	› Communal garden and/or garden plots (individual, shared) › Amenities (potentially within adjoining community facility)	› Shelter › Water tank › Street parking	› Garden shed › Irrigation and taps	› Composting areas › Bike racks
District	› Garden plots (individual and shared) › Space for meetings, programs, education › Other water management and energy saving devices › Shady areas for sitting and relaxing	› Communal garden › Disability access › Storage / garden shed › Signage and information	› Kitchen access › Pathways › Irrigation and taps › Bike racks	› Amenities › Water tanks › Car parking › Composting areas
Regional	› Garden plots (individual and shared) › Display and education garden › Building for programs and education › Other water management and energy saving devices (solar panels) › Recreation, eating and sitting areas	› Communal garden › Irrigation and taps › Composting areas › Green walls › Storage / garden shed › Signage and information	› Meeting space › Water tanks › Propagation area › Art works › Car parking › Children's play space	› Amenities › Disability access › Kitchen › Pathways › Bike racks

The appropriateness of fencing will depend on the role and function of the community garden and the suitability of the site for fencing (ensuring there is no alienation of land that is valued by the broader community for other activities). Each community garden will require independent assessment.

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

SITE ASSESSMENT GUIDE

This guide aims to assist community groups and Council staff to assess the suitability and reality of allocating a site for a community garden linked to hierarchy level.

Considerations	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
Open Space Type	Generally community use or recreation open space (not sporting open space or natural area)	Generally community use or recreation open space (not sporting open space or natural area)	Generally community use or recreation open space (not sporting open space or natural area)
Profile	High or good profile site (main or distributor road, well known site or connected facility)	Good profile site (main or distributor road, good visual profile)	Could be good or lower profile site (distributor or local road but accessible to the neighbourhood)
Access	Easy access by vehicle, bike or pedestrian	Easy access by vehicle, bike or pedestrian	Good access for surrounding communities
Community Facility Connection	Must be linked to a key community or cultural centre	Should be linked to a community or cultural centre or high profile school	Ideally linked to a community centre, school, church or other community facility but not essential
Land Size	Good size area of land to support diverse garden types and displays (at least 0.4ha)	Good size area of land to support diverse garden types (at least 0.2ha)	Land size could be small or larger. Ideally will be at least 0.1ha
Topography	Level to gently sloping	Level to gently sloping	Level to gently sloping

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

SITE ASSESSMENT GUIDE (CONTINUED)

Considerations	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
Soil Condition	Quality or adaptable soil type (suitable for growing food and other plants)	Quality or adaptable soil type (suitable for growing food and other plants)	Quality or adaptable soil type (suitable for growing food and other plants)
Climatic conditions	Protected from wind and harsh elements	Protected from wind and harsh elements	Protected from wind and harsh elements
Compatibility with Other Usage	Should aim to complement and broaden the use of existing community facilities and spaces	Should aim to complement and broaden the use of existing community facilities and spaces	Should not impact on the use of existing spaces or activities
Link to residents	Should be linked to surrounding residents	Should be linked to surrounding residents	Should closely link to surrounding residents (visually and physically)
Impact on Residents	Vehicles and activities should not impact on surrounding residents	Vehicles and activities should not impact on surrounding residents	Vehicles and activities should not impact on surrounding residents
Safety and security	Open site that complies with CPTED principles	Open site that complies with CPTED principles	Open site that complies with CPTED principles

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGEMENT GUIDE

This Guide outlines the approach to community garden management, including management agreements and management responsibilities. The Community Garden Management Guide relates to community gardens on Council land (not private land).

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT LEVELS

There could be two levels of agreement as follows:

Level 1 Agreement: A management agreement between Council and a community group which allocates Council land for the purpose of a community garden to the community group.

Level 2 Agreement: A agreement between the community garden 'management body' or Council and individual plot holders which allocates use of a space to the plot holder.

Where the community garden is part of and managed by a Council community centre or other Council facility, a Level 1 agreement between Council and a community group will not be required. This is unless Council (and the community centre) wishes to transfer responsibility and control over the land to the community group

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT APPROACH

Level 1
Management Group Agreement

The suggested approach for a management agreement between Council and a community group, where Council is allocating land to the community group for the purpose of a community garden is as follows:

› Initial 2 year lease agreement

› 5 year lease agreement following the initial set up period and evidence that there is a commitment to the community garden

› The overriding agreement will be with a community group rather than an individual (this group could be the management committee for the community garden)

› The agreement will be between Council and the community group

› The community group must be incorporated and the lease will be with the incorporated body

› A group of community members could connect to a 'sponsor body' such as a school, church or hospital and the lease could be with that body if desired (rather than the community members becoming incorporated)

Level 2
Individual Users Agreement

The suggested approach for a management agreement between the community garden 'management body' and individual plot holders is as follows:

› Initial 6 month or 12 month licence agreement (depending on the circumstances)

› Rolling 12 month - 2 year licence agreement following the initial set up period and evidence that there is a commitment to the community garden plot

› The licence agreement would be between the management body' and an individual or a group of individuals

› Individuals would not need to become an incorporated body

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

AGREEMENT ITEMS

Level 1
Management Group Agreement

The suggested items to include in a management agreement between Council and an incorporated community group or sponsor body (school, church or other formalised community group) are as follows:

› Community garden location

› The designated area for the community garden

› Agreed community garden hierarchy

› Community garden focus (food, herbs, communal, plots etc)

› Approach to community access (fencing and gates, access to the garden during the day etc)

› Level of development of the community garden

› Public liability insurance requirement

› Community Garden Policy Principle considerations

› Sustainability requirements (chemical use, composting, sustainability, organic etc)

› Water cost and use responsibility

› Approach to the sale of produce (not for profit, supported but funds to garden or charity)

› Management responsibilities (maintenance, operations, pest management etc)

› Approach to security

› Dogs on leash requirement

› Annual fee agreement

› Reasons for considering decommissioning a garden

Level 2
Individual Users Agreement

The suggested items to include in a management agreement between the community garden 'management body' and individual plot holders are outlined below. The items would need to be consistent with the items in the Level 1 Agreement.

› Community garden location

› Plot size (taking total garden size and number of users into consideration)

› Commitment to existing code of conduct

› Water use responsibility

› Sustainability requirements (chemical use, composting, sustainability, organic etc)

› Management responsibilities (maintenance, working bee involvement)

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

AGREEMENT ITEMS (CONTINUED)

› Dogs on leash requirement

› Community Garden Policy Principle considerations

› Approach to the sale of produce (not for personal economic profit)

› Respect for other community garden users

› Annual fee agreement

› Approach to ending licence agreement

› Conflict resolution approach

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Level 1
Management Group Agreement

It is recommended that a management committee is established to guide the management of the community garden.

The suggested management responsibilities of this group are as follows:

› Input to planning and feasibility assessment

› Input to garden design

› Determine management structure (committee, coordinator)

› Arrange Incorporated Body status

› Develop Management Plan

› Ensure compliance with lease requirements

› Arrange insurance

› Generate use, including promotion and community awareness

› Ensure broad community access

› Determine fee structure

› Arrange agreements with users

› Ongoing liaison with community garden users (and guide education and awareness)

› Arrange special programs and activities

› Overriding maintenance of the community garden

› Arrange maintenance and upgrade works for buildings and infrastructure

› Influence best practice sustainability approaches

› Management of water use

› Meet health and safety requirements

› Security response and management

› Grant funding applications

Level 2
Individual Users Agreement

The suggested management responsibilities of individual users are as follows:

› Comply with licence agreement

› Maintain individual garden plot

› Contribute to broader garden maintenance

› Management of water use

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

COUNCIL ROLE

Council's role in supporting community groups in managing community gardens will be as follows:

› Encouragement of appropriate community garden provision

› Community garden location assessment

› Assessment and approval of community garden proposals (design, development)

› Facilitation of community engagement with surrounding community

› Hierarchy allocation to community gardens

› Input to planning and garden design

› Support with the provision of materials (compost, building materials etc at reduced cost) in accordance with available resources

› Management agreement (development and implementation)

› Guidance in developing Management Plan for the community garden

› Information on best practice and resources

› Review and advice on fee structure

› Liaison with the community group or 'sponsor body'

› Facilitation of partnerships

› Assistance with promotions and community awareness

› Grant funding support including assistance in obtaining grant funding through other levels of government or the private sector

› Contribution of other resources ('in kind', people, materials) as available and in accordance with other priorities

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

A Management Plan must be developed for each Community Garden located on Council land in the City of Marion. Community gardens on land owned by other organisations would also benefit from a Management Plan.

The main purpose of a Community Garden Management Plan is to ensure a proactive and coordinated approach to achieving a sustainable community garden and to reinforce the commitment of the community garden managers.

Potential topics to address in a Management Plan are as follows.

› Background

› Organisational structure

› Links to City of Marion Strategic Plan

› Community garden vision

› Aims and objectives

› Garden hierarchy and desired characteristics

› Garden design plan

› Garden development guide

› Responsibilities

› Management approaches, e.g.

- Sustainability approach

- Operations

- Programs and broad community services

- Membership, meetings and communication

› Promotions and awareness

› Funding and resource opportunities

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

Specific items that could be considered in a Management Plan are outlined below.

Topic	Potential Items		
Background	› Garden location › Anticipated number and types of users	› Reasons for the community garden	› Benefits to the community
Organisational Structure	› Management committee › Link to Council	› User focus and link to committee › Link to other organisations	› Coordinator › Organisation chart
Aims and Objectives	› Community involvement › Catering for specific age or social groups	› Recreation provision › Community education	› Food security › Sustainability
Links to City of Marion Strategic Plan	› Community development opportunities	› Health and wellbeing opportunities	› Sustainability opportunities
Community Garden Vision	› The longer term desired outcome		
Garden Hierarchy and Desired Character	› Regional, district or neighbourhood	› Catchment considerations	› Size and focus of community garden
Garden Design Plan	› Garden design features (shady areas, art works, buildings etc) › Consideration of environmental conditions	› Integration of shade, shelter, seating areas, welcoming spaces › Water conservation design	› Plot design and connections › Design re-assessment approach
Garden Development Guide	› Development of garden beds › Water and waste management initiatives	› Infrastructure requirements (linked to hierarchy)	› Soil condition improvement (mulch etc)

COMMUNITY
GARDEN GUIDELINES

Specific items that could be considered in a Management Plan are outlined below. (continued)

Topic	Potential Items		
Responsibilities	› Roles and responsibilities (working group, coordinator, Council)	› Management agreement responsibilities (reinforce)	
Sustainability approach	› Use of organic materials › Pest management	› Use of organic materials › Waste management	› Chemical management
Operations	› Community access › Insurance	› Volunteer involvement	› Security of tenure for garden plots
Programs and broad community services	› Skills development (gardening, management)	› Education initiatives › Connection to schools & children	› Employment programs
Membership, meetings and communication	› Network opportunities	› Decision making processes	
Promotions and awareness	› Promotion material › Promotions through projects and activities	› Media use › Link to Council	› Size and focus of community garden
Funding and resource opportunities	› Fundraising › Grant funding	› Sponsorships and product trials	› Commercial opportunities

A range of other items and interests could be reflected in the Management Plan. The above is a guide only.

VALUABLE COMMUNITY GARDEN RESOURCES

VALUABLE COMMUNITY GARDEN RESOURCES

The following resources may be useful for communities wishing to establish a community garden. Some of the resources include a step-by-step guide for the establishment of a community garden.

Community Centres SA Growing Community. Starting and nurturing community gardens (booklet and website)

www.canh.asn.au

The Growing Community booklet and website were created to encourage the establishment of new community gardens and to support the flourishing of existing community gardens. The booklet and website content have been designed to be relevant to:

› Groups starting a community garden

› Professionals considering using community gardens as part of their programs

› Groups or organisations who are asked to support community garden projects

› Groups sustaining and developing established community gardens

The information in the booklet is based on questions posed by people starting community gardens followed by advice from experienced community gardeners, as well as research in community development, project management, and sustainable gardening.

Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network

www.communitygarden.org.au

The Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network aims to connect community gardens around Australia. The website has information for starting community gardens, locations of established community gardens, resources and fact sheets.

Australian Community Foods

www.communityfoods.org.au

The Australian Community Foods website provides contact details and other resources for community gardening around Australia.

Department of Environment & Natural Resources Kitchen Garden Initiative

www.environment.sa.gov.au/ botanicgardens/Learn/Kitchen_Garden_ Initiative

The Kitchen Garden Initiative is a collaborative partnership encouraging people to create their own connection between food, plants and culture. The initiative encourages people to grow, harvest, cook and share food together. The program aims to promote the development of kitchen gardens in homes, schools and communities in Adelaide.

VALUABLE COMMUNITY GARDEN RESOURCES

Permaculture Association of SA

www.permaculturesa.org.au

The Permaculture Association of South Australia Incorporated (PASA) is a non-profit voluntary organisation based in Adelaide, South Australia, which aims to promote, practice, and represent Permaculture in South Australia, and support the development of the Permaculture community in South Australia.

CITY OF
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