

Community Garden Sustainability Fund Application 2023: Printable Version

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 online application
- Written permission from landowner allowing gardening on the site*
- 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 Form

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.

**Community Garden Sustainability
Fund Application Form**

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

Garden Name

Garden Address

What are the dimensions of your beds?

(Required for community gardens but not required for school gardens.)

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 - phone or email?

Your Daytime Phone

Your Email Address

Your Mailing Address

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

Is the lot publicly or privately owned?

Block-lot-Number

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

Please attach proof that you have permission to use the land. Your proof of permission could be a letter, email, or lease from the landowner.

If you're with a community garden, please make sure to add this documentation. If you're with a school garden and you have support from school administration, you can bypass this question.

How long are you permitted to garden on the site?

Has the soil at the garden ever been tested for lead?

If not, we strongly encourage you to apply for soil testing. Because of the prevalence of toxic lead content in Pittsburgh's regional soils, we might not fund some projects until soil testing has been completed.

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

Please attach a printed photo of your garden, or email a photo to claire@growpittsburgh.org with subject line: CGSF APP PHOTO [Your garden's name]

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

What is the cost of your project?

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 an entire greenhouse, but supplies for the base).

Please circle one:

Less than \$1000

\$1000-\$5000

Greater than \$5000

What do you need? Please choose the category that best fits your request(s).

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.)

Trainings & Workshops - Education (i.e. composting, garlic planting, 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

You may list multiple items under the headings provided or provide a separate page with a budget formatted in your own way.

Item	Quantity	Total Cost	Preferred Brand or Material (if applicable)
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Additional notes on the items requested?

Specific stores and product names are very helpful if you're looking for a particular thing. If you're filling the application out online, links are very helpful.

TOTAL COST:

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

Are you open to suggestions about alternative materials or products?

If you know exactly what material or product you prefer, please let us know in the questions above about your specific requests. If you're not quite sure what you need or are flexible on material or product choices, please circle "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?

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

Any additional notes on this 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.

By signing my initials below, I acknowledge I have read and understand Grow Pittsburgh's values and agree to adhere to those values for the duration of the Community Garden Sustainability Fund project.