

Your guide to starting a

COMMUNITY GARDEN

**Here's your go-to guide for setting up
a flourishing community garden on
Hamilton City Council owned parkland.**



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

About COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community gardens are a fantastic way to shape a green city and bring neighbours together. Whether you opt for garden beds, fruit trees, children's gardens, or allotments – community gardens can bring more vibrancy to urban parkland.

Growing fruit and vegetables is a fun and affordable way of getting fresh food into meals. A neighbourhood garden can also help make sure the wider community has easy access to tasty, healthy food.

These guidelines will explain..




what a community garden is...



how to apply to grow one on Council-owned land...



what your responsibilities would be...



and some useful tips and information to help your community garden thrive.



What is a community garden?

A community garden is a small, shared gardening venture. The food is grown by and used for the community rather than for selling.

Community gardens on Council land must:

- 1 Meet a community need
- 2 Be set up and managed by a group that can oversee the garden and its users
- 3 Be appropriately located, designed, and managed if created on Council-owned land.

Types of community gardens are:

- Those on private land, such as the Grandview Community Garden in Newton.
- Those on public land, such as the Waimarie Community Garden.



The role of Council

We want to shape a green city that focuses on sustainability and protecting the environment.

Depending on the level of support needed, Council can:

- partner with organisations like Go Eco and Enviroschools
- support the development of a community garden network
- provide a space for community gardens when the criteria is met
- helps with awareness and getting the word out.

*Council can't help with funding.



The role and responsibilities of a community group

Community gardens are often set up by a community group. While each garden - and the group looking after it - will be different, the group will:

- Manage the community garden and make sure the community and Council are kept informed.
- Be legally responsible for the garden.
- Run the garden day-to-day and make sure it's well maintained.

Community groups need to meet some criteria before Council approves them to create a garden on public parkland.

To find out more about this, reach out to us at info@hcc.govt.nz.





Setting up a COMMUNITY GARDEN



Top Tips FOR YOUR GARDEN


If you get the go-ahead to get planting on parkland, or if you find private land to use, the next step is actually creating your garden!

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Make sure you have a vision and plan for the garden. What will it look like? What should it be used for?
- Gather a group of garden-loving people to help manage and maintain it.
- Make sure you have the right resources. This includes good quality soil, seeds and water.

Have fun and happy planting!





If you'd like to set up a community garden on Council-owned parkland and you think you have the time and resource to do so, the next step is sending Council's Parks and Recreation team a project outline to consider.

To apply or find out more about the process of applying to grow a community garden on Council's open spaces, please visit hamilton.govt.nz/communitygardens

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