

Community Garden Sustainability Fund Application

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- **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 application
- Written permission from landowner allowing gardening on the site*
- Completed Community Garden [Sustainability Survey](#).
- Garden Listing on Grower's Map

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, 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

By completing this application, you will automatically be added to the Community Garden Network e-newsletter list to keep you in the loop on garden related news and opportunities. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Have you completed and submitted the Sustainability Survey?* **CIRCLE ONE**

(If not, please fill out the survey before moving on in this application. Applicants will not be considered without a completed Sustainability Survey.)

- Yes
- No

Is your garden listed on Grow Pittsburgh's Urban Garden Map?* **CIRCLE ONE**

(See the Urban Garden Map) Creating an entry only takes a few minutes. Applicants without a Garden Map listing will not be considered. If your listing needs to be updated, please email the info to alyssa@growpittsburgh.org.

- Yes
- No

Garden Name*

Garden Address*

Neighborhood/Municipality*

Zipcode*

Garden's Website

Does your garden have a website or a Facebook page?

How many beds does your garden have?*

It's ok to approximate. We're looking to get a sense of the amount of growing space at your garden.

What are the dimensions of your beds?*

Example answer: 10 - 3'x12' beds and 3 - 4'x4' beds

How many people are regularly involved with your garden?*

This includes consistent volunteers and garden organizers. Please do not include one-time volunteer groups in this count.

Your Name*

Your Role At The Garden*

How do you prefer to be contacted?* CIRCLE ONE

- Phone
- Email

Your Daytime Phone

Your Email Address*

Your Mailing Address*

Street Address City State / Province / Region ZIP / Postal Code

Has this garden applied for the Community Garden Sustainability Fund before?* CIRCLE ONE

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Is the lot publicly or privately owned?* CIRCLE ONE

- Publicly Owned
- Privately Owned

Block-lot-Number

(To find your block-lot number, visit the Allegheny County Assessment or Grounded's Lots to Love websites.)

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

Please share proof that you have permission to use the land.*

This could be a letter, email, or lease from the landowner.

How long are you permitted to garden on the site?*

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

Has the soil at the garden ever been tested for lead?* **CIRCLE ONE**

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

If applicable, please share soil tests results from the garden.

Please share a photo of your garden.*

Preferably of the area in your garden where the Sustainability Fund materials will be installed or if the issue to be addressed.

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

Who benefits from the garden? How does the garden contribute to the local community?*

What is the cost of your project?* **CIRCLE ONE**

The majority of the requests that we're able to grant are less than \$1000. Projects requesting \$1000-5000 will be asked to submit additional materials below. We cannot award amounts greater than \$5000, but we may be able to fund a portion of the total project (i.e. not the whole greenhouse, but perhaps the materials for the foundation/footing).

- Less than \$1000
- \$1000-\$5000
- Greater than \$5000

What do you need?* **CIRCLE ONE**

Please choose the category that best describes your application's request.

- Project Materials (i.e. tools, paint, etc.)
- Soil or Soil Amendments (i.e. topsoil, compost, mulch, etc.)
- Plants (i.e. seeds, seedlings, perennials, fruit trees, etc.)

- Garden Infrastructure - New (i.e. fencing, irrigation, raised beds, etc.)
- Garden Infrastructure - Repairs (i.e. fence repair, raised bed repair, etc.)

Please describe your project:*

What are you seeking to install, build, add or change in your garden with the help of the Sustainability Fund? How will this project contribute to the long term goals of your garden?

Will you need our staff's support to complete the project?* **CIRCLE ONE**

Our staff may be able to help install, consult, or instruct on site as needed. Please note, projects that require staff support may take longer to complete based on scheduling and weather.

- Yes
- No

Is there a specific date you need your request by?

We will do our best to accommodate, but we can't make any guarantees.

Estimated Budget

Please outline the materials and costs for this project

Estimated Budget*

Provide as much detail as possible.

Item	Quantity	Total Cost	Preferred Brand or Material (if applicable)

Additional notes on the items requested?

Links are VERY helpful if you're looking for a particular thing.

TOTAL COST:*

What is the total \$ amount for your request(s)?

Are you open to suggestions about alternative materials or products?* **CIRCLE ONE**

If you know exactly what material or product you prefer, please let us know in the chart above. If you're not quite sure what you need or are flexible on material or product choices, please check "yes".

- Yes, I'm open to suggestions or recommendations.
- No, I prefer the exact items I requested.
- Unsure

If we're only able to provide a portion of your request, is that still helpful?* **CIRCLE ONE**

Due to budget limitations, we sometimes are able to provide some of the requested materials, but not all. Please let us know if you'd be interested in receiving a portion of your request, if need be.

- Yes, anything helps
- No, if the full ask cannot be granted, I'd prefer to not receive anything this time around.
- Unsure

Additional notes on the above question.

Are some of the things you're requesting of higher importance than others? Here is a place to list those priorities in the case that we cannot fund your entire project. We want to be as helpful as possible with limited resources, so tell us what you need.

Image, sketch, site plan*

Please share an additional image, sketch, site plan, or other visual that will give us more information about your project plan.

Additional Funds (for projects over \$5000)*

If you have a project that the total cost is greater than \$5000, where will you get the additional funding? Are you applying to other grants? (For example, if your fence project is \$10,000, and we are able to fund up to \$5000, how will you cover the remaining \$5000 to complete the project?)

Community Garden Sustainability Survey

HomeCommunity Garden Sustainability Survey

February 28, 2018

Community Garden Sustainability Evaluation Tool (CGSET)

- Garden Name*
- Garden Location*
- Year Established
- Your Name(s)*
- Email*
- Your role at the garden
-
- 1. Our garden feels pressure that it may need to move to a new location within the next 5 years.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 2. Garden participants have opportunities to contact garden leaders and share ideas.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 3. Our garden has support from neighborhood organizations and/or local governing bodies.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 4. The majority of garden participants live within walking distance of the garden.*
 - Yes
 - No

- Unsure
- 5. Our garden has an invasive weed, such as Japanese Knotweed, that affects our productivity.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 6. Our garden has money put aside for emergency use.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 7. Our garden has access to sufficient tools.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 8. The rules of the garden are posted where visitors can see them.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 9. Our garden has access to a reliable water source.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 10. Our garden's soil is currently capable of growing healthy food plants.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 11. There is a secure place at the garden to store materials so that they cannot be stolen or vandalized.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 12. Our garden has liability insurance that covers activities at the garden.*

- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 13. Our garden regularly uses AT LEAST TWO (2) of the following to communicate with gardeners: bulletin board, email, postal mail, phone, website, social media (ex. Facebook).*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 14. All garden participants (ex. members, bed-holders, volunteers) have agreed to a list of expectations.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 15. Our garden's soil is tested AT LEAST every TWO (2) years to assess soil health.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 16. Our garden has a documented long-term strategy/strategic plan (extending beyond one year).*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 17. Our garden has a budget that is maintained by at least one designated member.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 18. Our garden has a process for re-assigning beds that are untended.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 19. Our garden actively seeks donations of funds and/or materials.*
 - Yes
 - No

- Unsure
- 20. At the garden, there is a sign that is visible to passersby that explains how to make contact and get involved.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 21. Our garden has a compost pile that is regularly maintained and utilized.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 22. Our garden has a functional rainwater collection system connected to a downspout.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 23. Our garden has a process for supporting gardeners who are struggling to maintain their beds.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 24. If there is a problem at the garden, the garden leadership is proactive in responding to it.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 25. Our garden uses season extension techniques (such as row covers, cold frames, etc.).*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 26. There is a process for orienting new participants to the garden.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 27. Gardeners feel safe at the garden site.*

- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 28. Our garden has pest management strategies in place.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 29. Our garden has access to knowledgeable vegetable growers.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 30. Our garden allows only organic fertilizers and pesticides.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 31. Our garden tracks the number of attendees present at garden-related events.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 32. Our garden leadership holds AT LEAST THREE (3) sit-down planning meetings each year.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 33. Our garden leadership shares news with garden participants and neighbors several times per year.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 34. Garden participants reflect the overall demographics of the neighborhood.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

- 35. There are regular opportunities for garden participants to hold leadership positions.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 36. Our garden consistently tracks the amount of produce grown and/or donated.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 37. Our garden has a process for donating produce to food banks, churches, neighbors, etc.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 38. The mission/purpose of the garden is posted where visitors can see it.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 39. Our garden holds open-to-the-public community events AT LEAST ONCE a year.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 40. Our garden currently uses all available garden beds.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 41. We are able to afford our yearly garden costs.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 42. The garden's neighbors (including residents and business owners) are engaged and supportive.*
 - Yes
 - No

- Unsure
- 43. Our garden uses cover crops to improve soil and reduce erosion.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 44. Our garden has a written agreement with the landowner allowing the land to be used for gardening.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 45. Since the beginning of my involvement in the garden, I have seen growth in the number of participants.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 46. Within the past year, vandalism and/or theft has SIGNIFICANTLY limited the success of the garden.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 47. In the past year, damage from pests and animals made a SIGNIFACNT impact on our garden.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- 48. There are more than THREE (3) garden leaders who regularly attend garden meetings, work days and events.*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

- Additional Comments

0 of 2000 max characters

Use this space to provide feedback on the quiz itself or your garden's sustainability