

**Board of County Commissioners**  
**Leon County, Florida**  
**Policy No. 12 - 2**

Title: Community Garden Policy

Date Adopted: January 29, 2013

Effective Date: January 29, 2013

Reference: Code of Laws of Leon County, Chapter 10, Article VI, Division 8, Section 10-6.816, Community Gardens.  
Code of Laws of Leon County, Chapter 10, Article I, Section 10-1.101, Definitions.

Policy Superseded: Policy No. 12-2 “Community Garden Policy”, adopted June 12, 2012

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It shall be the policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, that Policy No. 12-2 entitled “Community Garden Policy”, adopted June 12, 2012, is hereby amended, and a revised policy adopted in its place, to wit:

**A. Purpose**

It has been demonstrated that Community Gardens improve nutrition, physical activity, community engagement, safety, and economic vitality for a neighborhood and its residents, as well as provide sustainability benefits to the community at large. For supporting new and existing Community Gardens on County property and within the community, the County shall provide support as described herein.

**B. Definitions**

1. **Community Garden:** Any portion of a lot or parcel managed and maintained by a group of people to grow and harvest food crops and/or non-food ornamental crops for personal or group use, consumption, or donation.
2. **County:** Leon County, Florida, a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida.
3. **County Community Garden:** A Community Garden established on a property owned by the County.
4. **Stakeholder Community Garden:** A Community Garden established on a property not owned by the County, and for which the County provides ancillary support. Stakeholder Community Gardens are established for civic purposes including education, response to food security deficits in neighborhoods, revitalization, or neighborhood beautification.

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**C. Implementation**

**1. County Community Gardens**

- a. County Community gardens shall operate as an initiative of citizens who organize to create and maintain a Community Garden on a suitable County property.
- b. Individuals and groups seeking to establish a Community Garden on County property shall submit to the County an application that, at a minimum, includes:
  - (1) pledges of commitment from a core group of gardeners for a two-year minimum period.
  - (2) a proposed garden site layout plan.
  - (3) a Special-Use Permit to be executed by each gardener that includes a release and waiver of liability.
- c. Individuals and groups seeking use of County property for Community Gardens shall agree to comply with Section 10-6.816 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, governing the establishment and operation of Community Gardens, and with the County's rules and guidelines implementing this Policy, as well as with any and all other applicable laws, regulations, and policy standards.
- d. The County may support individuals and groups whose applications are approved with material and in-kind support as deemed appropriate to the site. Material and in-kind support may include:
  - (1) soil amendments (coarse and fine mulch), available from Solid Waste;
  - (2) rain barrels and/or compost bins, available from Solid Waste/Recycling; and,
  - (3) assistance from Public Works in installation of fencing or water supply/plumbing.
- e. The gardeners may apply for a grant, contingent upon the availability of funds, to fund enhancement of water supply or to purchase fencing materials, lumber, and other materials for the construction of garden beds, as well as the purchase of topsoil or mushroom compost.
- f. The County reserves the right to revoke permission to individuals or groups to garden on a County-owned property.

**2. Stakeholder Community Gardens**

- a. Stakeholder Community Gardens operate for civic purposes and shall be assisted as deemed appropriate by the County.

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- b. Stakeholder groups requesting County support shall submit to the County an application that, at a minimum, includes:
    - 1) description of the organization;
    - 2) description of the garden's purpose;
    - 3) listing of support (in-kind and financial) from other funding sources;
    - 4) statement of need and areas for which County support is being sought; and
    - 5) identification of lead contact persons.
  - c. Individuals and groups seeking assistance from the County for Stakeholder Community Gardens shall agree to comply with Section 10-6.816 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, governing the establishment and operation of Community Gardens, and with the County's rules and guidelines implementing this Policy, as well as with any and all other applicable laws, regulations, and policy standards.
  - d. The County may support Stakeholder Community Gardens whose applications are approved with support as deemed appropriate to the site. County material and in-kind support may include supplying soil amendments (coarse and fine mulch), rain barrels, and compost bins.
  - e. Stakeholder Community Garden groups may apply for a grant, contingent upon the availability of funds, to fund enhancement of water supply or to purchase fencing materials, lumber and other materials for the construction of garden beds, as well as the purchase of topsoil or mushroom compost.
- 3. Application and Guidelines**
- a. The County Administrator, or designee, shall be responsible for developing and maintaining the application process and written guidelines for the establishment of Community Gardens in a manner consistent with the provisions contained in this Community Gardens Policy.

*Revised January 29, 2013*