

# COMMUNITY | INTEREST GARDEN | FORM



## 2021 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



### ELIGIBILITY:

Your garden must be located in Allegheny County and on publicly owned land (i.e. owned by municipalities or non-profits). Privately owned sites are not eligible, even if they are tax delinquent and vacant. For sites outside of the City of Pittsburgh, please contact us to confirm your site's eligibility based on income levels.

Your garden group must include at least 6 people and you must have a committed partnership with a local non-profit or your municipality.

### NEXT STEPS:

1. Fill out and send in this **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, 2020** to be considered for a spring build in 2021.
7. We will inform garden groups by November 1, 2020 if they are accepted into the 2021 program.

Information about each of our four program 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](mailto:rayden@growpittsburgh.org)  
 Phone: 412-362-4769 x213  
 Fax: 412-362-5019

# Community Gardens

## FOUR PHASES



### General

Once accepted into the program, we work with garden groups for two years to develop the community and garden infrastructure with the goal of achieving self-sustainability. Once gardens graduate from the program, Grow Pittsburgh remains a connected resource.

One or two members of your group must attend our **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 before Phase 3 can begin.

### Phase 1: Engage

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.

### 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), your garden becomes 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? (Include neighbors, organizations, local officials)

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.

### Site requirements:

- Publicly owned by a municipality or non-profit. Private property is ineligible.
- Written permission to use the site for at least 3 years signed by the owner
- Water access or potential for water line installation
- At least 6 hours of sunlight
- Soil lead levels of less than 300 parts per million (to grow directly in soil)

### Have you already identified a potential garden site?

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

### 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>.