



Application Timeline

Tuesday, August 26 – application released

Saturday, September 6, 10:30AM – application info session

Thursday, September 11, 6:00PM - application info session

Friday, September 26, 5:00PM– application deadline

All applicants must attend one information session.

To RSVP for an information session, contact Rayden Sorock (contact detail on Page 2).

The Allegheny Grows Community Garden Program

Allegheny Grows is a program of Allegheny County Economic Development that encourages community and workforce development through urban farming and gardening. Through partnerships with Grow Pittsburgh and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Allegheny Grows is a 2-year program that provides education, planning resources, materials and technical assistance for existing and newly developing community vegetable gardens in low-to-moderate income communities throughout Allegheny County (not including the City of Pittsburgh).

The program is beginning its sixth year and has thus far developed community gardens in the following municipalities: Millvale, McKees Rocks, Penn Hills, Bellevue, Wilkinsburg, Natrona, Clairton, Coraopolis, Homestead, and Mt. Oliver.

For background on our approach to starting community gardens, visit:

<http://www.growpittsburgh.org/start-a-garden/community-garden-guide/>

We recognize that starting a garden is a long-term process. The application that follows will enable our team to evaluate where your group is in the process of starting a community food project. Please fill it out as completely as you are able. ***We will assist all groups who apply to develop their garden vision.***

(eligibility and requirements on the next page)

Requirements and Eligibility

Allegheny Grows gardens serve low- to moderate-income individuals. In order to consider applying, your garden site must be Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) eligible.

There are two options for eligibility:

1. The garden site is located in a CDBG-eligible location (based on income). Please send proposed garden address(es) to us and we can determine eligibility.
2. If the garden is managed by an organization or institution that primarily serves low- to moderate-income people, you may be eligible. Contact Rayden Sorock or Dan Tobin if you have questions.

In addition, those groups that meet the following criteria will be considered for **Spring 2015** garden builds:

1. at least 6 organized and motivated gardeners in your garden group
2. a suitable site for gardening: a relatively flat and accessible space greater than 500 square feet that gets 6+ hours of sunlight a day and has the potential for growing healthy plants
3. written permission to garden on a lot that is owned by the municipality, the County, or a non-profit organization
4. an established organizational partner
5. the ability to install a municipal water supply at the site

If you do not meet these criteria yet, contact us for information on how we can assist you.

Please feel free to contact the following people for application assistance:

Dan Tobin

Allegheny County Economic Development

daniel.tobin@alleghenycounty.us

P: 412-350-5594

F: 412-642-2217

One Chatham Center, Suite 900

112 Washington Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Rayden Sorock

Grow Pittsburgh

rayden@growpittsburgh.org

P: 412-362-4769 x 113

6587 Hamilton Ave #2W

Pittsburgh PA, 15206

(application begins on next page)

Part 1: CONTACT INFORMATION

Gardens are most successful when multiple people hold leadership positions. Please identify two other garden leaders below, and designate one as the primary contact for the application.

Primary Contact Person / Garden Coordinator #1

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Primary Organizational Affiliation: _____

List all other organizations in which they hold leadership roles: _____

Garden Coordinator #2

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Primary Organizational Affiliation: _____

List all other organizations in which they hold leadership roles: _____

Garden Coordinator #3

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Primary Organizational Affiliation: _____

List all other organizations in which they hold leadership roles: _____

Part 2: ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Applications to the Allegheny Grows program must be submitted by an organized, neighborhood-based group, such as a non-profit with offices in the neighborhood, a church, a community development corporation, or a neighborhood association.

Name of the organization sponsoring the garden: _____

When was your organization formed? _____

How many members belong to your organization? _____

How is membership defined by your organization (i.e. dues, participation requirements, etc.?)

Does your group hold events and meetings on a regular basis and if so, what kind?

On average, how many volunteers have supported an event like the ones described above?

Please list the names of additional community organizations the garden group plans to reach out to for support:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Are there any food pantries in the vicinity of the garden? _____

Part 3: GARDEN SITE INFORMATION – Please fill out this section for each proposed garden site.

Filled out by: _____

**** To find map-block-lot number and other details about the property, visit the Allegheny County Real Estate website: <http://www2.county.allegheny.pa.us/realestate/Default.aspx>**

Garden site address or map-block-lot numbers: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____ Census Tract: _____

**** If you are unsure of your Census Tract, go to: <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>**

Property Owner's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Approximate site dimensions (please include units of measurement): Length _____ Width _____

Does at least 500 sq. ft. of the property receive at least six hours of sunlight per day? Yes No

Has the garden site been tested for lead contamination? Yes No

If yes, what was the result? _____ (in PPM or other)

Does the property have a municipal water source (like a spigot) on site? Yes No

If no, please describe what is there: _____

Who is the local water authority in your borough or municipality? _____

Please identify a contact at the local water authority who deals with new water line installations: _____

Which of the following characterizes the slope of the garden site? (Please circle all that apply.)

Flat terrain (0-5% slope) Gradual (5-10% slope) Moderate (10-20% slope)

Has illegal dumping occurred on the site? Yes No

Was the site ever occupied by a factory, mechanic shop or gas station? Yes No

What was the previous use of the site? _____

Are there tall weeds/growth on the site? Yes No

Is there any knotweed on the site? Yes No I don't know.

Are there any of the following wildlife at or near the site (circle all that apply)

Deer Rabbits Groundhogs Other _____

Is any of the surface of the property covered with slag, concrete, asphalt, or shale? Yes No

If yes, please describe: _____

Does the site have any of the following other characteristics: rubble, brick coverage, building foundations, unevenness, sink holes, areas of pooling water, etc.? If so, please describe: _____

Land use of abutting properties (please circle all that apply):

Commercial Residential Vacant

Who currently uses the site and for what purpose(s)? _____

Part 5: EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT

Municipal Contact Person – please identify one municipal representative who will speak with us about your application.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

1. Please submit a letter of support from each of the following entities:

- Municipality—required
- Public or nonprofit property owner—required for each proposed garden location
- Other supporting organizations—optional

These may include community and economic development organizations, after-school and summer programs, Scouting Troops and other civic organizations that are willing to contribute to the garden.

- 2. Please submit a petition [see attached] signed by at least 15 neighboring residents and business owners who are in favor of the garden. Star or highlight those who have a direct line-of-site to the proposed garden location.
- 3. Please submit a list of at least 6 potential participants who are willing to help establish and maintain the garden. Include daytime and evening phone numbers for each potential participant.

Part 6: AGREEMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

All 3 named garden leaders are asked to initial each of the following statements.

If selected to participate in the Allegheny Grows Program, I agree to:

- _____ Participate in a minimum of two wintertime planning sessions and monthly meetings during the spring, summer, and fall
- _____ Recruit two community representatives to attend the Garden Primer Class series (free)
- _____ Cooperate with ACED and partner organizations to realize my organization’s vision for a community garden
- _____ Enter into a site access and land use agreement with Grow Pittsburgh
- _____ Keep the garden in use and productive for at least five years
- _____ Weigh and record garden produce yields and record project participation according to program guidelines

Primary Contact's Signature _____ Date _____

Please postmark or email completed application **by 5:00 PM Friday September 26 2014 to:**
 Dan Tobin
 Mail: Allegheny County Economic Development
 One Chatham Center – Suite 900
 112 Washington Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 Email: Daniel.Tobin@alleghenycounty.us