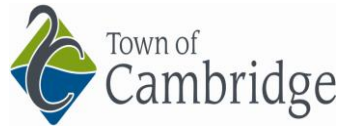




PROFILE OF WA COMMUNITY GARDENS

30 June 2010





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INTRODUCTION

This profile provides a snapshot of community gardens in WA as at 30 June 2010. Information has been collated from the online garden database on the Community Gardens WA website (www.communitygardenswa.org.au) and supplemented with details drawn from the Directory of WA Community Gardens and information on individual gardens compiled during the Growing Communities WA project (2008 – 2010).

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY GARDENS?

"Community gardens are places where people come together to grow food and community"¹. They come in all shapes and sizes; every garden has its own unique culture or 'flavour' that relates to the nature of the land it's on, the people involved in the garden and the community that surrounds it.

There are two main **styles** of community gardens – *communal* or *shared* gardens (where people garden collectively and share any produce) and *allotment* gardens (where people pay a fee for exclusive use of a small plot of land in the garden). Many gardens combine the two.

As well as edible plantings, community gardens often include native gardens and decorative and therapeutic elements. Whilst gardening is a focus, community gardens are generally multi-purpose community hubs for a range of activities including education and training, playgroups, arts and creative activities, preparing and sharing food, community events and celebrations, and social enterprise.

The range of skill levels catered for and activities on offer, together with the 'hands on' nature of gardening and the universal language of food, mean that community gardens provide fabulous opportunities for cross-cultural connections and for social participation by people who find it difficult to access traditional recreation and leisure options in the community. Community gardens are also one of the few types of community facilities where you'll commonly see people of all ages coming together and intergenerational exchange taking place.

Community gardens differ in terms of **who manages them**. Many gardens are self-managed by community members who participate in the garden. Some are managed by agencies or organisations for the benefit of gardeners with special needs (e.g. state government housing authorities, community services organisations and universities) and others are managed by Local Councils.

Community gardens also differ in terms of **the communities they are for** and **who can access them**. Some gardens are established for a specific community (e.g. residents of a particular apartment block, retirement village or public housing estate); whilst others are set up for a specific community with the aim of building connections with the wider community (e.g. a garden open to the general public established in the grounds of a hostel for people dealing with mental illness as a way of connecting residents with the broader community). Gardens that are established for the whole community can also have differing levels of access. In some gardens, regular access is limited to members of the garden and only open to the general public at specific times; whilst others are accessible to the whole community at all times.

¹ nettle (2010), p. iii.

1: COMMUNITY GARDENS IN WA BY GARDEN STATUS AND GARDEN LOCATION

	GARDEN LOCATION			No.	%
	Perth Metro Area	Greater WA	All of WA		
GARDEN STATUS	No.	No.	No.	%	
Established gardens	19	8	27	69	
Gardens under construction	3	3	6	15	
Gardens in development	4	2	6	15	
Total gardens in WA	26	13	39	100	

2: ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY GARDENS IN WA BY STYLE OF GARDEN

STYLE OF GARDEN	No.	%
Allotment gardens only	2	7
Communal (or shared) gardens only	10	37
Combination of allotment and communal gardens	9	33
Style of garden not known	6	22
Total established gardens in WA	27	100

3: ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY GARDENS IN WA BY PUBLIC ACCESS TO GARDEN

PUBLIC ACCESS TO GARDEN	No.	%
Garden open to general public at all times	9	33
Garden open to general public within specific hours	7	26
Garden open to members or residents only	3	11
Public access to garden not known	8	30
Total established gardens in WA	27	100

4: ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY GARDENS IN WA BY YEAR FOUNDED ON CURRENT SITE

YEAR FOUNDED ON CURRENT SITE	No.	%
Before 2000	5	19
From 2000 to 2005	1	4
From 2006 to 2010	14	52
Year founded not known	7	26
Total established gardens in WA	27	100

5. ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY GARDENS IN WA BY GARDEN LAND

GARDEN LAND	No.	%
Local government land	8	30
State government land	5	19
Within grounds of community centres or neighbourhood houses	6	22
Other land (a)	5	19
Garden land not known	3	11
Total established gardens in WA	27	100

(a) Includes church land, university land, and land owned by businesses and individuals.

6. ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY GARDENS BY GARDEN MANAGEMENT MODEL

GARDEN MANAGEMENT MODEL	No.	%
Community self-managed (a)	21	78
Transitioning to community self-managed (b)	2	7
Agency-managed (c)	1	4
Local Council-managed	0	0
Management model not known	3	11
Total established gardens in WA	27	100

(a) Includes gardens managed by community, neighbourhood and learning centres.

(b) Gardens established by agencies / organisations or Local Councils with the aim of being community self-managed.

(c) Gardens managed by agencies or organisations for the benefit of gardeners with special needs.

REFERENCES

nettle, claire (2010). *Growing Community: Starting and nurturing community gardens*. Health SA, Government of South Australia and Community and Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association Inc.