

2016 Community Garden Sustainability Fund

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!

For a complete list of what we can and cannot provide through this fund, see **Page 6** of this application.

Timeline

Applications are due May 13th, 2016. You will be contacted within 2-3 weeks of the deadline. We may have follow up questions. Project implementation for accepted projects will begin June 1, 2016 and all projects will be completed by the end of 2016. We will do our best to complete time-sensitive projects first.

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.

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

- Complete application (Pages 2-5) submitted by Friday May, 13th at 5:00pm
- Written permission* from landowner allowing gardening on the site
- Completed [Community Garden Sustainability Survey](#). (Call or email for a paper copy.)

*Learn more about the process to sign up for a lease with the City of Pittsburgh through the [Adopt-A-Lot](#) Program.

Application

Application questions? Please contact Rayden Sorock, Community Garden Program Manager, by phone at 412-362-4769 ext. 113 or email at rayden@growpittsburgh.org.

Applications are due by Friday, May 13th 2016 at 5:00 pm.

By postal mail:

Grow Pittsburgh % Rayden Sorock
6587 Hamilton Ave #2W
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

By email:

rayden@growpittsburgh.org

Fax:

(412) 362-5019

Contact Information

Garden Name: _____

Garden Address: _____

Neighborhood/Municipality: _____

Zipcode: _____

Block-lot number: _____

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

Your name: _____

Your role at garden: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

Mailing address: _____

How do you prefer to be contacted? phone email

General Garden Information

Approximate site dimensions: _____

Land owner: _____

Is the lot publicly or privately owned? publicly owned privately owned

Form of permission: Adopt-A-Lot lease agreement other _____

You must attach a copy of your permission to use the lot with your application.

How long are you permitted to garden on the site? (i.e. 5 years, 10 years, etc.) _____

Is your garden listed on Grow Pittsburgh's [Urban Garden Map](#)? Yes No

Has the soil at the garden site ever been tested? Yes No

If 'yes', please attach soil test results.

If 'no', we strongly encourage you to apply for soil testing as part of this application. Any additional projects you request may be contingent upon the results we receive.

Garden Description

(Use additional paper if necessary)

How did the garden get started? _____

When was the garden established? _____

Do you have a mission statement? If so, include it here.

Who benefits from the garden? How?

How does the garden contribute to the local community?

What are the main challenges at the garden?

Please include photo(s), drawing(s) or a description of the physical garden space.

Project Description(s)

Please propose **up to three** projects (#1 being the highest priority). Use additional paper if necessary. You may include cost estimates here (optional).

At Grow Pittsburgh, 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.

Project #1

Brief Description:

Date to be completed (if applicable):

How will this project contribute to the sustainability of your garden?

Project #2

Brief Description:

Date to be completed (if applicable):

How will this project contribute to the sustainability of your garden?

Project #3

Brief Description:

Date to be completed (if applicable):

How will this project contribute to the sustainability of your garden?

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

I acknowledge I have read and understand Grow Pittsburgh's position relating to these values.

Initials: _____

Support may include:

- Books
- Bulletin boards
- Compost and compost bins
- Consultation
- Education
- Fencing
- Hand tools
- Hardscaping for borders and pathways such as bricks and gravel
- Irrigation systems
- Mediation
- 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)
- Rain barrels and water catchment
- Raised beds (lumber, hardware, kits)
- Season extension (row cover, low tunnels, high tunnels)
- Seed starting materials (potting soil, pots, trays)
- Seeds
- Seedlings
- Signage
- Soil testing
- Tool storage
- Trees
- Workshops

...and more!

Do you have additional project ideas or materials that would improve your garden's sustainability? We'd like to hear about them! Just be sure to make a strong case for your ideas on the 'Project Description' page.

NOTE: We **cannot** give gardens money, fund employee or internship positions, or pay ongoing garden expenses like utility bills or insurance.

If your garden is on city-owned property, please review the [Adopt-A-Lot](#) program to make sure your requests are in compliance with these new regulations.