

COMMUNITY | INTEREST GARDEN | FORM



2020 COMMUNITY GARDENS

Do you want to start a community food garden in Allegheny County?

Grow Pittsburgh can help! Using a tailored, community-based approach, Grow Pittsburgh provides materials, education and organizational support to groups like yours. This application helps us assess your community group's needs and assets. If your group is selected for our 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.

Our program is funded in part by Allegheny County Economic Development.



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

COMMUNITY GARDENS PROGRAM



INTEREST FORM:

Completing an **Interest Form** is the first step in applying for Grow Pittsburgh's Community Gardens 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. We also invite you to **read through our Community Garden Guide on our website.**

NEXT STEPS:

1. Fill out and send in your **Interest Form**
2. Grow Pittsburgh will start a file for you and review your Interest Form
3. Set up a phone call with a Grow Pittsburgh representative to share more about your project and ask questions
4. If our program is a good fit for your eligible project, we will 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.
5. We will schedule a **Site Visit** so we can meet you, see your potential garden space, take soil samples (if not already taken), and offer a brief info session. Be prepared to share the history of the site: what used to be there, and who uses it now.
6. Submit your complete Application by **October 1, 2019** to be considered for a spring build in 2020.
7. After receiving your complete **Application**, we will take approximately 4-6 weeks to make a decision about whether we will accept you into Phase 1.

Information about each of our four phases is found on the following page.

Send the Interest Form or questions to:

Rayden Sorock
 Director of Community Projects, Grow Pittsburgh
 6587 Hamilton Ave, #2W
 Pittsburgh, PA 15206
rayden@growpittsburgh.org
 Phone: 412-362-4769 x213
 Fax: 412-362-5019

Community Gardens

FOUR PHASES



General

One or two members of your group must attend the **How to Start a Community Garden** workshop. This class will walk you through the “people side” of starting a garden. We offer the workshop twice a year. This workshop must be completed during Phase 1 or 2.

Phase 1: Engage

Create and implement an **Outreach Strategy** (how you plan to get people and immediate neighbors involved in the garden) and set a date for a **Community Meeting**.

We will meet with your garden group 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 through all the phases.

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

Phase 2: Organize and Design

Organize your garden group and **Design** your garden. By this point, your group should include more people than it did at the very beginning.

To complete Phase 2, your group will need to create a garden **Contact List**, **Garden Agreements** (rules), a preliminary **Vision Statement** and identify primary **Garden Organizers and Responsibilities**.

Phase 3: Garden Development

Phase 3 is when we build the garden with you in early spring or late summer, providing materials and educational support. We will work with you to develop **Programming** throughout the growing season and visit your garden every week. You must survey your members and record volunteer hours and harvest totals for reporting purposes.

Phase 4: Community Garden Network

After your garden graduates from our program (typically 2 years of support), you become part of the **Community Garden Network**. This network will connect you to other gardens, funding opportunities and resources to keep your garden growing.

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(s): _____

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(s): _____

Tell Us About Your Interest



Please provide specific answers to the following questions:

1

What do you hope to accomplish by starting a community garden?

2

Who is currently involved in the process of starting a community garden?

3

How do you plan to engage your community in this project? What have you done already to engage your neighbors?

Community Garden Site



IMPORTANT NOTE

Community gardens located in Allegheny County, but outside of the City of Pittsburgh, must be located in a block group that meets certain income requirements to be eligible for our program. Please contact us to verify your eligibility before submitting the Interest Form.

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

- Water access or potential for water line installation
- At least 6 hours of sunlight
- Written permission to use the site for at least 3 years signed by the owner
- Soil lead levels of less than 300 parts per million

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?

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 written permission from the landowner. (If Yes, be sure to include your written permission)	Yes	No	Unsure
The soil has been tested for lead. (If Yes, be sure to include your soil test results)	Yes	No	Unsure

Where is your garden site?

Neighborhood/Borough: _____

Address/Nearest Intersection: _____

Lot Block Number(s): _____

To find the Lot Block Number, visit the Allegheny County Real Estate website at <http://www2.county.allegheny.pa.us/realestate/Default.aspx>.