

## Form A: Formal Community Garden Start Up Checklist

This checklist is provided to assist new community garden groups.

There are many different qualities and styles of community gardens. This checklist may help with planning your type of garden. Getting these questions clear at the start will help the new garden to get it off to a great start.

### 1. What type of community garden do we want?

Will the community garden be: (please tick one)

- ☐ a shared garden where participants share the gardening and the harvest
- ☐ an allotment garden where participants garden their own plot and share the maintenance of common areas
- ☐ a garden with both allotment and shared gardening spaces

Allotment Gardens:

How long can allotments be held while they are not being used?

What size will we make each allotment?

### 2. Will we garden organically? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how will this be explained to new gardeners and visitors?

### 3. What will be the purpose of our community garden?

Recreation and community building: (please tick)

- ☐ a safe place where people can grow food together and get to know each other
- ☐ a place where parents can bring their children
- ☐ Other: (please state)

Food security and nutritional health:

- ☐ access to fresh, nutritious food
- ☐ supplementing the family food supply
- ☐ other: (please state)

Education:

Will the garden be open to use and/or visit by community groups / schools / other educational bodies? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will the gardeners offer workshops (e.g. compost making, starting a garden etc) to the public? ☐ Yes ☐ No

#### 4. What types of plants will we grow?

When considering what types of plants to grow in your community garden, remember that fruit and nut trees need plenty of space and should be spaced about 3m to 5m apart.

- |   |  |  |                                     |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> vegetables         | <input type="checkbox"/> herbs         | <input type="checkbox"/> fruit/nut trees   | <input type="checkbox"/> flowers    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> berry fruit shrubs | <input type="checkbox"/> water crops   | <input type="checkbox"/> medicinal plants  | <input type="checkbox"/> bush foods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> herbal tea plants  | <input type="checkbox"/> native plants | <input type="checkbox"/> indigenous plants |                                     |

(Native plants originate in Australia; indigenous plants originate in the local area)

#### 5. Will we keep animals? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what animals?

- |                                   |  |                               |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> chickens | <input type="checkbox"/> other poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> bees |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|

☐ other: (please state)

Outline any issues with regard to managing the animals and how you will address them

#### 6. What structures are we likely to want to build in the community garden?

**Please note: some structures may require a DA, please check our website for more details <http://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/>**

- ☐ seating with sun and rain shelter
- ☐ lockable storage shed
- ☐ plant propagation nursery
- ☐ outdoor cooking facilities
- ☐ children's play area
- ☐ public art
- ☐ education signage and facilities
- ☐ rainwater collection, storage and use
- ☐ other: (please state).

#### 7. What training do we need?

Gardening and construction skills:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> garden establishment    | <input type="checkbox"/> making compost                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> seed saving             | <input type="checkbox"/> pest and disease management    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> plant propagation       | <input type="checkbox"/> organic gardening              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> planting and harvesting | <input type="checkbox"/> developing a planting calendar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> animal management       | <input type="checkbox"/> improving garden soils         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mulching and irrigation |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: (please state)   |   |

Design Skills:

- ☐ site assessment
- ☐ gardener needs assessment
- ☐ garden design

Other Skills:

- ☐ promotion and recruitment skills      ☐ volunteer management  
☐ running a community organisation      ☐ effective meetings  
☐ other: (please state)

Are any of these skills available in the community gardening group? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, where will we find these skills?

**8. Is our community garden prepared to be involved in any Council Initiatives to demonstrate its social and environmental goals? ☐ Yes ☐ No e.g.**

- ☐ waste and recycling    ☐ water conservation    ☐ energy efficiency    ☐ biodiversity  
☐ sustainable living    ☐ food security    ☐ nutritional health    ☐ pollution  
☐ other: (please state)

**9. What types of environmental programs (if any) will we implement in the community garden?**

We will demonstrate the reuse and recycling of waste organic matter through:

- ☐ composting      ☐ mulching      ☐ worm farming  
☐ use of recycled materials  
☐ other: (please state)

How will we conserve water in the garden?

- ☐ rain tanks      ☐ mulching      ☐ low water use plants  
☐ low water use irrigation  
☐ other: (please state)

How will we support biodiversity?

Will we plant non-hybrid seed of heritage or heirloom vegetables and fruits so that we can collect, save and replant? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will we propagate and distribute seed of endangered or rare native (indigenous) plants?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No  
☐ other: (please state)

**10. How will we fund the garden?**

How will we fund ongoing costs of the community organisation and the garden?

- ☐ apply for grants  
☐ membership fees  
☐ other self-funding  
☐ other: (please state)