



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

City of Portland: Community Garden Site Criteria

1. Demonstrated Need

There must be a bona fide demand for a garden as demonstrated by community support and a lack of garden options within a 1 mile radius or a 3 year or more wait for existing gardens in the area.

2. Neighborhood Support

The Neighborhood Association must approve a garden in the proposed location. Members of the neighborhood, especially those directly impacted, should support the garden and work towards the garden implementation. Community partners, including community-based organizations, businesses, non-profit and government agencies should be engaged and provide support for the garden.

3. Parking

Some parking is required. Participant parking should not have an adverse impact on the neighborhood. Other means of transportation should be available such as light rail, bus, bicycle routes, etc. The garden should be accessible by large vehicles for deliveries.

4. Property

Ownership or an agreement should be in place that allows use by the program for five years or more, 10 years if considerable capital is expended. Ideal sites are 7,000-13,000 square feet in size. Smaller sites may be considered in areas of high demand or high density.

5. Security

The site should be located in a safe place. The site should enjoy a large amount of visibility from several vantage points. Sites in neighborhoods are more desirable than in industrial or remote areas.

6. Water

Gardens need water from the City's water system. Water faucets should be provided within the garden so that 50 feet of hose will reach every plot from an outlet.

7. Soil

The soil needs to be free of contaminants and hazardous materials. A section must be ADA accessible and have a finished grade no greater than 2%. Paved sites may be considered if pavement can be removed and sub-soil is not contaminated.

8. Light

The site should have at least 8 hours of unobstructed natural light. Trees, adjoining buildings, or other obstructions on the site or on the neighboring property should not cast shade onto the garden.

9. Resources

New projects need funding for capital development and ongoing operation and maintenance. Community partners must raise funds to cover the cost to build the garden which averages \$40,000.

10. Other Considerations

Long-term plans for the proposed garden location should be evaluated to ensure a garden does not conflict with any established plans such as a Parks Master Plans, zoning restrictions, etc.

