



## Fact Sheet

All Community Garden Grant applications require approval to use the land on which the garden is to be constructed. If the proposed garden is within the grounds of a school, apartment or townhouse complex, church, community service centre or a retirement village, written approval is required from the landowner or organisation. If the location is on public unleased land you are required to seek Territory approval prior to construction. The type of garden you are developing will determine what approvals and documents you must apply for and complete.

### Residential Nature Strip Landscaping

May be undertaken in accordance with the [Guidelines for Use of Residential Nature Strips](#). The guidelines state what types of activities can be undertaken on a nature strip and when approval is required. Nature strips are part of public unleased land which is regulated by the Public Unleased Land Act 2013 (the Act). The objectives of the Act are to protect the amenity and natural value of public land, including nature strips, which the public is entitled to use. If you want to do any construction work to the nature strip, or make any exclusive use of it, you will need to [make an application under the Act](#).

### Urban Parks and Places Volunteering Program

This volunteer based program allows the community to get involved and contribute to the conservation, presentation, and maintenance of Canberra's many public urban open space areas (parks, playgrounds, grasslands, green spaces and shopping centres).

What do you need to do? Visit the volunteer portal and read the [Transport Canberra and City Services Volunteer Handbook](#), then contact the [Urban Parks and Places Volunteer Coordinator](#) to discuss the urban area you would like to care for and make improvements to. These are considered low impact garden projects.

### Urban Minor Gardens on unleased land, open to public access

Where the Urban Parks and Places [volunteer program](#) is not applicable to your proposed garden, a Public Unleased Land Permit is appropriate for individuals or groups to construct (and be responsible for) minor landscaping on public unleased land. Where a Permit is required, applications are free for community groups and can be issued for up to 3 years, with the possibility for renewal. The approval process takes up to 28 days after all the required supporting documentation is provided. These are considered low impact garden projects.

# Community Garden on unleased land, closed to public access

For larger organised groups applying to grow vegetables in a typical 'Community Garden' style, this can be considered in accordance with the [Guide to Community Gardens in the ACT](#)\*. If your proposed garden is to be within a fenced off area on public land (where the public pay a membership and/or plot fee to an organisation for access to the garden) you are required to obtain an [Unleased Land 303 Licence](#) to occupy that area. The approval process can take up to 4 months after all the required supporting documentation is provided. Currently, no fees apply for not-for-profit community garden licences.

\*Please note this guide is currently being reviewed, certain links and ACT Government departments provided in the guide may be outdated, if you would like clarification on information supplied in the guide please contact [EPSDD.communitygrants@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDD.communitygrants@act.gov.au)

**For detailed information on the application process for the associated permit or licence, please refer to the [Community Garden Grants](#) webpage for the permit and licence approval process document.**