

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide London residents with guidelines and procedures for how to obtain support from the City of London for developing a new Community Garden on municipally owned lands.

Scope

This policy applies to all Londoners who are interested in developing a new Community Garden on municipally owned lands.

Policy

London residents, neighbourhood associations and groups (referred to as 'interested parties') must have the support of at least 10 (ten) Gardeners in order to submit a **Statement of Interest** to the City of London and the Coordinating Agency for the development of a new Community Garden in an identified location, located on City property. If the proposed garden site passes the due diligence process and has the support of the local community (within a 250 metre radius of the proposed site), the Community Garden will be considered for further development.

The City reserves the right to deny a site for any reason at its sole discretion.

Procedures

i. Submitting an Application for the Development of a New Community Garden

London residents, neighbourhood associations and groups ('interested parties') contact the Coordinating Agency and complete a *Statement of Interest* form (electronic or hard copy) to outline their interest in developing a new community garden on municipally owned lands. At this initial stage of interest, the interested parties must demonstrate that they have 10 (ten) Gardeners interested in undertaking the development of a new Community Garden.

Pursuant to receiving the Statement of Interest, the Coordinating Agency will work with the City of London to conduct the necessary due diligence regarding the potential site to ensure it is an appropriate site. Priority will be given to those sites on municipally owned lands that meet the following criteria:

- The proposed site is available and properly zoned.
- There is ease of access to the site during the gardening season.
- The quality and drainage effectiveness of the soil is satisfactory.
- Suitable sun exposure.
- Good access to water sources.
- Close proximity to neighbourhoods and areas of population density.
- Demonstrated willingness of volunteers to work with the Coordinating Agency and City of London to develop, operate and maintain the garden.
- Potential site complies with Ontario Regulation 153/04, whereby only municipal lands where the current or last known use was residential, parkland, or agricultural will be considered during site selection.

If the proposed site passes the due diligence stage, the Coordinating Agency will send an information letter to all homes in a 250 metre radius of the proposed site, advising them of the proposal to develop a community garden and asking them to provide written feedback to the City. If feedback is primarily disapproving, the City may undertake a neighbourhood consultation process to provide further information in order to gain support.

If it is determined that there is demonstrated support for the proposed Community Garden, a site plan will be prepared with support of the Coordinating Agency. New Community Garden site plans will:

- Include plot layouts and dimensions.
- Identify access points for water.
- Identify locations of composting bins that are required for the site.
- Comply with applicable provincial accessibility standards, City Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) and/or municipal by-laws.

ii. Constructing a New Community Garden

- Gardeners must work with City of London to construct the garden beds.
- The City will provide clean fill.
- Features such as dirt or crushed gravel pathways to plots, raised beds and other accessibility attributes are supported within the Community Garden
- Gardeners must work with the City of London to install any approved structures such as compost bins or storage containers.
- There must be minimum setbacks of 6 (six) meters from edges of Community Gardens to surrounding amenities, property lines, hedgerows and trees to allow for regular park maintenance equipment to move through the area.



Policy
London Community Gardens

Subject: New Community Gardens

Policy #: 1304
