



Community Gardens

About Our Program

Park Pride's community garden program began in 2007 with the first official community garden in a City of Atlanta park. Since then, neighborhood groups and other organizations across the city have taken the initiative to build and maintain community gardens in their neighborhood parks. These gardens benefit the community in several ways, including:

- Creating an opportunity for neighbors to join each other in safe and healthy recreational activities
- Providing a local source of nutritious food for the gardeners and local charities
- Beautifying the landscape
- Helping the environment

Park Pride's Role

Park Pride is available to help advise community groups through the process of starting a community garden in a City of Atlanta park. Here are some of the ways we can help:

- Assisting community groups with the application process and in obtaining the necessary approvals from the Office of Parks
- Providing volunteers for the garden build day and other projects when requested by the garden group
- Providing on-going support to the gardens by sharing resources, donated supplies, garden-related events, and other helpful information
- Acting as a liaison between the gardens and the Office of Parks to ensure proper program implementation

Getting Started

Starting a community garden is very much a community-driven process. Here are the general steps a community group must take to get the garden established:

1. Form a core group of interested gardeners
2. Choose a sunny location in an available area of the park (not on a ball field)
3. Determine an operational model (i.e. individual plots, communal gardening area, organized programming, etc.)
4. Design the garden, including layout and materials for raised beds, fencing, pathways, and water source
5. Obtain support and approval from the community, including neighboring property owners and the NPU

6. Submit the application and \$250 restoration bond to Park Pride
7. Obtain approval from the Office of Parks through Park Pride
8. Submit a Review and Comment Application to the Atlanta Urban Design Commission and present the garden plan at a commission hearing
9. Schedule a garden build date

Funding

Groups wishing to start a new garden will need to determine the budget for their garden design and raise funds to pay for the garden build and operating expenses. Park Pride has a prototype garden design with an estimated budget of \$3,000, but the cost of the garden will vary based on the size and materials used. Funding can come from a variety of sources, including:

- Membership dues/plot fees
- Fundraising and donations
- Park Pride micro grants (1:1 matching grants up to \$1,000)
- Grants from other organizations or corporations
- Funds from the NPU or Councilperson

Joining A Community Garden

Individuals interested in joining an existing community garden can contact the primary garden contact directly to inquire about plot availability. Some gardens have plots available while others may have a waiting list. Call Amanda Martin at 404-546-7981 or email amanda@parkpride.org for garden contact information.