

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC)

SUBJECT: Community Gardens

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2011

BACKGROUND: 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.

Community gardens can be urban, suburban, or rural and can be considered recreational activity when established in a park and meeting the below policy. 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.

DCNR POLICY STATEMENT: On lands acquired or developed with DCNR-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 this website

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/greening/communitygardens/index.htm>:

- Community Garden Benefits
- Sample Community Garden Guidelines
- Sample Community Garden Rules
- Sample Community Garden Registration Form

TOOLS

The Department offers the following links that may be helpful resources.

American Community Garden Association, Starting A Community Garden-

<http://www.communitygarden.org/learn/starting-a-community-garden.php#insurance>

National Gardening Association- <http://assoc.garden.org/>

Philadelphia Horticultural Society, Community Gardens & City Harvest-
<http://pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/phlgreen/current-communitygardens.html>

Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust- <http://ngalandtrust.org/>

National Recreation and Park Association. *Grow Your Park Initiative. Building A Community Garden In Your Park: Opportunities for Health, Community, and Recreation.* View the handbook by clicking on the following link <http://www.nrpa.org/garden/> (at the bottom of the webpage is a link to the pdf document).

This policy remains in effect until revised or rescinded.