



# CITY OF LONDON COMMUNITY GARDENS

- 2023 -



Prepared By  
*Vanessa Kinsley*  
*Jennifer Martino*

[communitygardens@london.ca](mailto:communitygardens@london.ca)  
[www.london.ca/communitygardens](http://www.london.ca/communitygardens)

# MISSION

To provide Londoners with the opportunity to enhance their wellness and quality of life through involvement in the Community Garden program.

## Gardens build community.

---

The Community Garden program in London, Ontario features 559 garden plots tended to by more than 600 dedicated gardeners across London. Community gardens play a vital role in increasing food security among Londoners by providing them with the means to grow their own fresh produce. Community gardens also foster a sense of unity and cooperation, where participants share knowledge, resources, and the fruits of their labour.



Picture 1.1 Gardener at Meadowlily Community Garden

Beyond food security, community gardens serve as vibrant social centres, strengthening neighbourhood bonds, offering educational opportunities, and promoting sustainable agriculture practices, all while cultivating a stronger and more connected neighbourhoods in London.

For a map of Community Gardens in London, see Appendix A.

“This was a great opportunity to meet people in the community. Lots of people stopped by showing interest in the garden, so I think more of these plots should be available to members of the community!”

- Community Gardener, 2023 season



Picture 1.2 Community Garden Sharing Box

## OVERVIEW

The City of London has 21 community gardens located on public land within 14 neighbourhoods. 18 of the gardens are allotment-based plot rentals administered and supported by the City of London, and 3 are neighbourhood-managed, meaning they are solely managed and operated by residents. Gardens are accessible to residents year-round, however the operational season runs from May 1 – September 30. During this time, there is water access and City staff maintain the common areas in and around the gardens.

## OUTCOMES

- **Healthier Lifestyles:** Londoners connect with the land and the environment through gardening, enhancing their spiritual, mental and physical well-being.
- **Stronger Neighbourhoods:** Community Gardens foster a sense of neighbourhood identity and spirit and build local capacity.
- **Enhanced inter-generational and cross cultural connections:** Residents of all ages, cultures and backgrounds, speaking many languages, garden alongside one another.
- **Beautified urban areas:** Community Gardens have the power to enhance urban environments by creating natural, green landscapes.
- **Greater access to produce:** Community gardens provide a source of fresh and healthy food for gardeners, food that may be a critical supplement to a family's resources.



Picture 1.3 Yellow Squash



Picture 1.4 Gardener tending to herbs in Kiwanis Community Garden

## HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2023, 33 Garden Ambassadors played a leadership role in their home garden and provided assistance to other gardeners.
- 60% of community gardens have accessible plots.
- 18 community gardens have water lines, with 7 new water lines installed since 2022. The 3 gardens without waterlines have water tanks.
- The Community Garden Guidelines were updated for the 2024 season in consultation with the 2023 Steering Committee.
- An updated Community Gardens Strategic Plan is being developed for 2024.



94% of gardeners report using their Community Garden plot to grow food.\*



93% of gardeners plan to register again for the 2024 season.\*

\*2023 City of London Community Gardener Survey

**"I love the idea of accessible plots for those with mobility issues. Kiwanis is so peaceful and such a great place to garden."**

**- Community Gardener, 2023 season**

## REGISTRATION

Community Gardens offer ground plots, accessible plots, or a mix of both. The annual registration fee is \$44.20. Registration for new gardeners opens on March 1, 2024. To register for a plot, please call Customer Service at 519-661-5575 or visit [london.ca/communitygardens](https://london.ca/communitygardens). Subsidies are available based on household income, and can be requested by speaking to Customer Service.

## LEARN MORE

For more information about the Community Garden program, visit [london.ca/communitygardens](https://london.ca/communitygardens), call 519-661-5336 or email [communitygardens@london.ca](mailto:communitygardens@london.ca).



## Appendix A: Map of Community Gardens in London, Ontario

