



CITY OF LONDON COMMUNITY GARDENS

- 2024 -



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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 Gardeners planting flowers in a raised garden bed

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

For a map of Community Gardens in London, see Appendix A on page 5.

“I love the Community Gardens. The people in the community love the Community Gardens too. The City of London staff are lovely, helpful and patient, and make this experience a really great one. THANKS!”

- Community Gardener, 2024 season

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The City of London has 21 community gardens located on City property 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 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. In 2024, the operational season was extended to October 31 due to unusually mild temperatures.



Picture 1.2 Box of locally grown vegetables

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The 2023-2027 **Strategic Plan** for the City of London sets our direction for the future. It identifies City Council’s vision, mission, values, and strategic areas of focus. The London Community Gardens Program is closely aligned with the strategic area of focus “**Wellbeing and Safety**” and the outcome “**London has safe, vibrant and healthy neighbourhoods and communities**”.

Strategies to achieve this outcome include:

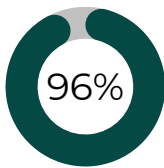
- Remove barriers to participation and integration for equity-denied groups within neighbourhoods and across the community.
- Increase focus on addressing food insecurity in priority neighbourhoods.
- Create meaningful opportunities for all Londoners to contribute to the health and vibrancy of their neighbourhoods, including through resident-led decision-making opportunities.
- Promote neighbourhood planning and design that creates safe, accessible, diverse, walkable, healthy, and connected communities.
- Deliver programs and activities that foster improved physical, mental, and social wellbeing.
- Invest in publicly-owned facilities, parks, open spaces, and natural amenities that provide cultural, social, and recreational opportunities, programming and engagement.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

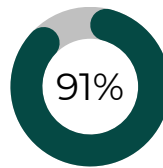


Picture 1.3 Sunflowers

- In 2024, 26 Garden Ambassadors played a leadership role in their home garden and provided assistance to other gardeners.
- The Steering Committee provided feedback on progress made with the initiatives and milestones identified within the London Community Gardens Strategic Plan.
- 2024 was a year of planning for 2025 garden construction, including restoration of the Pettersville Community Garden in West Lions Park and redevelopment of the Proudfoot Community Garden in Proudfoot Park West.



96% of gardeners report using their Community Garden plot to grow food.*



91% of gardeners plan to register again for the 2025 season.*

*2024 City of London Community Gardener Survey

“My time at Glen Cairn as ambassador was an absolute plus to the enjoyment of our outdoor space. I was able to meet other gardeners, plus meet with other neighbours as they did their walks. What a joy!”
- Community Gardener, 2024 season

REGISTRATION

Community Gardens offer ground plots, accessible plots, or a mix of both. The annual registration fee is \$45.10. Registration for new gardeners opens in March 2025. To register for a plot, please call Customer Service at 519-661-5575 or visit 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, call 519-661-5336 or email communitygardens@london.ca.

Appendix A: Map of Community Gardens in London, Ontario

