

# A Closer Look: Athelstone Community Garden

Council was interested in supporting a community garden and had some sites in mind.

A passionate resident petitioned Council to have the community garden in their local park which was under-utilized and just a space that people walked through to get to the bus stop.

Council staff teamed up with the resident and doorknocked the local area to see if the local neighbourhood was interested.

A group of keen neighbours came together and worked with Council over the space of 2 years to set the garden up. This involved planning, organising onsite events to engage the wider community, building and installing garden beds. It took a lot of patience, commitment, fun and laughs!

Once the garden was established, it then meant encouraging people to join. Some people who helped set it up have stepped away, others have stayed involved and new people continue to join.

Some members know a lot about gardening. Some don't but want to learn. Some just like doing something as part of a group. Others like to manage and organise things - they join the management committee.

The committee have since raised funds to add a shelter for their gatherings, installed a worm farm and are currently putting in raised fruit tree beds. They are also home to some honey beehives.

Members do weeding, pruning and fertilizing but they also do fun things like creating their own garden bed signs, planting butterfly gardens, making scarecrows and sharing morning tea!

Fortnightly garden mornings are held for members and the general public to get together and help look after the communal beds and shared spaces.



***"For something that wasn't in my life at all before, now I can't imagine not having it – it's a little bit about the garden but much more about the community"***

*John, Secretary  
Athelstone Community Garden*



***"I have lived in this area for 31 years and hardly knew my neighbours. Being involved in the community garden – I now know a lot of people in my street and even those around the corner! It has given me a great sense of community"***

*Katrina, President  
Athelstone Community Garden*