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Community Garden Sustainability Survey

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.

Submit Survey - Done!

Save Survey and Continue Later



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CGSF Application

Community Garden Sustainability Fund Application - 2020

Step 1 of 6 - 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 online application
- Written permission from landowner allowing gardening on the site*
- Completed Community Garden **Sustainability Survey**. (Call or email for a paper copy.)

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

. If you have additional questions, contact:

Alyssa Kail
Grow Pittsburgh Garden Sustainability Coordinator
412-362-4769 ext. 203
alyssa@growpittsburgh.org



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CGSF Application

Community Garden Sustainability Fund Application - 2020

Step 2 of 6 - Contact Information



Have you completed and submitted the Sustainability Survey? *

(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? *

(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



☐ TAKE PHOTOS - take 5-7 before, during, and after photos and share with Grow Pittsburgh

☐ TELL THE STORY - write up a 1-3 paragraphs on your experience receiving the Sustainability Fund, and how those materials helped to improve your garden

☐ ANSWER QUESTIONS - fill out a survey we'll send you after you receive your Sustainability Fund materials.

Garden Name *

Garden Address *

Neighborhood/Municipality *

Zipcode *

Garden's Website

Does your garden have a website or a Facebook page?

https://

How much growing space does your garden have? *

Example answers are: 10 - 3'x12' beds, 200 sq. ft., or 10'x20'

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Your Name *

Your Role At The Garden *

How do you prefer to be contacted? *

☐ Phone

☐ Email

Your Daytime Phone

Your Email Address *

Your Mailing Address *

Street Address

City

State / Province / Region





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

☐ Yes - 2018-2019

☐ Yes - 2013-2017

☐ No

☐ Unsure

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Community Garden Sustainability Fund Application - 2020

Step 3 of 6 - General Garden Information

10/2/20

Is the lot publicly or privately owned? *

☐ Publicly Owned

☐ Privately Owned

Block-lot-Number

(To find your block-lot number, visit the [Allegheny County Assessment](#) or [Lots to Love](#) websites.)

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

0 of 500 max characters

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

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

Please include a paper copy, if mailing in application.

Choose File No file chosen

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

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

0 of 20 max characters

Has the soil at the garden ever been tested? *

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 upload soil tests results from the garden.

Choose File No file chosen

Please include a paper copy, if mailing in application.

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Community Garden Sustainability Fund Application - 2020

Step 4 of 6 - Garden Description

Image

Please upload 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.

[Choose File](#) No file chosen

How did the garden get started? *

0 of 300 max characters



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0 of 300 max characters

Who benefits from the garden and how? *

0 of 300 max characters

How does the garden contribute to the local community? *

0 of 300 max characters

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Community Garden Sustainability Fund Application - 2020

Step 5 of 6 - Project Selection

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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 the whole greenhouse, but perhaps the materials for the foundation/footing).

☒ Less than \$1000

☐ \$1000-\$5000

☐ greater than \$5000

☒ Greater than \$5000

What do you need? *

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.)
- ☐ Training/Workshops
- ☐ Consultation

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 your project contribute to the sustainability of your garden? *

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

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

Requested Item 1 *

Please include as much detail as possible, including quantity, size, and if you have a preferred brand or source.

Cost of Item 1: *

Requested Item 2

Please include as much detail as possible, including quantity, size, and if you have a preferred brand or source.

Cost of Item 2:

Requested Item 3

Please include as much detail as possible, including quantity, size, and if you have a preferred brand or source.

Cost of Item 3:

Requested Item 4

Please include as much detail as possible, including quantity, size, and if you have a preferred brand or source.

Cost of Item 4

Requested Item 5

Please include as much detail as possible, including quantity, size, and if you have a preferred brand or source.

Cost of Item 5


TOTAL COST: *

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 item description(s) above. But, 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

Image, sketch, site plan * *Please include a paper copy if mailing application in.*
Please upload an additional image, sketch, site plan, or other visual that will give us more information about your project plan.

Drop files here or

Select files

Detailed Budget * *Please include a paper copy if mailing application in.*
Please upload a more detailed budget of your project.

Choose File No file chosen

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?)

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Community Garden Sustainability Fund Application - 2020

Step 6 of 6 - Small Potatoes

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Values

In January of 2015, Grow Pittsburgh adopted eight values to guide the long-lasting positive impact we may affect through our work within local communities. We include our values here to ensure all applicants are familiar with them. Our participation in your garden will be in accordance.

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



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

By checking the box 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. *

☐ I Agree

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DONE!

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