

Background Information

A partnership of Grow Pittsburgh and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Community Garden Sustainability Fund provides material and technical assistance to existing community food gardens. The fund supports projects that will improve or enhance gardens so that they may have a long-lasting positive impact as part of their communities. Think big about how your garden's sustainability could be improved!

At Grow Pittsburgh and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, we work to support gardens that will be enjoyed for generations to come. We define a sustainable garden as one made to last, where people feel safe and connected to their neighborhood, where plants and soil are healthy, where little is wasted and plants are healthy. A sustainable garden has access to sufficient materials, volunteers, and funds. Its leadership and membership is diverse, energized and creative.

Who is Eligible?

Any existing community-focused food garden group in Allegheny County is encouraged to apply, including those managed by schools, community organizations, shelters, and religious institutions. "Existing" means you are actively growing food and/or host programming at the garden related to food-growing. You do not need 501(c)3 tax-exempt status to apply.

Garden groups must submit the following in order to be considered for support:

- Completed online application
- Written permission from landowner allowing gardening on the site*
- Completed Community Garden [Sustainability Survey](#). (Call or email for a paper copy.)

NOTE: We cannot give gardens money, fund employee or internship positions, or pay ongoing garden expenses like utility bills or insurance. Regarding power tools: some restrictions apply.

* If your garden is on city-owned property, learn more about the process to obtain permission to use the lot via the [Adopt-A-Lot Program](#). Please make sure your requests are in compliance with the Adopt-A-Lot program guidelines.

Application

If you enter an email address, you will receive an email with a link to return to your application to edit it. Save this email.

RECOMMENDED: Review the application questions in [this printable document](#) first so you know what information you need to gather.

RECOMMENDED: Read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) first. If you have additional questions, contact:

**Rayden Sorock
Grow Pittsburgh Community Garden Program Manager
412-362-4769 ext. 213
rayden@growpittsburgh.org**

Contact Information

* 1. Has This Garden Applied For The Community Garden Sustainability Fund Before?

(Please check all that apply.)

Yes - in 2017

Yes - before 2017

No

* 2. Have You Completed and Submitted The Sustainability Survey this year?

(If you have already applied for the Community Garden Sustainability Fund **in 2017** you need not fill the Sustainability Survey again.

Applicants will not be considered without a completed Sustainability Survey.)

Yes

No

* 3. Garden Name

* 4. Garden Address

* 5. Neighborhood/Municipality

* 6. Zipcode

* 7. Your Name

* 8. Block-lot-Number

(To find your block-lot number, visit the [Allegheny County Assessment](#) or [Lots to Love](#) websites.)

* 9. Your Role At The Garden

* 10. Your Daytime Phone

* 11. Your E-mail Address

* 12. Your Mailing Address

* 13. How Do You Prefer To Be Contacted?

Phone

E-mail

General Garden Information

* 14. Approximate Site Dimensions

* 15. Is The Lot Publicly Or Privately Owned?

- Publicly Owned
- Privately Owned

* 16. Who owns the land? What is your/the garden's relationship to the landowner?

* 17. Please upload proof that you have permission to use the land.
Only PDF, DOC, DOCX, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF files are supported.

Choose File

No file chosen

* 18. How Long Are You Permitted To Garden On The Site?

(i.e. 5 years, 10 years, etc.)

* 19. Is Your Garden Listed On Grow Pittsburgh's [Urban Garden Map](#)?

- Yes
- No

* 20. Has The Soil At The Garden Ever Been Tested?

If 'no', we strongly encourage you to apply for soil testing and reserve the right to not fund other projects until soil testing has been completed.

Yes

No

21. If applicable, please upload soil tests results from the garden.

Only PDF, DOC, DOCX, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF files are supported.

Choose File

No file chosen

Garden Description

* 22. How Did The Garden Get Started?

* 23. What are the garden's mission, vision and goals?

* 24. Who Benefits From The Garden and How?

* 25. How Does The Garden Contribute To The Local Community?

* 26. What Are The Main Challenges Of The Garden?

Project Selection

The Community Garden Sustainability Fund is only providing Small Potatoes awards for the final application deadline. Please read below for more details.

Small Potatoes Fund

TIMELINE:

All application deadlines are as follows:

- April 1st
- June 1st
- August 1st
- **October 1st**

All applications will be reviewed within four (4) weeks and administered within eight (8) weeks following the deadline.

RESTRICTIONS: You may apply to all cycles in 2017. You may submit only one application per cycle. Your garden group may be awarded up to two (2) Small Potatoes projects this calendar year.

PRIORITY:

Priority will be given to Applicants who have never applied to the Fund or that have not yet received funding in 2017. We will do our best to complete time-sensitive projects first.

SMALL POTATOES PROJECTS: "Small Potatoes" projects are generally time sensitive projects that do not require extensive Grow Pittsburgh or WPC staff time, and are fairly inexpensive.

Applicants may apply for, but are not limited to, the following items:

- Books
- Compost
- Compost Bins
- Gift Cards
- Hand tools
- Membership to Grow Pittsburgh's [Garden Resource Center](#)
- Mulch/wood chips
- Perennial edible fruits and herbs
- Power tools, including: string trimmers, cordless drills, small tillers, and lawn mowers (some restrictions apply)
- Rain barrels
- Season extension (row cover)
- Seed starting materials (potting soil, pots, trays)
- Seeds
- Seedlings
- Soil amendments
- Soil testing
- Straw

Big Tomatoes Fund

TIMELINE: All Big Tomatoes Applications were due **June 1st, 2017**. We are no longer taking Big Potatoes applications in 2017.

RESTRICTIONS: You may apply for one Big Tomatoes project each year.—

BIG TOMATO PROJECTS: Big Tomatoes projects are time-intensive projects and/or those that tend to be more expensive.—

Applicants may apply for, but are not limited to, the following items:—

- Consultation—
- Education—
- Fencing—
- Hardscaping for borders and pathways such as bricks and gravel—
- Irrigation systems—
- Conflict mediation—
- Raised beds (lumber, hardware, kits)—
- Season extension (low tunnels, high tunnels)—
- Tool storage—
- Workshops

Small Potatoes Project

SMALL POTATOES PROJECTS:

Only one project is accepted per cycle but you may apply for the Small Potatoes Fund up to four times a year.

All application deadlines are as follows:

- April 1st
- June 1st
- August 1st
- October 1st

* 27. Please Select One Of The Following Small Potatoes Projects

- Books
- Compost
- Compost bin
- Hand tools
- Membership to Grow Pittsburgh's Garden Resource Center
- Mulch
- Perennial edible fruits and herbs
- Power tools, including: string trimmers, cordless drills, small tillers, and lawn mowers (some restrictions apply)
- Raised beds (lumber, hardware, kits)
- Rain barrels
- Season extension (row cover)
- Seed starting materials (potting soil, pots, trays)
- Seeds
- Seedlings
- Soil testing
- Other (please specify a single project)

* 28. Brief Project Description

* 29. How Will This Project Contribute To The Sustainability Of Your Garden?

* 30. Do You Need Our Support In Determining Your Materials List?

Yes

No

* 31. Do you need support to install your project?

Yes

No

32. Is there a particular date you need this project completed by? (If your project is awarded, we will do our best to honor timelines)

33. (OPTIONAL, BUT STRONGLY ENCOURAGED) Estimated Budget

Please outline the materials and costs for this project

Item:

Cost for item above:

Item:

Cost for item above:

Item:

Cost for item above:

Item:

Cost for item above:

Item:

Cost for item above:

TOTAL COST:

Values

In January of 2015, Grow Pittsburgh adopted eight values to guide the long-lasting positive impact we may affect through our work within local communities. We include our values here to ensure all applicants are familiar with them. Our participation in your garden will be in accordance.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: prioritizing neighborhood voices to guide programs

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY: using, teaching and advocating for restorative practices

EQUITY: working alongside communities to build access and power for all

FISCAL INTEGRITY: making responsible and effective use of available assets

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: supporting everyone's right to access, produce and distribute healthy and culturally appropriate food

RESOURCEFULNESS: creating hands-on opportunities to build individual and community self-sufficiency

SOCIAL JUSTICE: understanding systems of privilege, oppression and racism, and using this knowledge to drive our work

TRANSPARENCY: being accountable by using clear, direct and inclusive communication

* 34. By checking the box below, I acknowledge I have read and understand Grow Pittsburgh's values and agree to adhere to those values for the duration of the Community Garden Sustainability Fund project.

I agree