

## **SAMPLE COMMUNITY GARDEN DESIGN GUIDELINES**

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(For incorporation into the Consultant's Guide to Park Design and Development.)

### **LOCATION**

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1. Community Gardens shall not be located on park land currently used for active or passive recreation, nor has immediate plans to be developed for active or passive recreation.
2. Community Gardens shall not be located on designated or dedicated open space land without written approval from the Park and Recreation Department Open Space Division. Exceptions may be granted for open space land that does not contain sensitive habitat and is not contiguous to open space or Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) land with sensitive habitat.
3. Community gardens shall not be located in parks adjacent to open space or MSCP lands.
4. Community Gardens shall be located on land that is level enough to support the intended use and meet all Americans with Disabilities Act requirements without the use of retaining walls that exceed three feet (3') in height.
5. Community Gardens shall be located in areas that receive adequate sunlight for the intended purpose without the removal or excessive trimming of trees.
6. Community Gardens shall not be located in prominent areas of a park where they may detract from the aesthetics of the park.
7. Community Gardens shall be located in areas that are agriculturally suitable, including soil conditions, topography and solar access.

### **DESIGN**

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#### **Municipal Code Requirements**

1. The on-site sale of produce is not permitted.
2. The site shall be designed and maintained so that water and fertilizer will not drain to adjacent property.
3. A minimum 3-foot-wide, clearly marked entrance path shall be provided from the public right-of-way to the garden.
4. A permanent fence shall be provided on the perimeter of the garden. Any fence within the front yard or street side yard shall be an open fence. The fence shall be at least 5 feet in height and shall not exceed 6 feet in height. The fence shall include at least one access gate. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, fences shall be in compliance with Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 3 (Fence Regulations).

5. Refuse storage areas shall be provided and screened to enclose all refuse generated from the garden. Refuse areas shall be located as close as practicable to the rear and center of the property. Refuse shall be removed from the site at least once a week.
6. Storage areas for tools, fertilizers, equipment, and other material shall be enclosed and located as close as practicable to the rear and center of the property.
7. A water meter and hose bibs shall be provided on-site consistent with Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 4 (Landscape Regulations). Irrigation water rates will apply to community gardens.
8. Hours of operation shall be limited to the hours between sunrise and sunset.
9. The property shall be locked during non-operating hours.
10. The applicant shall execute and file with the County Recorder a hold harmless and/or indemnification agreement in favor of the City.

### **Park and Recreation Supplemental Requirements**

1. The minimum number of individual plots in a Community Garden shall be fifteen (15).
2. Provide a minimum of one accessible individual plot for every fifteen plots.
3. The minimum size of each individual plot shall be twenty-five square feet (25 SF).
4. Walkways inside the Community Garden shall be a minimum width of four feet (4'). All walkways, turning areas and landings shall meet ADA requirements. There shall be a walkway adjacent to each plot.
5. Walkway materials inside the Community Garden shall meet ADA requirements.
6. Fencing for the perimeter of Community Gardens shall be chain link or ornamental tubular steel. Internal fencing for screening purposes may be solid fence provided the height does not exceed four feet (4'). Chain link fencing shall be per San Diego Standard Drawing SDM-112. Pedestrian and maintenance gates shall be per San Diego Standard Drawing SDM-114.
7. The maximum height for any garden structures such as trellises, arbors, or other plant supports shall be six feet (6'). The maximum height for storage facilities shall be eight feet (8').
8. Storage facilities, if provided, shall be located away from adjacent residences, businesses and park uses. The design of storage facilities shall complement the existing architecture of the park or adjacent community. Cargo containers or similar storage facilities will not be allowed.
9. Provide trash cans or dumpsters for Community Garden use. Locate trash facilities away from adjacent residences and park uses. Screen all trash facilities. Park and Recreation trash facilities shall not be used by Community Garden membership.

10. Composting facilities, if provided, shall be specifically designed for that purpose. Composting piles will not be allowed. Composting facilities shall be located away from adjacent residences, businesses and park uses. Screen all composting facilities.
11. The water meter provided in compliance with the Municipal Code shall be independent of Park and Recreation water meters. The Applicant shall be responsible for providing the water meter and for paying all bills. Park and Recreation water shall not be used.
12. Hose bibs shall be located to provide access to all plots within the garden with the use of a 25 foot long hose. Hose bibs shall be secured to a post and shall have a hose hanger.
13. Recycled (reclaimed) water shall not be permitted in Community Gardens.
14. Access shall be provided from existing on-site parking and the public right-of-way to the Community Garden. Walkways shall be concrete with a minimum width of six feet (6'). Where vehicular access is required the walkways shall have a minimum width of nine feet (9'). Walkways shall meet the requirements of Section 2.3, Paving, Walkways and Mow Curbs.
15. Signage shall be posted at the entrance to the Community Garden. Signage shall be constructed of durable and permanent material, such as aluminum or steel. The signage shall include the following, as a minimum:
  - a. Hours of operation
  - b. Contact name and phone number
  - c. Emergency contact name and phone number
  - d. Community Garden rules
  - e. Municipal Code statement that "The on-site sale of produce is not permitted."