

## Local Garden-Friendly Policy Suggestions

To have gardens of all types throughout the community—backyard, front yard, community, school, preschool, restaurant, workplace, and institutional—local policy improvements can a) remove unnecessary regulations, and b) provide support and incentives to make this a community priority.

Proactive garden planning would go beyond taking advantage of unused public parcels to prioritizing gardens in the best locations, sites most accessible to all members of the community, and where the garden won't be pushed out by development. Gardens should be a priority use of city and county open space and parks.

For policy suggestions see the Public Health Law Center's 2017 [Community Gardening Reference Policy Guide](#) and their extensive [gardens webpage](#). To get started, this listing of [community garden model policies](#) is a bit older but very concise and should spur your thinking as to how your community can proactively support gardens of all types, including:

- Gardens prioritized in school wellness policies
- Allowing food gardens in front yards if not already allowed
- Setting targets for number of community gardens
- Gardens as high priority use of open space
- Gardens prominent in comprehensive plans
- Sustainable foods programs in city government
- Waived or reduced tap fees and permit fees for community gardens
- Land set-asides in new housing projects for community gardens
- Protection from development for community gardens
- Zoning provisions for community and institutional gardens
- Community collection of herbicide-free compost inputs
- Continued allowance of bees, chickens, etc., with appropriate regs
- Other ideas — what else might work in your community???

*We can always come up with reasons not to do these things if gardens for all for the future is not a priority. You can help make it so.*