

# Waverley Community Garden



## Information for Applicants - Individually Licensed Plots

### The Garden

The Waverley Community Garden is located in Clementson Park, off Ebley Street in Bondi Junction. The Garden re-opened in September 2007 following renewal of facilities there. The Garden includes a children's learning area, a shaded meeting space for public activities such as environmental education, and plots licensed out to individual gardeners and community organisations.

Waverley Council's aims for the Garden are:

- To provide Waverley residents with little or no access to a garden with the opportunity to be in touch with the earth through individually licensed plots
- To provide special needs groups with the opportunity to garden as an organised, supervised activity through licensing plots to selected community organisations
- To provide all members of the Waverley community with the opportunity to access the garden through organised, supervised activities open to the public.



### Questions?

Call us on 9369 8000 or email [waver@waverley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:waver@waverley.nsw.gov.au)

### Individually Licensed Plots

About 22 'kitchen garden' plots (1.4m x 2.4m approx) are available for licence to individual gardeners. A licence to garden a plot allows the licensee to plant, tend and harvest annual (food) crops using organic gardening methods, access to a share of water, compost and mulch, and use of some shared gardening tools.

#### Who can apply for a plot licence?

Waverley residents over the age of 18 are eligible to apply for a plot licence. Residents may wish to apply with a 'gardening partner' who could be their spouse, their next door neighbour, or a friend.

#### How will plots be allocated?

In considering applications, Council gives priority to applicants with little or no access to a garden, and aims to achieve a mixed gardening community with selection by ballot in categories where necessary to ensure inclusion of families, and people of all ages and diverse cultures.

#### How long will a licence last?

All licences end on 31<sup>st</sup> August each year and application for a plot must be made annually. So long as a plot holder continues to meet the eligibility criteria, they will have priority allocation of a plot for a second and third year. Years are counted by the summer growing season.

#### Is there a waiting list?

No waiting list is kept. Some plot holders surrender their plot licence during the year for a variety of reasons. To ensure continuing full use of the Garden, allocation sub-rounds are conducted quarterly if needed in November, February and May.

All applications held are considered in each sub-round, including unsuccessful applicants from the August round, and new applications.

### **Is there a fee?**

A fee is charged for an annual plot licence and this is not refundable. The fee charged for a part year licence will be calculated on a pro-rata basis. Income from fees is used to help maintain the Garden. (For current fees see Community Gardening page on Council's website.)

### **Can a plot licence be terminated?**

All plot licenses terminate annually on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Plot holders may also end their licence by giving Council notice in writing. Council may terminate a licence at any time if it determines that a licensee is not complying with the Garden Rules, and persists in non-compliance after two warnings. Council may also terminate a licence if the licensee is engaged in a dispute that Council has been unable to resolve, or if a plot is neglected and the plot holder can't be contacted.

### **What are the Garden Rules?**

A set of garden rules has been formulated to ensure that the garden works as a sustainable, shared, community green space, that everyone can enjoy. These rules are attached to all plot licences.



### **What is Organic Gardening?**

The most basic definition of organic farming or gardening is the growing of plants, fruits and vegetables without the use of chemically prepared fertilisers, pesticides, fungicides, or herbicides.

The main focus of organic gardening is reducing pest (animal, insect, pathogen and weed) disturbance and increasing garden production through maintaining and bolstering soil health, keeping a high diversity of species in the area, using techniques such as companion planting, and utilising organic pest controls such as white oil sprays.

The soil is seen as the foundation of the ecosystem (whether natural or man-made), and good soil health results in healthy, hardy and pest-resistant plants. Soil health is maintained through the regular addition of organic matter, maintaining high plant biodiversity (number of different species), and the exclusion of chemical fertilisers and pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides etc).

Organic matter can be introduced to the soil in a range of forms, the most common being broken-down compost being dug into the soil, and un-composted plant material being used to cover bare soil as mulch.

### **How do I apply?**

Complete the *Plot Application Form for Individuals* attached, and return it by post to Waverley Council PO Box 9, Bondi Junction 2022, drop it in to the Counter, 55 Spring St, Bondi Junction, or email it to [waver@waverley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:waver@waverley.nsw.gov.au)

