

Community Gardens Definition List

Allotment Garden is characterized by a series of garden plots rented out to individuals. Often they are offered for the purpose of food production and may be developed to support food security. In **allotment** gardens, the parcels are cultivated individually, and the common areas (pathways) are often managed through volunteer activities of the garden group.

Brownfield Garden is defined as a formerly contaminated commercial or industrial property that has been remediated and abandoned or underutilized. These sites are outside the scope of approval of Parks.

Community Garden is a piece of land gardened by a group of people (10 persons minimum) for the purpose of providing a garden experience/education to citizens of Calgary. They are offered in partnership between City of Calgary Parks and community-based organizations and are subject to all policies and bylaws governing public lands.

Community Garden Resource Network (CGRN) is offered under the auspices of the Calgary Horticultural Society. CGRN maintains a website as part of its internal and external communication strategy. They also maintain a database of community gardens that feature valuable and up-to-date statistics and many resources.

Community Orchard is a piece of land gardened by a group of people for the purpose of producing fruit on trees and shrubs for community benefit and education. They are currently in a test phase to determine sustainability and viability of the various trees and shrubs and are subject to all policies and bylaws governing public lands.

Food Security is where all persons in a community have access to culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate food through local, non-emergency sources at all times. Both Eco Footprint and Calgary Food Policy Council may be able to provide additional information.

LOC – A License of Occupation is granted to community based organizations (Community Associations and Social Recreation organizations) to provide public land, at minimal cost, for the purpose of providing social and recreational programs and services to neighborhood citizens. Parks approval is required for the development of gardens on LOC sites, and these sites are subject to all policies and bylaws governing public lands.

Parks Inventory is City-owned open spaces under the responsibility and authority of the Parks department and subject to land stewardship principles and policies of the City and the Parks department. Natural areas, neighborhood parks and regional parks and pathways make up this inventory.

Public Community Gardens are gardens located on public lands and/or a garden which complies with the 50% public use policy (at least 50% of garden has open membership and garden is open to the public at least 50% of the time). Parks' resources will be directed to public gardens first and limited gardens (locked or closed membership) next.

Permaculture is design techniques encouraging land use which integrates principles of ecology and applies lessons from nature.

Sustainable Gardening is defined as environmentally responsible gardening practices which include, but are not limited to stringent water management practices and pest/weed management practices, composting where feasible and planting native (grass) species best suited to the environment.

Urban Agriculture is the growing, processing and distribution of food and other products through intensive plant cultivation in and around cities.

GARDEN RESOURCES

Calgary Foundation offers several forms of support for resident-led citizen engagement activities including Community gardens which are developed by community volunteers. (CFEP also funds Community Gardens)

Community and Neighborhood Services - CRC – Community Recreation Coordinator works with Community Associations to assist them with organizational and program development. All community gardens on LOC sites will involve the CRC through the approval process. Contact 3-1-1

Eco Footprint – Environmental and Safety Management staff has prepared an educational tool kit for community gardens and may also provide information on other initiatives related to food security and urban agriculture. Contact 3-1-1

Federation of Calgary Communities is an umbrella organization serving Community Associations. For assistance locating your community association contact the FCC.

PCL – Parks Community Liaisons are responsible for processing community garden applications and approvals for all park and LOC sites. Contact 3-1-1

Waste and Recycling – East Calgary Landfill provides free compost/mulch to community gardens. Contact the [City of Calgary Parks](#) to get a letter of introduction to access the mulch/compost. Group must arrange for pick up of materials.