



### **Interested in starting a community garden on city-owned land, such as a park?**

The City of Austin has made it a priority to support urban agriculture because of its ability to provide nutritious food, promote sustainability, reduce energy needs, contribute to food security, and support the local economy. The Sustainable Urban Agriculture & Community Garden (SUACG) program was created to help Austinites gain access to city-owned land to start community gardens.

In order to start a garden on City of Austin land, you must get an “endorsement” or garden permit from the SUACG program. The following items are required to apply to become an endorsed community garden program and obtain a City of Austin Garden Permit:

- Letter of permission from landowner or land steward entity (please contact us for help if it's City of Austin land)
- Written description of the proposed garden, including why the particular site has been identified and what the mission of the garden is in relationship to community needs
- List of steering committee members and their contact information as well as a list of committed gardeners (minimum of 4 required, 10 gardeners preferred)
- Design sketch for the garden, to include location and size of all trees in garden area
- Garden By-laws or Rules
- Sample contract or membership agreement for individual gardeners
- Project Timeline, including steps taken to date
- Budget & Fundraising Plan for first year
- Sponsoring nonprofit (often the Sustainable Food Center!), demonstrated by a letter of support or memorandum of understanding
- Letter of support from Neighborhood Association that contains the garden site
- Letters of endorsement from neighbors (owners and renters) and key stakeholders (e.g. schools, churches, park users)

**Contact:** **Meredith Gauthier**, Community Gardens Coordinator, City of Austin Parks and Recreation  
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*Visit our website at: <http://austintexas.gov/department/sustainable-urban-agriculture>*