

BUREAU OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

Title: Community Gardens		
Issued by: Bureau of Recreation and Conservation	Effective Date: 6/1/11 Scheduled Review: Annual	Document Number: 2300-010
Reviewed: 12/14/23	Revised:	
Approved By: Tom Ford, Bureau Director	Program Area: All	

AUTHORITY

Act 18 of 1995, Section 306, Community Recreation and Heritage Conservation. The Department shall have the power to administer Federal and State programs for grants and loans to local governments, municipal authorities and nonprofit organizations for community and regional projects involving the planning, acquisition, rehabilitation and development of public park, recreation and conservation areas, facilities, and programs.

SCOPE

Provides directive for administration of the Community Conservation Partnerships Grant Program

PURPOSE

Park and recreation departments are at a crossroads of changing the way in which the community views the contribution of public lands for the good of the community. The addition of a community garden can increase the perceived environmental value of a park, provide an example of green and sustainable practices, and provide recreational and rehabilitative benefits.

- A. Community gardens can be urban, suburban, or rural and can be considered recreational activity when established in a park and meeting the below policy.
- B. Community gardens provide a service for residents and can be used to grow flowers, vegetables, and fruit. They can be one community plot or can be many individual plots of various sizes; and they are for individual household use.

POLICY

On lands acquired or developed with The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources -administered state or federal funding, community gardening is a permissible use of parkland as it is viewed as a form of outdoor recreation. It must be performed in a non-discriminatory manner and open to all residents and non-residents. It is for individual household use, with the products of the garden not being grown for sale.

Please view the following documents by visiting the [Green Community Parks](#) page.

[Community Garden Benefits](#)
[Sample Community Garden Guidelines](#)
[Sample Community Garden Rules](#)
[Sample Community Garden Registration Form](#)

A. TOOLS

1. The Department offers the following links that may be helpful resources.
2. [American Community Garden Association, Starting A Community Garden](#)

3. [National Gardening Association](#)
4. [Philadelphia Horticultural Society, Community Gardens](#) & City Harvest-
5. [Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust](#)
6. [National Recreation and Park Association.](#)
[Lessons in community garden](#)
[Community and Home Gardening](#)
[Gardening Facilitator's Guide](#)

DISCLAIMER

The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance document are intended to supplement existing requirements. The policies and procedures herein are not an adjudication or a regulation. There is no intent on the part of DCNR to give the rules in these policies that weight or deference. This document establishes the framework within which DCNR will exercise its administrative discretion in the future.

PAGE LENGTH

2 pages

EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediately. This policy is to be reviewed and updated every year.

EXPIRATION

This policy remains in effect until revised or rescinded.

Tom Ford, Bureau Director

12/14/2023

Name/Title of Bureau or Office Director

Date