

COMMUNITY | INTEREST GARDEN | FORM



2017 CITY GARDEN PROGRAM

Do you want to start a community food garden in Pittsburgh?

Grow Pittsburgh offers tailored, community-based, organizational, educational and/or material support for groups like yours. This application helps us assess your community group's needs and assets. If your group is selected for the 2017 program, our support will come in four phases, with each phase dependent on the completion of the previous phase.

Our goal is to help communities start sustainable food gardens that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Grow Pittsburgh's Values



MISSION

Our mission is to teach people how to grow food and promote the benefits gardens bring to our neighborhoods.

VISION

We envision the day when everyone in our city and region grows and eats fresh, local and healthy food.

VALUES

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

INTEREST FORM

CITY GROWERS



APPLICATION TIMELINE

September 26: Interest Form released
September 26: Application Packet available upon submission of Interest Form
September 26-November 7: Garden site visits and soil testing
November 7: Application packet deadline
End of November: Applicants are notified of decision
Save the Date: How to Start a Community Garden 3-Part Workshop
Part 1: November 30th at 6pm
Part 2: December 7th at 6pm
Part 3: December 14th at 6pm

INTEREST FORM:

Completing an **Interest Form** is the first step in applying for Grow Pittsburgh's community garden program. In this form, we will ask you to identify contacts, answer three brief questions about your interest in this program, and share information about your community garden site. Please **only send us back the last three pages** of this packet. The rest of the information is for you to keep.

NEXT STEPS:

Once you have filled out the **Interest Form**, submit it right away. We will then start a file for you and send you the full **Application**. There are many parts to the application—please give your group sufficient time to gather all the support and information needed, so that you can submit a strong and thorough application by the deadline. You can submit parts of the Application as they are complete.

We will schedule a **Site Visit** so we can meet you, see your potential garden space and take soil samples. Please be prepared to discuss the history of the site: what used to be there, and who uses it now.

The **Application is due on Monday November 7th**. We will take approximately 2-3 weeks to make a decision (based on your Application and Site Visit) about whether we will accept you into **Phase 1**. Information about each of our four phases is found on the following page.

For Interest Form assistance, please contact:

Rayden Sorock
Community Garden Program Manager, Grow Pittsburgh
6587 Hamilton Ave, #2W
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
rayden@growpittsburgh.org
412-362-4769 x113

Community Gardens

FOUR PHASES



Looking ahead helps gardens plan better for the present and the future.

Phase 1: Engage

During Phase 1, you will be required to complete any parts of the Application that are incomplete.

One or two members of your group must attend the **How to Start a Community Garden** class on November 30th, December 7th and December 14th at 6pm at our office at 6587 Hamilton Ave #2W Pittsburgh PA 15206. This class will walk you through the “people side” of starting a garden.

You will need to create and implement an **Outreach Strategy** (how you plan to get people involved in the garden) and set a date for your **Community Meeting**.

We will meet with your garden group in January to review your Outreach Strategy and sign a **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** that states how we will support you and what we expect of you.

At least two members of your group must attend Grow Pittsburgh’s 3-part **Garden Primer** class in February or March. This class teaches you about how to grow food organically.

To complete Phase 1, you must plan and hold a well-attended **Community Meeting** about the garden where neighbors have the opportunity to contribute ideas to the project and get involved.

Phase 2: Organize

Phase 2 is all about **Organizing** your Garden Group. Your group should now include more people who attended the Community Meeting.

To complete Phase 2, your group will need to create **Garden Agreements** (rules) and a **Vision Statement** and identify **Roles and Responsibilities** (who does what) based on the feedback from the Community Meeting.

Phase 3: Design

To complete Phase 3, you will need to create a **Design** for the garden, reach out to **Volunteers** to help build the garden, create a **Budget**, and identify **Physical Needs** (materials) for the garden.

Phase 4: Build

Phase 4 is the **Garden Build**. Depending on the completion of Phases 1-3, this could happen as early as April (Spring Planting) or as late as August (Fall Planting). During this Phase we will ask you to **survey** your members and **record** volunteer hours and harvest totals for reporting purposes. Phase 4 may include **Education** (i.e. workshops), **Event** planning, and **Support** throughout the growing season.

Contact Information



Gardens are most successful when multiple people hold leadership positions. Please identify at least two garden coordinators, and designate one as the primary contact for the interest form.

Primary Contact Person

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Organizational Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Please send the full application to the primary contact's (please select one):

- Email address*
- Mailing address*

Secondary Contact Person

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Organizational Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Tell Us About Your Interest



In a couple of sentences, please answer the following questions:

1 Why does your community need a community garden?

2 How will your community garden benefit its participants?

3 How do you plan to engage your community in this project?

Community Garden Site



Plants (and people) thrive in secure spaces with healthy soil, water, and lots of sunshine.

Garden Sites come in all shapes and sizes; however, there are four basic requirements for a site:

- Water access or potential for water line installation
- At least 6 hours of sunlight
- Written permission to use the site obtained from the land owner
- Soil lead levels of less than 300 ppm

We recognize that finding an appropriate and available garden site is sometimes a challenging process.

If your group is struggling to identify a site, we are happy to assist you.

Have you already identified a potential garden site?

- No, and we will need your assistance.
- No, and we will not need your assistance.
- Yes

If yes, which requirements does your site meet? Please circle the most accurate answer.

▪ This site receives at least 6 hours of sunlight.	Yes	No	Unsure
▪ This site has a water hookup or access to water.	Yes	No	Unsure
▪ I have received written permission from the landowner to use this site for at least 3 years.	Yes	No	Unsure
▪ The soil has been tested for lead.	Yes	No	Unsure

Where is your garden site?

Neighborhood: _____

Address/Nearest Intersection: _____

PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED FORM BY MAIL OR EMAIL TO:

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 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206
rayden@growpittsburgh.org