

Aotearoa Community Gardens Survey 2025 Full Report



Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction.....	3
Acknowledgements.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Overview.....	4
An Urban Phenomenon?	4
Garden Profile.....	4
The People	6
Demographics and Participation	7
Staffing and Volunteer Contribution.....	7
Why do people get involved?	8
Measuring impact.....	8
Measuring social connection, wellbeing and pathways to employment	9
Knowledge.....	9
Land, Legal, Finance and Infrastructure	10
Land Ownership and Security.....	11
Legal structures.....	11
Funding	11
Income	12
Infrastructure.....	12
Responding to theft and vandalism.....	13
Sustainable Spaces and Food Justice	14
Production.....	15
The activities undertaken in gardens.....	15
Sustainability and Climate Change	15
Food provisioning and distribution.....	16
Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future	17
Top priorities over the next five years	18
A national organisation?	18
Key Metrics Comparison, 2020-2025	18
Feedback and Conclusion	22
Survey feedback.....	23
Conclusion	23
Appendix: National Community Gardens Survey Questions, 2025	24

Executive Summary

The 2025 Aotearoa Community Gardens Survey confirms that community gardens remain vital hubs for social connection, food production, and sustainability education, despite ongoing challenges with funding, land security, and infrastructure. Most operate with minimal paid staff and rely heavily on volunteer labour, often serving diverse communities. Gardens are typically located on public land, with many lacking long-term lease security, and while infrastructure like water access and compost systems is common, secure storage, shelter, and advanced growing facilities remain limited. Programmes go well beyond gardening, encompassing workshops, cultural engagement, and food-sharing, yet many gardens still do not systematically record outcomes. There is strong support (88%) for establishing a national organisation to share knowledge, coordinate advocacy, and create joint funding opportunities.

Compared with 2020, the sector shows modest but notable shifts: 16% of respondents had commenced since the last survey, direct engagement with refugee/migrant communities has increased, and the proportion of gardens with some paid staff has risen slightly, though staffing remains minimal overall. Financial sufficiency has improved somewhat, with more gardens reporting fully adequate funding, but self-generated income has declined and reliance on council grants has risen. Diversity metrics and infrastructure questions were added in 2025, providing richer data on participation and operational needs. The persistent themes across both surveys are high community impact delivered with constrained resources, and a clear call for coordinated, long-term support – especially in funding, land security, and capacity building – to secure the sector’s resilience into the future.

Introduction

By Zemirah Koiki and Matt Morris. AI has been used to analyse some of the survey responses.¹

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge the extremely helpful input from the following people in preparing this survey for distribution: Gradon Diprose (Manaaki Whenua—Landcare Research), Sarah Edwards (Manaaki Whenua—Landcare Research), Sol Morgan (Golden Bay Sustainable Living Centre, Tākaka), Tim Packer (Innermost Gardens, Wellington), Georgina Stanley (Canterbury Community Gardens Association, Christchurch), Andreas Wesener (Lincoln University).

Image credits

Cover: Te Ngaki o Waiutuutu (Christchurch), by Jam Kelly
p.6: Smith Street Community Farm (Christchurch), by Georgina Stanley
p.10: Innermost Gardens (Wellington), courtesy of Tim Packer
p.14: CCS Disability Action Community Garden (Auckland), by Matt Morris
p.17: Philipstown Hub Community Garden (Christchurch), by Matt Morris

¹ ChatGPT was used to analyse some open text responses where manual coding of these was not possible due to limited capacity. In addition, some quantitative responses were analysed this way. In these cases, responses were cross-checked two or three times (sometimes more). In some instances, where incorrect analyses were clearly provided, manual counts were undertaken. As a result, we have a high degree of confidence in the analysis offered here.

p.22: Daldy St Community Garden (Auckland), by Matt Morris
Back cover: Te Ngaki o Waiutuutu (Christchurch), by Jam Kelly

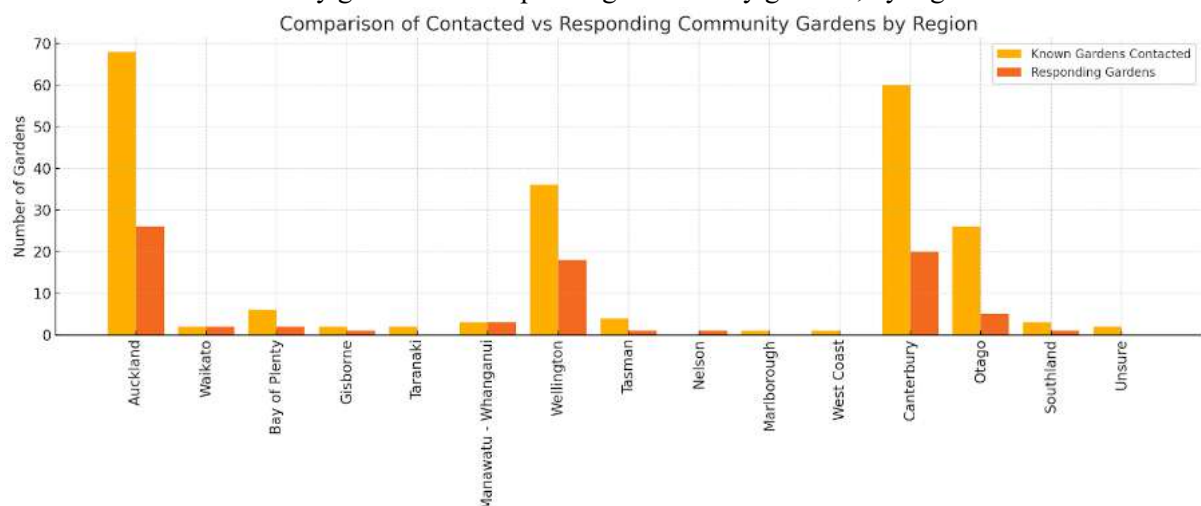
Introduction

New Zealand's community gardens continue to be a growing and important part of the country's organic sector. In 2025, the second New Zealand Community Gardens Survey was run (the first being in 2020). The survey was sent to the 216 community gardens identified in the first phase of the project. These were identified through an extensive desktop research project, building on the contact list created in 2020. 80 individual gardens provided responses: a response rate of 37%, which is considered moderate. The project was led by the University of Canterbury's Sustainability Office.

Overview

An Urban Phenomenon?

Of the 216 gardens that we *identified* and sent surveys to, 69.2%% were in Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch. Yet 80% of the *respondents* came from these areas, meaning the results are slightly skewed to major urban areas more than they should be. The chart below shows the comparison between known community gardens and responding community gardens, by region.



Garden Profile

The participating gardens range in scale and formality from several raised garden beds to gardens of up to five hectares. The majority of community gardens fall within the 1,000-4,999m² size range, making up just over 40% of responses. The next most common categories are 100-499m² and 500-999m², which together account for around 30% of gardens. Approximately 15% are significantly larger, in the 1-4.9 hectare or 5,000-9,999m² range. A smaller number of gardens (around 10%) are less than 100m², while a handful of respondents (around 10%) were unsure of their garden's size. Therefore, most community gardens appear to be mid-sized, with a notable presence of both very small- and large-scale operations.










Communally gardened spaces, allotments, urban farms, food forests, marae gardens and school gardens were all represented. Gardens that were purely communally run represented the largest proportion (40%), with purely allotment gardens on 12.5%. Gardens reporting that they are purely

school gardens, mara kai/kaupapa Maori or urban farms each represented 2.5% of gardens. However, this masks the fact that a large number of gardens (32.5%) were a mixture of these categories. For example, those with both allotments and communally gardened areas represented 15% of all gardens. Mara kai/kaupapa Maori gardens in combination with other garden types also represented 15% of all gardens. Communally gardened spaces that were also mara kai/kaupapa Maori, and/or urban farms or school garden areas represented 7.5% of all gardens. 7.5% of gardens described themselves as 'other' types. These included five orchards or food forests, one Pasifika garden, a garden formed around a walking track and a church garden. We recommend that food forests/community orchards be included as a category in future surveys.

45% of the gardens were established between 2010-2019, with a further 16% established since 2020. 21% were established between 2000-2009. This indicates that New Zealand's community gardens have increased significantly since the start of the century, with less than 20% having been established before 2000. It is also clear from our own records that several of the community gardens that were active five years ago are no longer active: this reflects the ephemeral nature of some of these projects.



The People

	For	Amount
Distance		1-10
		weeds
		1-10
		fortnightly
Calcium		
Phosphorus		1-10
		weekly in flowering season
Potassium		1-10
Magnesium		fortnightly
Iron		1-10
		once every 3 weeks
Health		once - twice after cutting/transplanting

Demographics and Participation

Gardens typically serve a wide demographic cross-section. 11% of gardens reported that their volunteers were 'not at all diverse', whereas 40% reported 'somewhat diverse' and 23% 'very diverse'. There are limitations to how diversity can be measured using a tool of this kind, and further research is required to understand the complexities. However, in terms of ethnic diversity, we can say that only 18.2% of gardens stated that they catered to a purely New Zealand European/Pākehā volunteer community. 2.6% catered only to Chinese and 1.3% only to Māori. A further 18% reported catering to two ethnic groups. Therefore, 41% reported catering to three or more ethnicities; anywhere up to fifteen different groups might be involved in a single garden.

Some were kaupapa Māori or had explicit engagement with Māori and Pasifika communities. Others were embedded in local social ecosystems working alongside schools, mental health services, and reintegration initiatives. 34% reported working directly with refugee and migrant communities. Of those, a range of initiatives were employed to support these diverse communities, including growing culturally significant crops, providing multilingual signage, hosting culturally focused events or celebrations, partnering with migrant community organisations, providing dedicated plots for specific cultural groups and supporting cultural knowledge-sharing or story-telling.

Well over half of gardens – 67 % - report participants in the 45–64 age band, making it the most commonly served cohort, and more than half (54%) also include 65+ growers, highlighting strong elder participation. The 25–44 group follows, also with strong representation (52%). Only 19% of gardens regularly engage youth aged 18–24, with even fewer (just 10%) working with teens (13–17). Children, however, were represented in 29% of gardens. Just two gardens were unclear about their age-ranges, suggesting minimal confusion in responding. This may underscore an emergent gap in intergenerational inclusion across garden spaces.

Staffing and Volunteer Contribution

Staffing levels across surveyed gardens were low; of the 80 responding gardens, only 30% reported having any paid staff at all. There were 13 full-time staff reported across all gardens, contributing a combined 468 hours per week (note that one garden reported having five full-time staff). 90 part-time staff were engaged across the 80 responding gardens, collectively working 1,369 hours per week. But note that 45% of community gardens have no part-time staff, meaning those that do often have more than one.

These figures illustrate a sector that operates on minimal paid staffing. The majority of roles are part-time or casual, often tied to short-term or project-based funding. This funding model not only limits job security but also affects the continuity of leadership and institutional memory. The absence of long-term contracts or core funding arrangements leads to high turnover and reduces the capacity for strategic planning and programme development.

Regarding volunteering numbers, it is very hard to draw accurate conclusions. A third (31.3%) reported that they did not keep records of either attendance statistics or the number of hours contributed by volunteers. However, 57% keep some kind of attendance record (either a volunteer attendance and/or a volunteer hours record). Of those, 81% said they collected data specifically for 2024 on both head counts and hours volunteered (either giving an annual total or a weekly estimate). Based on this data, average annual volunteer hours per garden was approximately 2,380 and a total of 190,432 volunteer hours were contributed annually. When valued at the current 2024/2025 Living

Wage rate of \$27.80/hour, this equates to \$5.3 million NZD in unpaid labour from the respondents alone. Nevertheless, volunteer recruitment was reported as a significant management challenge (41%), with volunteer retention reported as a challenge by 36%. In New Zealand, only about 5% of community gardens have waiting lists.

This scale of voluntary effort is both a strength and a risk. While it reflects strong community engagement and grassroots commitment, it also highlights the sector's vulnerability. Reliance on unpaid labour leaves many gardens exposed to volunteer burnout, inconsistent capacity, and challenges in sustaining operations. Without systems in place for volunteer coordination, recognition, and long-term support, the burden on core organisers is significant and often unsustainable.

Gardens with a kaupapa Māori or kaupapa Pasifika approach often reported higher engagement through collective labour models, though the reporting methods varied.

Why do people get involved?

A comparison of community garden coordinators' perceptions of volunteer motivations with the outcomes their programmes actively aim to deliver shows strong alignment across most areas. Notably, social connection or sense of community reported at 94% as key volunteer motivations and are also widely offered, appearing in 94% of programme outcome selections. Personal enjoyment or relaxation are both thought by 86% of coordinators to motivate volunteers, and 86% of gardens offer this outcome. Similarly, sustainability or environmental practices (71%) and improving mental or physical wellbeing (79%) are both thought to be highly valued by volunteers and consistently supported through programming, with both appearing in 81% of programmes. While learning/skill-building and pathways to employment are motivations for 45% of volunteers (as estimated by coordinators), this outcome is offered by over 56% of gardens. While food sovereignty and local food systems were thought to be a motivator by 52.5% of coordinators, 64% of gardens offered this. Access to fresh or affordable food, selected by only 56% of coordinators as a perceived motivation, is a programme focus for more than 76% of gardens. Cultural food/traditional food growing is thought to be a motivator by 37.5% of coordinators, and 41% of them offer programmes attending to this need.

Having said this, 50% reported that demand for food from the garden had increased over the last twelve months; of these, 86% stated that a key driver for this was the cost of fresh produce.

Respondents were asked how engaged with their gardens were the communities immediately surrounding them. 58.6% reported moderate engagement, indicating a generally positive level of engagement. A smaller proportion (24.3%) felt their communities were 'neither engaged nor disengaged.' Only a few respondents (7.%) said their surrounding communities were 'very engaged', while 10% reported varying degrees of disengagement.

Measuring impact

Measuring impact in community gardens is notoriously difficult. The survey results show a clear profile in which most community gardens emphasise participation output metrics. Volunteer records have already been discussed (where 57% of gardens collect some kind of attendance statistics). Around 65% also recorded produce planted or harvested, and 60% reported the number of workshops or learning sessions run. Fewer than half (44%) collected participant feedback or surveys, and just 16% tracked volunteers gaining employment. Notably, 27% of respondents indicated they do not

collect any outcome data, and almost all of those offered no other metrics. On average, organisations tracked 3.2 indicators from the list of eight (including ‘other’) provided in the survey (excluding the zero-tracking group). While outputs are routinely logged, meaningful measures like employment outcomes or wellbeing impacts remain significantly under-represented.

Measuring social connection, wellbeing and pathways to employment

Of those who mentioned that they believe that social connection, mental or physical wellbeing or pathways to employment were important aspects of their mahi, we asked how they measured this in an open-ended question. Most respondents conveyed that they rely primarily on relational storytelling and informal observation – such as chatting, watching trust grow, or sketching case studies – as the main means of understanding social connection, wellbeing, or movement toward employment. As one put it: ‘Stories from people’s experience has been the most insightful.’ Others emphasised a similar implicit expertise: ‘just by speaking with people ... we don’t measure it personally – we have been doing this for 14 years – we know.’

Only a few groups mentioned more structured metrics – like Net Promoter Score surveys at educational workshops, and generally with the caveat that these tools were ‘not comprehensive.’ A strong exception is Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae, which explicitly uses Te Whare Tapa Whā and its own Kia Puāwai framework to track four wellbeing dimensions (mind, body, spirit, whānau), along with supported pathways into employment for rangatahi.

Knowledge

Overwhelmingly (99%), participants cited experienced garden members as a primary knowledge source: this was by far the most commonly selected option. Online resources (e.g. YouTube, blogs, social media) were also widely used ($\approx 65\%$), especially when paired with peer advice. External trainers or facilitators were tapped by about one third of respondents ($\sim 30\%$). Far fewer turned to horticultural societies or gardening clubs (15%) or local farmers/growers (13%), and only a small minority ($\approx 5\%$) drew on academic or research institutions. Very few people selected ‘Other – please specify’ ($\approx 6\%$). On average, each respondent chose two to three sources (mean ≈ 2.4). Notably, every person who engaged with external trainers also cited both experienced members and online resources, highlighting how formal training tends to be combined with peer learning and digital media.

Land, Legal, Finance and Infrastructure



Land Ownership and Security

The majority of community gardens (63%) are located on land owned by local councils, highlighting the key role councils play in supporting urban food initiatives. An additional 10% are on land owned by government agencies such as NZTA or the Ministry of Education, bringing total public ownership to over 70%. Religious institutions account for 7% of sites, while the remainder are spread across private owners, trusts, iwi/Māori land, universities, and other arrangements. This reflects a diverse mix of support, with public land being the primary foundation for most community gardens. Few gardens pay either rent or rates (73% don't pay either). 10% pay rates, 13% pay rent (4% pay both). Mostly (but not always), these costs are minimal, but in one case a garden pays \$11,500 for rent and rates.

29% of gardens had no formal land use agreement in place. Of the remainder, 4% had short term leases (less than one year), and 12% medium term leases (between one and three years). 24% had leases of between three and ten years, while 19% were on leases of more than ten years. 12% did not specify a lease term. Therefore, less than half (43%) were in positions to make long term plans. Land security was listed as a management challenge by 20% of respondents.

Legal structures

Out of the responses collected, 68% of groups indicated they are under a legal entity, either directly or via an umbrella organisation. Around 22% said they are not, and the remaining 10% were unsure. This suggests that while most community garden groups have some form of legal backing—potentially aiding in access to funding, insurance, and land agreements—a significant minority either operate informally or are uncertain about their legal status. Among those groups who reported that they *were* a legal entity, the most common legal structure was an incorporated society with charitable status, accounting for 52% of responses. Charitable trusts were the second most common at 32%. Smaller proportions identified as incorporated societies without charitable status (8%), part of a larger organisation (6%), and trusts without charitable status (2%). There was also one mention of a Māori land trust (1%).

Funding

We define 'funding' as being funding applied for and received from funding agencies. Funding remains a major constraint. The majority operate with short-term or ad hoc support. 58% cited reliance on council grants, 45% on one-off philanthropic funding, and 39% on community fundraising or koha (many reporting a combination of these). 10% received funding from national (as opposed to regional/local) funders.

Most gardens who receive funding seek it from multiple funders. Another way of looking at this data is the funding split across all gardens. 37% of the funds received from community gardens at the individual level come from councils, 32% from other regional or local funders, 12% from national funders, 6% from sponsorships, and 14% from 'other' sources. Those other sources appear to be mainly what we have classified as 'income' (see below), or funding sources lifted otherwise. To understand this better, we would need to ask how much funding was received by each garden from each funding category. This could be considered for a future survey.

Funding models create significant administrative workload and financial instability for community gardens. They disproportionately affect gardens in lower-income areas or those without established

networks, reinforcing systemic inequities in access to funding and long-term sustainability. 44% of respondents noted funding as the most significant management challenge (with 18% stating that their funding was not at all sufficient); ‘resource shortages’ as a challenge were reported by 30%.

Income

We define income as money generated by activities run by the community garden for which they charge (as opposed to funding from agencies). 68 community gardens responded to the question: ‘do you generate any of your own income?’ 35% stated that they did. 29 gardens provided more details: of these, 59% received money from donations or bequests, 55% sold goods, 55% held fundraising events, 45% ran workshops or courses and 41% charged a membership fee (or charging an allotment fee, as reported by one garden). 10% managed contracts for services (in which gardens manage external contracts for a fee).

Financial stability

Financial self-assessment shows a mixed picture of budget adequacy: 22 gardens (31%) reported their total income was fully sufficient to support operations, 32 gardens (46%) described their revenue as partially sufficient, 14 gardens (20%) said income was not sufficient at all and 2 gardens (3%) were unsure. Thus, while nearly half (46%) felt they had just enough to get by, only about a third could confidently say they were financially secure. Significantly, one in five gardens are operating with incomes that clearly fall short of their needs. The inaugural 2020 Aotearoa community gardens survey found that 48% of gardens were ‘struggling financially or had barely adequate funding’. Findings from the 2025 survey are therefore broadly consistent, underscoring a persistent funding gap across the sector.

Call for greater central government support

It may not be surprising, therefore, that 80% of respondents said they would like to see greater central government support for community gardens (note, we did not ask about greater local government support). Nearly nine in ten (70, or $\approx 89\%$) identified more consistent or long-term funding as a critical need. Around half also cited related structural needs: 44 ($\approx 56\%$) called for land-security or leasing protections, and 38 ($\approx 48\%$) wanted inclusion in urban or environmental planning. Meanwhile, 30 gardens ($\approx 38\%$) requested access to training or upskilling, and 20 ($\approx 25\%$) noted a need for policy change or legal/statutory recognition. The theme of “other support” appeared in 9 responses ($\approx 11\%$). Notably, about 82% of gardens selected three or more support types, emphasising that gardens see funding, tenure, planning legitimacy, and capacity building as interconnected, rather than singular fixes.

Infrastructure

Most gardens reported access to some basic infrastructure, though availability and quality varied widely across the responses. 80% reported they had access to water, 70% maintained compost systems,² 60% had tool sheds or secure equipment storage. 56% noted that they had accessible pathways and/or wheelchair access, and the same number had toilets. Only 45% had seating or

² For this question, 70% reported maintaining a compost heap. However, a second question on sustainable growing practices resulted in 97% reporting that composting is an activity in their garden. This discrepancy cannot be easily explained, but may relate to whether or not people see their compost systems as part of their ‘infrastructure’.

shelter, although many described these as minimal or makeshift. Greenhouses or tunnel houses were present in fewer than 30%. 44% regarded site security as a major challenge (71% noting that they experience theft, 54% vandalism and 31% unauthorised access). However, one garden specifically mentioned: 'We don't consider the harvesting of kai by community members to be theft...the kai is for the community.'

We asked the reverse to find out what gardens felt they were lacking. 44% cited security/ lack of fencing as a concern, 31% mentioned a lack of food preparation space, 30% cited inefficient watering systems, and 29% noted they lacked shelter for bad weather situations. 26% reported a lack of toilets or basic hygiene facilities, and 25% highlighted a lack of seed raising or protected growing spaces. Lack of power connections and indoor spaces big enough to host larger events were also cited by some. These gaps affect not just productivity, but the ability to host events, workshops, or maintain operations year-round. Given the requirement to do these things even for income-generation purposes (see above), such gaps are a major operational challenge. Respondents commonly highlighted capital infrastructure investment as one of the most critical areas for support.

Responding to theft and vandalism

Community gardens respond to theft and vandalism with a mix of resilience, creativity, and community engagement. Many accept these challenges as part of operating in open public spaces and focus instead on restoring the garden quickly and maintaining a welcoming atmosphere. One garden shared, 'We vent, we repair, we move on. We celebrate our successes and try not to dwell on the drongoes who damage our spaces.' Others expressed a similar outlook: 'We just get on with it. It's not life-threatening,' and 'By God's grace.' Common strategies include installing real or dummy cameras, adding locks, and planting hedges for screening. For example, 'We have put up signage saying there is a camera and we have set up a solar powered security light over the tool shed, also set up a camera that looks like it is working (but it is not).' Many use signs to communicate community values, such as, 'Signage to explain you are stealing from the community and values of sharing,' or 'A sign has been erected... to ask the public to respect our garden.' Social media is also a tool for awareness and connection: 'We usually post the incident on FB... and invite them to come and have a conversation,' and 'Notice on Facebook, community responds with donations.'

Despite these efforts, theft and vandalism can be emotionally draining and disheartening. As one participant shared, 'We get pretty down about it. We have had many fruit trees stolen and it does mean that motivation has been waning for many members.' Another said, 'Over the past four months, we've had to replant several times due to plants being taken or damaged... this has often come at a personal cost to me.' The loss is felt not just by individuals but by the wider community: 'Our lime was stolen unfortunately and we are likely not going to replace it. The loss is to the community.' Some attempt to reduce theft through informal community policing and inclusion: 'We try to further engage our community and encourage respectful use,' and 'We develop relationships within the community and have noticed a level of self-policing.' While formal responses vary – some report to the police or work with local schools and councils – many gardens remain committed to their kaupapa, choosing to focus on resilience and collective care. One summed it up simply: 'We tidy up, repair, and replace things as quickly as we can, so the community can keep enjoying the space as if nothing ever happened.'

Sustainable Spaces and Food Justice



Production

We wanted to understand, based on data already being collected, how possible it would be to make assumptions about the amount of produce grown in community gardens. However, it appears that the majority of community gardeners (64%) do not consistently record their planting or harvest activities. A smaller group (24%) reported recording activities 'sometimes'. Only 16% indicated that they regularly record production data.

Of those who regularly record production data, we asked how they do this. There is a diverse range of practices, blending traditional and digital tools. Among those who track their planting and harvesting activities, manual logs are prevalent, with many gardeners using handwritten diaries, notebooks, and physical planners to document their gardening tasks. Digital methods are also employed, including spreadsheets and specialised garden planning software, which offer advantages in data organization and analysis. Some gardeners utilise apps like Gardenate, while others incorporate photos and seasonal calendars to enhance their records. Additionally, cultural practices such as Maramataka (Māori lunar calendars) are integrated into record-keeping, reflecting a holistic approach to gardening.

From the data provided, it was not possible to estimate production.

The activities undertaken in gardens

Educational workshops (82.5%) and food-sharing (78.8%) are highly prevalent, showing a strong emphasis on learning and community nourishment. Community events featured in 72.5% of responses, underscoring gardens as key social hubs. Other popular activities include cooking (38.8%), upskilling and employment pathways (35%), and beekeeping (33.8%), while well-being programmes and other initiatives appeared less frequently. Overall, the data reflects a vibrant, diverse ecosystem of activities that extend well beyond gardening itself.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Community gardens model a range of sustainable gardening practices. 97% practice composting, and 95% report using organic methods. 47% use Permaculture methods, 37% practice no-till and 32% state they are regenerative.

62% also state they use water conservation methods. Of these, methods included mulching (95%), rainwater collection (59%) and drought tolerant planting (28%). 9% used wicking beds, while stormwater management and greywater reuse were applied in 8% of gardens. Nearly all of these water-conscious gardens employ multiple water-wise techniques: for instance, over half of rain-harvesting sites also use drought-tolerant species, and six gardens combine rainwater, stormwater management, and greywater reuse simultaneously. The data demonstrates that mulching is a near-universal practice among water-conscious gardeners, while more advanced approaches like greywater reuse and wicking beds are adopted by a small minority.

54% said they were concerned about the impacts of climate change on their gardens. Unsurprisingly, given the above, nearly half described water scarcity as a pressing issue, with one saying: 'Our 3000 L water tank has run out this year,' and another noting they 'would really struggle without mains-water irrigation.'

Many reported that the shifting unpredictability of seasons – ‘dry spells,’ ‘floods,’ or even ‘land slips that destroy our plots’ – makes planning impossible: ‘Difficult to know if we will have a drought or a flood in any given season.’ ‘More pests, dry spells, unpredictable growing conditions...’ Several also highlighted the emerging threat of pest and seasonal variation – ‘increasing invasive species,’ ‘changes to what plants thrive’ - and increasingly erratic vine and stone fruit yields as winters warm.

Food provisioning and distribution

Although it is not a given that community gardens produce food, almost all community gardens in Aotearoa do. We were interested in understanding how the food grown is distributed, and we asked respondents to estimate the proportions of their food distributed to garden members, food banks, charities, community meal programmes, schools or early childhood centres, sold to the public, shared informally or through other channels.

Our analysis of this data reveals not where the bulk of the produce grown is distributed overall, but where individual gardens tend to send their produce, because production scales of different gardens vary widely. So, 15% of food going to a food bank from one garden will be a very different amount of produce than 15% from a smaller garden. As we don’t have reliable data on amounts of produce grown in each garden, there is limited scope for analysis. While this data should be treated with caution, it does tell us a lot about the channels of distribution. Broadly speaking 37% of harvests is distributed directly to community garden members. 35% is shared informally amongst the surrounding community. 6% is distributed to food banks, and 5% is sold to the public. About 4% goes to community meal programmes and 2% to charities, while less than 2% goes to schools or early childhood centres.

10% of food grown in individual gardens was reported as being distributed through ‘other’ channels. However, some of this reflected other previously listed channels. From 21 survey responses included in this 10%, the most frequently mentioned food-distribution channel was pātaka kai or community pantry—7 out of 21 responses ($\approx 33\%$) directly referenced it. Second most common were public pick-your-own gardens or open-access beds (3 responses, $\approx 14\%$), followed by unspecified ‘food distribution beds’ or open-sharing expectations (3, $\approx 14\%$). School-focused programmes (eg garden club, school to plate) were noted 2 times ($\approx 10\%$), with garden-member gifting to family/friends also at 2 responses. Food banks (1 response), night-shelter kitchens (1), community cafés (1), Marae events/ministry meals (1), and community groups (eg Oamaru Pacific Island Group) (1) were also mentioned. Pātaka kai/community pantries should be added as an option in future surveys.

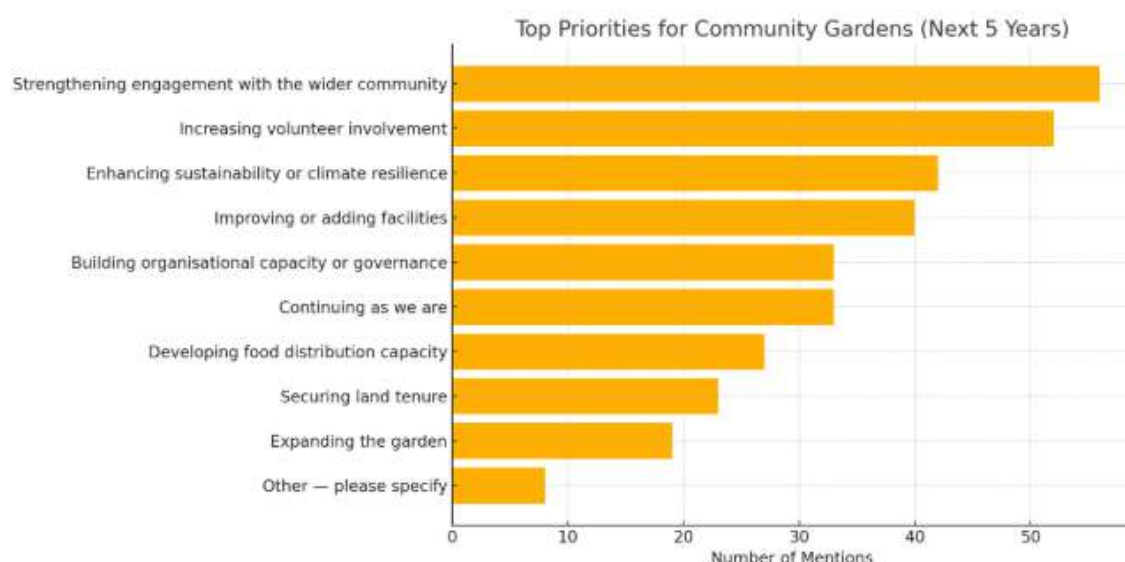
Most community gardeners describe a multi-channel model for distributing their harvest. A typical response captures this blend: ‘100% for the school also! ... any excess is shared either to the Valley Project fresh food pantry or to the night shelter kitchen ... some gets ‘informally shared’ ... the aunties in particular get very grumpy’. Another noted: ‘Our garden is fully open to the public, no fence. The community is able to harvest what they need.’ Regular features include 24/7 school and staff access, community cafés using surplus produce, and pātaka kai (open street pantries) for informal food-sharing. Unfortunately, as noted above, a few respondents also referenced challenges such as improper harvesting or theft reducing availability for those in need.



Learning from
the Past,
Looking to the
Future

Top priorities over the next five years

Community gardens are prioritising stronger community engagement and increased volunteer involvement over the next five years, highlighting a focus on deepening social connections and expanding people power. Many are also aiming to improve sustainability and infrastructure, showing a commitment to long-term resilience. A significant number are focused on consolidating their operations – either by maintaining their current approach or strengthening organisational capacity. While less frequent, securing land tenure remains a critical concern for some gardens.



A national organisation?

We asked participants if they supported the idea of a national community gardens association or network. 88% responded ‘yes’, while only 3.6% responded ‘no’. 8% were unsure. Of those who responded yes, 90% wanted knowledge-sharing, 79% wanted shared training or toolkits, 70% wanted joint events, such as a national community garden conference, 69% wanted regional or national advocacy, and 60% wanted joint funding or project opportunities. This information could give a future organisation a steer as to what is most wanted from the New Zealand community gardens community.

Key Metrics Comparison, 2020-2025

The table below provides a comparison of some of the key data gathered in 2020 and 2025.

In 2020, 204 community gardens were contacted across Aotearoa, with 89 valid responses (a 43% response rate). By 2025, survey coverage expanded to 216 gardens, but valid responses fell to 80, reducing the response rate to 37%. While the major cities of Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch accounted for 72% of 2020 responses, that share rose to 80% in 2025, even though only 69% of all known gardens now lie in these urban centres.

There were new questions in 2025 about the way gardens were structured. The 2025 survey introduced diversity metrics that weren’t included in 2020. Direct refugee/migrant outreach increased substantially, from 21% in 2020 to 34% in 2025. Paid staff presence also rose, but is still minimal.

Additionally, 2025 asked about legal form and land tenure: This data helps understand the collective legal security of the sector.

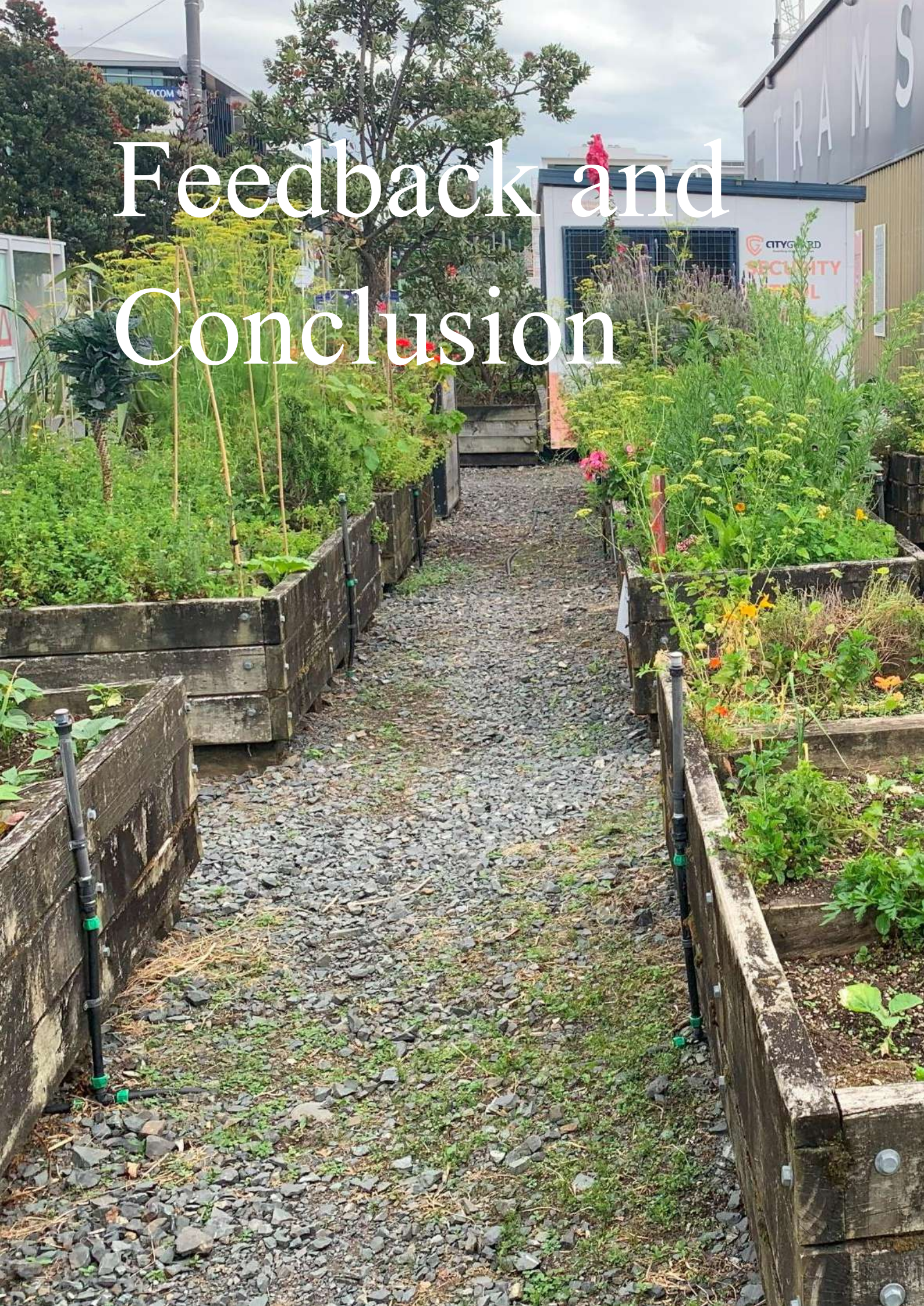
In 2020, 48% of gardens reported struggling financially or having merely adequate funding, self-generated income stood at 41%, and financial comfort was rare (11%). By 2025, 31% consider their finances fully sufficient, while 46% partially so—while dependency on council grants increased to 58%. Self-generated income slightly declined to 35% from 41%. Infrastructure questions were new, as were questions on security. Support for a national garden network climbed from 73% to 88%.

Indicator	2020 Survey	2025 Survey (From Your Data)
Responses & Response Rate	89 valid responses, giving a 43 % response rate.	80 valid responses (out of 216 surveyed gardens), = 37 % response rate.
Urban concentration	72 % of responding gardens were in Auckland (42 %), Wellington (17 %) or Christchurch (13 %).	80 % of respondents came from those three cities: Auckland (32.5%), Wellington (22.5%), Canterbury (25%)*. 69.2 % overall of all 216 known gardens are located there. * Most (but not all) of Canterbury's community gardens are in Christchurch.
Volunteer ethnic diversity	No formal diversity rating; but European/Pākehā was the most common volunteer ethnicity – followed by mixed, Māori, Asian, Pasifika.	11 % of gardens reported their volunteer base as 'not at all diverse,' 40 % as 'somewhat diverse,' and 23 % as 'very diverse'. 18.2 % cater to only Pākehā volunteers, 41 % to three or more ethnic groups.
Engagement with refugee/migrant communities	Around 21 % of gardens said they worked directly with refugee or migrant communities.	34 % of gardens reported this kind of engagement in 2025.
Age ranges of participants catered to	under-10 (~15 %), ages 11–15 (<10 %), 16–20 (~10 %), 21–30 (~20 %), 31–50 (~60 %), 51–70 (~35–40 %), over-70 (~25 %)	Children, under-13 (19%) Tenns, 13-17 (10%) 18-24 (29%) 25-44 (52%) 45-64 (67%) 65+ (54%)

Lack of paid staff presence	No full-time staff: 95% No part-time staff: 64%	No full-time staff: 76.3% No part-time staff: 45% (Note that while many gardens do not have any staff, conversely some gardens have multiple staff. One garden has 15 part-time staff, for example.)
Land ownership – public land (%)	~70 % (≈ 60 % Council land; ≈ 11.5 % central-government land).	73 % (63 % Council; 10 % NZTA/MoE or other government body)
Land-use agreement / lease security	Not asked	29 % no formal agreement; ≤ 43 % in 3-year or longer lease (i.e., long-term security); lease-length breakdown given.
Legal entity status (%)	Not asked	68 % are a legal entity (e.g. incorporated society with charitable status); 22 % no; 10 % unsure.
Sources of funding – % gardens reliant on council grants	Unclear (asked differently), but funding sources: ~42 % regional funders; ~39 % philanthropics; ~12 % national; sponsorship 2 %.	58 % rely on council grants; 45 % on philanthropic grants; 39 % on community fundraising/koha; 10 % from national funders.
Self-generated income – % generating own income	41 % acknowledged generating some income (produce, workshops, donations).	35 % generate income directly (via sales/workshops/membership etc)
Financial self-assessment	48 % described as ‘struggling or barely adequate’; only 11 % ‘comfortable’.	31 % ‘fully sufficient’; 46 % ‘partially sufficient’; 20 % ‘not sufficient at all’; 3 % unsure
Access to basic infrastructure	Not asked in same detail	80 % have water, 70 % compost system,* 60 % tool shed/storage; 56 % accessible paths/toilets; 45 % seating/shelter; fewer than 30 % have greenhouse/tunnel house. *Note that 97% also reported composting as an activity in their garden.

Experience of security incidents	Not captured	44 % cite security/fencing concerns; 71 % report theft; 54 % vandalism; 31 % unauthorized access; many strategies and quotes shared.
Gardens regularly recording planting	25 % routinely record planting	16 % reported regularly recording production (planting and/or harvest)
Gardens regularly recording harvest	5 % routinely track harvest weights; 16 % sometimes record	Same 16 % categorized as 'regular' production-tracking (note: questions combined planting & harvest)
Gardens using organic practices	91 % affirm they use organic methods	95 % report organic methods + 97 % composting
"Moderately engaged" communities	43.7 % reported surrounding communities as moderately engaged	58.6 % reported moderate community engagement
Support for national gardens network	73 % said 'yes' to a national gardening association	88 % said 'yes' to a national organisation

Feedback and Conclusion



Survey feedback

This survey builds upon the 2020 Aotearoa Community Gardens Survey, incorporating a number of the recommendations drawn from feedback gathered at the time. As the table above shows, more detailed questioning has provided a much better picture of community gardening in this country. In the same spirit, we sought views from participants about what could have been improved in the survey itself.

Feedback highlighted several areas for improvement and additional topics for future consideration. A common suggestion was the inclusion of more open-ended response options, with one respondent noting, 'yeah - you need more text fields. [N]ot everything is a KPI!' This sentiment was echoed by others who felt that the survey's structure limited their ability to fully express their experiences and insights. For instance, a participant mentioned, 'Including a comment box to describe the primary use and reason for the gardens and how they fit into the needs of a given community.'

There were also calls for the survey to better reflect the diverse roles within community gardens. One respondent clarified, 'My feedback... We are a Teaching Garden not a Community Garden but we do have plots for people because that in itself is part of the teaching.' This indicates a need for the survey to distinguish between different types of gardens and their specific functions. Additionally, the absence of questions addressing Māori perspectives was pointed out, with a respondent stating, 'Te Tiriti and Māori Topics Missing,' suggesting that future surveys should be more inclusive of Māori viewpoints.

Some participants also expressed concerns about the survey's length and complexity. One noted, 'There were too many questions and options,' indicating that a more concise and focused approach might enhance participant engagement. Another mentioned, 'Some questions are impossible to answer - and change from year to year/month to month,' highlighting the challenges in providing accurate responses to questions about variables like volunteer hours and funding proportions. These insights suggest that future surveys could benefit from clearer definitions and more flexible response options to accommodate the dynamic nature of community gardening activities.

In considering the structure of future surveys, the recommendations noted above need to be carefully balanced with the organisers' capacity to analyse responses. Open-ended questions, while providing richer and more nuanced impressions of what is happening in community gardens, can be extremely difficult to analyse. However, AI offers opportunities here. Furthermore, the survey must yield data that can be used to effectively meet the advocacy needs of the sector.

Conclusion

Overall, the general themes emerging from the 2025 Aotearoa Community Gardens Survey are consistent with those found in 2020. Community gardens punch well above their weight: they serve large numbers of people from very diverse communities, with limited physical infrastructure and very low paid staffing levels. There are significant inconsistencies in the types of data gathered by community gardens, making generalisations challenging. However, the data that we do have demonstrates the considerable aggregated impact these projects make across the motu.

For more information, please contact Matt Morris: matt.morris111@live.com.

Appendix: National Community Gardens Survey Questions, 2025

Standard: Purpose

Branch: New Branch

If

If Is your community garden currently active? Yes Is Selected

Block: General Information (7 Questions)

Block: Land & Ownership (10 Questions)

Block: Staffing & Volunteers (6 Questions)

Block: Community Engagement & Membership (8 Questions)

Block: Purpose & Outcomes (7 Questions)

Block: Garden Practices & Sustainability (6 Questions)

Block: Garden Practices & Sustainability (6 Questions)

Block: Community Contributions & Food Security (5 Questions)

Block: Cultural & Social Inclusion (5 Questions)

Block: Income, Funding, & Long-Term Sustainability (12 Questions)

Block: Infrastructure, Capacity & Operational Challenges (6 Questions)

Block: Follow-Up & Communication (4 Questions)

EndSurvey:

Branch: New Branch

If

If Is your community garden currently active? No Is Selected

EndSurvey: Advanced

Start of Block: Purpose

Welcome to the 2025 Aotearoa Community Garden Survey This survey will take approximately **10–15 minutes** to complete.

Purpose This survey is a national stocktake of community gardens across Aotearoa New Zealand. Its purpose is to better understand the **needs, challenges, impact, and future opportunities** of community gardens. The information gathered will help inform decisions, support services, and collaboration across the nation.

Who should complete this survey? This survey is intended for **community garden coordinators, administrators, or project leads**. It is **not designed for individual volunteers** or casual participants at this time. We are planning a separate follow-up survey to hear directly from volunteers about their experiences in the future. Thank you for taking the time to share your insights. **Ngā mihi nui.**

Screening Is your community garden currently active?

Yes

No

End of Block: Purpose

Start of Block: General Information

A General Information

Q1 What is the name of your community garden?

Q2 What region is your garden located in?

▼ Northland ... Other – please specify (18 options provided)

Q3 What is the full address of your community garden (if known)?

Q4 What type of community garden do you have? (select all that apply)

Allotment-based

Communal

Urban farm

Māra kai/ kaupapa Māori garden

School garden

Other (please specify) _____

Q5 Is your community garden:

An existing, established garden

Currently in the process of being established

Display this question:

If Is your community garden: = An existing, established garden

Q5i In which time period was your community garden established?

Before 1980

1980–1989

1990–1999

2000–2009

2010–2019

2020–Present

Not sure

End of Block: General Information

Start of Block: Land & Ownership

B Land & Ownership

Q1 Who owns the land that your community garden is on?

Private owner

Council

Trust

Iwi/Māori land

Church/Mosque/Temple or other religious community

Government (such as NZTA, Dept of Corrections, Ministry of Education, Reserve land)

University

We own the land

Other (please specify) _____

Q2 What is the approximate physical size of your community garden?

Less than 100 m²

100–499 m²

500–999 m²
1,000–4,999 m²
5,000–9,999 m² (0.5–1 hectare)
1–4.9 hectares
5 hectares or more
I'm not sure

Q3 Is your garden group a legal entity?

Yes (select yes also if you are under the umbrella of a legal entity)

No

I'm not sure

Display this question:

If (select Yes - if your group sits under a legal entity) = Yes (select yes also if you are under the umbrella of a legal entity)

Q3i What type of legal entity is your group?

Incorporated society with charitable status

Incorporated society without charitable status

Charitable Trust

Trust without charitable status

Part of a larger organisation

Māori land trust

Social enterprise

Industrial or provident society

Other _____

Display this question:

If What type of legal entity is your group? = Part of a larger organisation

Q3ii If part of a larger organisation, what is the legal structure of the group.

Incorporated society with charitable status

Incorporated society without charitable status

Charitable Trust

Trust without charitable status

Māori land trust

Social enterprise

Not sure

Other

Q4 Does your community garden group pay any of the following for the land it uses?

Rent

Rates

No - we don't pay either

Unsure

Display this question:

If Select all that apply = Rent

Or Select all that apply = Rates

Q4a Approximately how much does your garden pay annually?

Rent

Rates

Q5 How long is your current lease or land use agreement?

Short-term (less than one year)

Medium-term (between one and three years)

Long-term (between three and ten years)

Permanent (more than ten years)

We don't have a formal land use agreement

Unsure

Q6 Are there any concerns about losing access to the land in the future? (select all that apply)

Lease expiry

Risk of land development

Sale of land

No concerns

Other _____

End of Block: Land & Ownership

Start of Block: Staffing & Volunteers

C Staffing, Volunteers & Participants

Q1 Please provide a breakdown of your **paid** staffing by type. (If a row doesn't apply, enter '0' in both columns)

	Number of People	Total Weekly Hours combined
Full-time staff (≥ 37.5 hrs/week) (1)		
Part-time staff ((2)		

Q2 Do you keep records of any of the following?

Attendance / number of volunteers

Volunteer hours contributed

Not sure

None

Display this question:

If Do you keep records of any of the following? = Attendance / number of volunteers

Or Do you keep records of any of the following? = Volunteer hours contributed

Q2i Can you provide the total (annual) figures for 2024? (Count each visit as a separate instance. EG: if John volunteered twice for 4 hours each time, record 2 volunteers and 8 hours total.)

Total number of volunteers who contributed in 2024

Total volunteer hours contributed in 2024

Display this question:

If Do you keep records of any of the following? = Not sure

Or Do you keep records of any of the following? = None

Q2ii Please provide your best weekly estimates for 2024

Average number of volunteers per week: _____

Average number of volunteer hours per week: _____

Q3 What are the biggest management challenges your garden faces? (select all that apply)

We have no management challenges

Volunteer recruitment

Volunteer retention

Funding

Committee conflicts

Land security

Lack of skilled volunteers

Resource shortages

Other - please specify _____

End of Block: Staffing & Volunteers

Start of Block: Community Engagement & Membership

D Community Engagement & Membership

Q1 Approximately how many members are involved in your community garden?

Fewer than 5

5 - 10

11 - 20

21 - 50

51 - 100

More than 100

Not sure

Q2 Does your community garden have a waiting list for new members?

Yes

Maybe

No

Q3 In your opinion, how engaged is the surrounding community in your community garden?

Very engaged

Moderately engaged

Neither engaged nor disengaged

Moderately disengaged

Very disengaged

Not sure

Q4 Which age groups predominantly participate in your community garden?

Under 12

13–17

18–24

25–44

45–64

65+

Not sure

Q5 How many people (both members and visitors) visit your garden in a typical week?

0 -10

11 - 25

26 - 50

51 -100

100+

I'm not sure

Q6 Aside from growing plants, what other activities does your garden engage in? (select all that apply)

Composting

Beekeeping

Food-sharing

Cooking

Educational workshops

Community events

Well-being programmes

Pathways to upskilling/employment

Other - please specify _____

Display this question:

If Select all that apply = Pathways to upskilling/employment

Q6i Does your garden provide any formal training or upskilling opportunities?

Yes

No

Other (please specify) _____

End of Block: Community Engagement & Membership

Start of Block: Purpose & Outcomes

E Outcomes

Q1 What do you think motivates people to participate in your community garden?

Access to fresh or affordable food

Interest in sustainability or environmental practices

Social connection or sense of community

Improving mental or physical wellbeing

Learning or skill-building, and pathways to employment

Cultural connection or traditional food growing

Supporting local food systems or food sovereignty

Personal enjoyment or relaxation

Other — please specify _____

Q2 Thinking about that same list, which outcomes does your community garden actively seek to achieve?
(select all that apply)

Access to fresh or affordable food

Interest in sustainability or environmental practices

Social connection or sense of community

Improving mental or physical wellbeing

Learning or skill-building, and pathways to employment

Cultural connection or traditional food growing

Supporting local food systems or food sovereignty

Personal enjoyment or relaxation

Other — please specify _____

Display this question:

If Thinking about that same list, which outcomes does your community garden actively seek to achieve... =

Social connection or sense of community

Or Thinking about that same list, which outcomes does your community garden actively seek to achieve... =

Improving mental or physical wellbeing

Or Thinking about that same list, which outcomes does your community garden actively seek to achieve... =

Learning or skill-building, and pathways to employment

Q2i Could you please tell us a bit more about how you measure any of the following: social connection, mental or physical wellbeing or pathways to employment?

Q3 How do you measure your success in achieving those outcomes? (select all that apply)

Attendance at events

Number of people volunteering

Number of workshops or learning sessions run

Amount of produce planted and/or harvested

Participant feedback or surveys

Number of volunteers gaining employment

We do not collect data to measure outcomes of our community garden

Other — please specify _____

Q4 What would your garden need in order to flourish beyond its current state? (select all that apply)

Paid staff/ additional paid staff

Secure long-term access to land

More volunteers

Training or upskilling opportunities

Expert guidance (e.g., horticulture, planning)

Policy or council support

Equipment or tools

Peer supervision/ pastoral care support

Improved physical infrastructure (note there are further questions on this later)

Other - please specify _____

Q5 Where does your garden get most of its gardening knowledge and expertise?

Experienced garden members

External trainers or facilitators

Local farmers or growers
Horticultural societies or gardening clubs
Online resources (e.g., YouTube, blogs, social media)
Academic or research institutions
Other — please specify _____

End of Block: Purpose & Outcomes
Start of Block: Garden Practices & Sustainability

F Garden Practices & Sustainability

Q1 Do you keep records of what your garden plants and/or harvests?
Yes (please specify method) _____
Sometimes
No

Display this question:
If If yes, please specify method: manual logs, apps, software, other = Yes (please specify method)

Q1i If you know your estimated total harvest weight (kg) for 2024, please record it here

Q2 What sustainability practices does your garden use?
Organic methods
Permaculture
Composting
No-till
Regenerative farming
Water conservation methods
Other – please specify _____
None of the above

Display this question:
If Select all that apply , Water conservation methods Is Displayed

Q2ii What water conservation methods does your garden use?
Rainwater collection
Wicking beds
Mulching
Drought-tolerant planting
Stormwater management
Greywater reuse
Other – please specify _____

Q3 Are you concerned about how climate change may affect your garden?
No
Not sure
Yes - Please expand

End of Block: Garden Practices & Sustainability

Start of Block: Community Contributions & Food Security

G Community Contributions & Food Security

Q1 Does your community garden grow food?

Yes

No

Display this question:

If Does your community garden grow food? = Yes

Q1i Where is food from your community garden distributed, and roughly what percentage goes to each (Your total must add up to 100%)?

Garden members only : _____

Food banks : _____

Charities : _____

Community meal programmes :

Schools or early childhood centres :

Sold to the public : _____

Shared informally with the community : _____

Other — please specify : _____

Total : _____

Display this question:

If Does your community garden grow food? = Yes

Q1ii Has the demand for donated food from your garden increased over the past year?

Yes

No

I'm not sure

Display this question:

If Does your community garden grow food? = Yes

Q1iii To your knowledge, what challenges do people involved in your garden face when trying to access fresh, healthy food outside of the garden?

Cost of fresh produce

Limited local availability (e.g., no nearby shops or markets)

Lack of transport to food outlets

Time constraints or work schedules

Lack of knowledge around healthy food preparation

Cultural food not readily available

Other - please specify

Not sure

End of Block: Community Contributions & Food Security

Start of Block: Cultural & Social Inclusion

H Cultural & Social Inclusion

Q1 How ethnically diverse would you say the participants in your community garden are?

Very diverse

Somewhat diverse
Not at all diverse
Not sure

Q2 What are the **predominant** ethnic groups represented in your garden?

Māori
NZ European / Pākehā
Samoan
Tongan
Cook Islands Māori
Indian
Chinese
Filipino
Korean
Japanese
Vietnamese
Middle Eastern
African
Other European
Latin American
Not sure
Other — please specify _____

Q3 Does your community garden work with or engage refugee or recent migrant communities?

Yes
No
Not sure

Display this question:

If Does your community garden work with or engage refugee or recent migrant communities? = Yes

Q3i What does your garden do to engage or support culturally diverse communities?

Growing culturally significant or traditional crops
Multilingual signage or communication
Hosting culturally focused events or celebrations
Partnering with ethnic or migrant community organisations
Providing dedicated plots for specific cultural groups
Supporting cultural knowledge-sharing or storytelling
We do not have any specific initiatives currently
Other please specify _____

End of Block: Cultural & Social Inclusion

Start of Block: Income, Funding, & Long-Term Sustainability

I Income, Funding, & Long-Term Sustainability

Q1 Does your community garden generate any its own income?

Yes
No
Not sure

Display this question:

If Does your community garden generate any its own income? = Yes

Q1i How does your garden generate income?

Selling produce

Selling other goods (e.g., plants, compost, seeds)

Workshops or courses

Events or fundraisers

Membership fees

Contracts for services

Donations/bequests

Other — please specify _____

Q2 Does your garden receive funding from any external sources?

Yes

No

Not sure

Display this question:

If Does your garden receive funding from any external sources? = Yes

Q2i What types of funding does your garden receive?

National funders

Regional/local funders (excluding Councils)

Council support

Sponsorships (including goods and services)

Other — please specify _____

Display this question:

If Does your garden receive funding from any external sources? = Yes

Q2ii If possible, please estimate the percentage split across your different funding sources (Your total must add up to 100%).

National funders : _____

Regional/local funders (excl. councils) :

Council support : _____

Sponsorships :

Other (please specify) : _____

Total : _____

Q3 Would you say your garden's total income including funding and other revenue is sufficient to meet its operating needs?

Yes – fully sufficient

Partially sufficient

No – not sufficient at all

Not sure

Display this question:

If Would you say your garden's total income including funding and other revenue is sufficient to mee... != Yes – fully sufficient

Q3i Roughly what percentage of your garden's total budget is currently unfunded?

0–25%

26–50%

51–75%
76–100%
Not sure

Q4 Would you like to see greater central government support for community gardens?

Yes
No
Not sure

Display this question:

If Would you like to see greater central government support for community gardens? = Yes

Q4i What kind of support would be most beneficial?

More consistent or long-term funding
Policy change / legal recognition
Land security or leasing protections
Inclusion in urban or environmental planning
Access to training or upskilling
Other — please specify _____

Q5 Do you support the idea of a New Zealand-wide community garden association/ network?

Yes
No
Not sure

Q6 Would your garden be interested in collaborating with other gardens through any of the following?

Knowledge-sharing
Joint events (e.g., a national community garden conference)
Regional or national advocacy
Joint funding or project opportunities
Shared training or toolkits
Not interested at this stage
Other — please specify _____

End of Block: Income, Funding, & Long-Term Sustainability

Start of Block: Infrastructure, Capacity & Operational Challenges

J Infrastructure, Capacity & Operational Challenges

Q1 What are your garden's top priorities for the next 5 years?

Continuing as we are
Expanding the garden
Improving or adding facilities
Securing land tenure
Increasing volunteer involvement
Strengthening engagement with the wider community
Developing food distribution capacity
Enhancing sustainability or climate resilience
Building organisational capacity or governance
Other — please specify _____

Q2 Which of the following facilities or infrastructure does your garden currently have?

Water supply
 Tool storage or secure shed
 Seating or shaded rest areas
 Covered space or shelter
 Accessible pathways or wheelchair access
 Composting area
 Irrigation system
 Greenhouse or tunnel house
 Toilet or hygiene facilities
 Kitchen or food prep space
 Fencing or boundary security
 None of the above
 Other — please specify _____

Q3 What infrastructure or facility limitations currently impact your garden's ability to function or grow?

Inconsistent or no access to water
 Lack of secure storage for tools or equipment
 No sheltered space for gatherings or bad weather
 No seating or resting area for volunteers/visitors
 Inaccessible layout for people with mobility needs
 No compost system or inadequate composting capacity
 Manual or inefficient watering (no irrigation)
 Lack of space for seed raising or protected growing
 No toilet or basic hygiene facilities
 No space to prepare or store food
 Difficulty keeping the site secure (e.g., no fencing)
 None of the above
 Other — please specify _____

Q4 Does your garden experience any of the following issues?

Theft
 Vandalism
 Unauthorised access
 No – We do not experience these issues
 Other — please specify _____

Display this question:

If Does your garden experience any of the following issues? = Theft
 Or Does your garden experience any of the following issues? = Vandalism
 Or Does your garden experience any of the following issues? = Unauthorised access
 Or Does your garden experience any of the following issues? = Other — please specify

Q4i How does your garden currently manage or respond to these issues?

End of Block: Infrastructure, Capacity & Operational Challenges

Start of Block: Follow-Up & Communication

K Follow-Up & Communication

Q1 Would you like to be kept up to date with national community garden information?

Yes

No

Display this question:

If Would you like to be kept up to date with national community garden information? = Yes

Q1i What's the best email address for updates or follow-up communication?

Q2 Do you have any feedback about this survey? (For example, were any questions unclear, missing, or could be improved? Are there any additional topics you'd like us to ask about in future surveys?)

End of Block: Follow-Up & Communication

