



Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

Parks and Green Spaces Levy Community Update



P-Patch Community Gardens in Our Neighborhoods

For more than 40 years, Seattle's P-Patch Community Gardening Program has been a part of the fabric of our neighborhoods – and a part of what makes Seattle a great city. As volunteer-maintained neighborhood green spaces, community gardens are places where people can connect to the soil, grow healthy food, find respite from busy city life, appreciate nature, and meet their neighbors. Each P-Patch community garden is unique, reflecting the volunteers that care for it and the community that surrounds it.

In 2008, Seattle voters passed the Parks and Green Spaces Levy that included \$2 million to build four community gardens. Seattle Department of Neighborhoods took this opportunity to heart. With guidance from the volunteer Levy Oversight Committee, we committed to increase access to community gardens, especially for underserved communities, focus on building community, showcase sustainability, and manage the funds wisely.

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods collaborated with other city departments, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and most importantly, community members to make the most of the available funds. Community members volunteered over 33,000 hours to raise funds and contribute their skills and energy to design meetings, construction work parties, and care of the gardens.

With that massive community engagement and support, we were able to leverage the funds allocated for four new gardens to support 28 new and expanded gardens, adding over 800 plots and more than eight acres of new garden space.

We are proud of our work and thankful for the support of so many Seattleites who made these successes possible. Together we exceeded our goals. We trust we have exceeded your expectations.

Thank you,



Edward B. Murray, Mayor
City of Seattle



Bernie Matsuno, Director
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods



PARKS & GREEN SPACES LEVY

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

Investing in Community



Voters approved \$146 million for the Parks and Green Spaces Levy. It allocated \$2 million to create four community gardens on public land in four specific neighborhoods, with the option to develop more. In 2013, an additional \$427,000 in savings from funds reserved to cover inflation was reallocated to the Community Garden funding category at the recommendation of the Levy Oversight Committee.

The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch Community Gardening Program leveraged resources to stretch the funds. Working with other city departments and public agencies to use public land, we focused Levy dollars on project development rather than expensive land acquisition. Dedicated volunteers contributed time, talent, and their own fundraising efforts which brought additional funds to the projects, including \$377,000 from the Neighborhood Matching Fund. Thanks to this collaboration and careful management of funds, we were able to surpass our goals.



Levy Funds for Community Gardens & P-Patches

Initial Allocation	\$ 2,000,000
Reallocated Inflation Funds	\$ 427,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,427,000

Expenditures

New Garden Development	\$ 1,305,000
Expanded Garden Development	\$ 246,000
Acquisition	\$ 255,000
Outreach and Engagement	\$ 74,000
Garden Tools and Signs	\$ 19,000
Administration	\$ 508,000
1% for Arts	\$ 20,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,427,000



Building Gardens, Growing Community

In 2008, Seattle voters passed the Parks and Green Spaces Levy. It earmarked \$2 million from the \$146 million Levy to build four new P-Patch community gardens. It was the first time a Seattle levy allocated funds for community gardens. When Seattle Department of Neighborhoods set out to develop these new gardens, we not only wanted to respond to the demand, but wanted to create stronger communities. We committed ourselves to meet three goals:

Expanding Opportunities to Garden



At Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, our role is to strengthen Seattle by engaging all communities. It infused our approach to building new gardens. Community members participated in all aspects of the projects from visioning and design to construction and ongoing care of the gardens. This community-based approach to development and management engages the talents and assets of each community while building new skills and relationships. We think of it as “growing community by building gardens.”



Expand Access

To focus garden development in communities that were underserved, we identified 21 priority areas using a strategic framework that weighed neighborhood-level demographic and geographic attributes. We funded projects in 15 of the priority areas.

Involve All

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program strives to encourage participation that includes the diversity of people in the neighborhoods where the gardens grow. P-Patch Community Gardening Program staff worked with multilingual and multicultural outreach and engagement teams to support involvement by underrepresented communities, including refugees and immigrants, in every aspect of the design and development of their P-Patches.

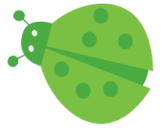


Engage the Community

Community members worked with landscape architects to design the gardens. When it was time to build, they broke out the shovels and actively participated in construction of the gardens. Volunteers contributed their many talents and serious muscle power to haul more than 1,570 cubic yards of compost, build sheds, and stack stones. They raised additional funds to enhance the gardens with art, entries, border gardens, and beehives. Each of the 28 gardens is unique and reflective of the creativity and talents of the volunteers who helped create it. Now that the gardens are built, volunteers will continue to care for and maintain them as green spaces for everyone to enjoy.



Showcasing Sustainable Practices



P-Patch community gardens contribute to Seattle's efforts to be a vibrant and sustainable city. They have long been places where people can learn about the natural world through experience and observation. The new and expanded P-Patches showcase a diversity of sustainable practices from water conservation and natural gardening methods to creative re-use of building materials otherwise destined for the waste stream.



UpGarden P-Patch grows on the rooftop of a parking garage built for the space age Seattle World's Fair. Now the garage looks to the future again. The garden repurposes automobile infrastructure and represents the new cutting edge – green, sustainable cities. At the Beacon Food Forest, concrete rubble becomes “urbanite” in a stacked stone wall. Gardens across the city reclaimed more than 100 tons of concrete - all placed by hand.

Increasing Access to Healthy Food



The P-Patch Community Gardening Program began when community members came together to make healthy produce more accessible by growing it themselves. With the new Levy-funded garden spaces, more than 800 additional households now have the opportunity to grow healthy food. The tradition of “growing to give” is also a core element of the P-Patch Program. These new and expanded gardens donated two tons of produce in 2013. The Levy also supported special projects specifically focused on increasing community food security including market gardens at Marra Farm and the Seattle Farms pilot project.



Seattle Department of Neighborhoods partnered with Solid Ground and Seattle Housing Authority to build the Seattle Community Farm at Rainier Vista. All of the food grown is donated to a local food bank and neighbors in need.

Goals Exceeded

Together We Grow

28 New & Expanded Gardens

(Required by Levy = 4)

814 New Plots

(Our goal = 300)

8.1 Acres

(Our goal = 2)





P-Patch Community Garden Projects

NEW AND EXPANDED GARDENS DEVELOPED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES LEVY.



Kirke Park – 7028 9th Ave NW.
New, \$44,000. Garden boasts a shed whose style references the Norwegian church previously on the site.

Schwabacher House – 1715 NW 58th St.
New, \$7,000. New garden features standing-height beds for low income senior residents.

Hazel Heights – 4200 Baker Ave NW.
New, \$25,000. New terraced garden features a cistern for using reclaimed water and an inviting stairway.

Magnolia Manor – 3415 27th Ave W.
New, \$ 63,000. Garden provides growing space and public land with lovely views available to all.

UpGarden at Seattle Center –
Rooftop of 650 3rd Ave N.
New, \$147,000. On the converted rooftop of a parking garage, this garden abounds with auto-themed art and creativity.

Chancery Place – 910 Marion St.
New, \$10,000. Low income seniors now garden on the rooftop of their building.

Horiuchi Park – 156 Boren Ave.
New, \$50,000. Landscape design was inspired by the work of Seattle mural artist and park's namesake, Paul Horiuchi.

West Genesee – 4101 SW Genesee St.
New, \$11,000. Pint-sized garden enlivens a neighborhood block.

Nickelsville – Transferred to new locations in 2013.
New, \$ 5,000. Transportable planters create a moveable garden for homeless residents.

Westcrest Park – 9000 8th Ave SW.
New, \$83,000. Large garden creates space for many households of all sizes to mingle while gardening.

Barton St. – 3405 SW Barton St.
New, \$318,000. On land acquired via the Levy, this garden is laid out in a spider web pattern full of artistic expression.

"Seattle Farms" Urban Agriculture Pilot: Marra Farm –
9026 4th Ave S.
Expansion, \$6,000. Pilot project promotes use of public property for urban farming for market.

Marra Farm Pilot Market Garden – 9026 4th Ave S.
Expansion, \$12,000. Pilot project offers low income gardeners the opportunity to develop production and market gardening skills.

Bitter Lake – Linden Ave N and N 143rd St.
New, \$121,000. Built along three terraces, the garden is a long-awaited addition to the neighborhood.

Licton Springs – Meridian Ave N and N 92nd St.
New, \$140,000. Garden connects the neighborhood with the North Seattle College community.

Eastlake – 2900 Fairview Ave E.
Expansion, \$11,000. Expansion doubles the garden's size and increases the space dedicated to growing produce for donation.

Broadway Hill – Federal Ave E and E Republican St.
New, \$16,000. Small garden will be nestled in a new park in an area with high demand for community garden space.

Unpaving Paradise – 200 Summit Ave E.
New, \$150,000. Garden transforms a parking lot into a new garden within the popular Summit Slope Park.

"Seattle Farms" Urban Agriculture Pilot: Yesler –
1415 E Yesler Way.
New, \$ 35,000. Pilot project promotes use of public property for urban farming for market.

Spring Street – 25th Ave E and E Spring St.
New, \$20,000. Small garden brings corner lot to life with cheerful birdhouses and garden plots.

Judkins – 2315 S Norman St.
Expansion, \$50,000. Expansion adds plots as well as a new shed, gathering space, and welcoming border gardens.

Seattle Community Farm – 2700 S Lilac St.
New, \$60,000. 1/3-acre garden is dedicated to growing food for donation to the neighboring food bank.

Beacon Food Forest – 15th Ave S and S Dakota St.
New, \$104,000. Permaculture methods are showcased on 1.75 acres of fruit trees, perennials, and annual garden plots.

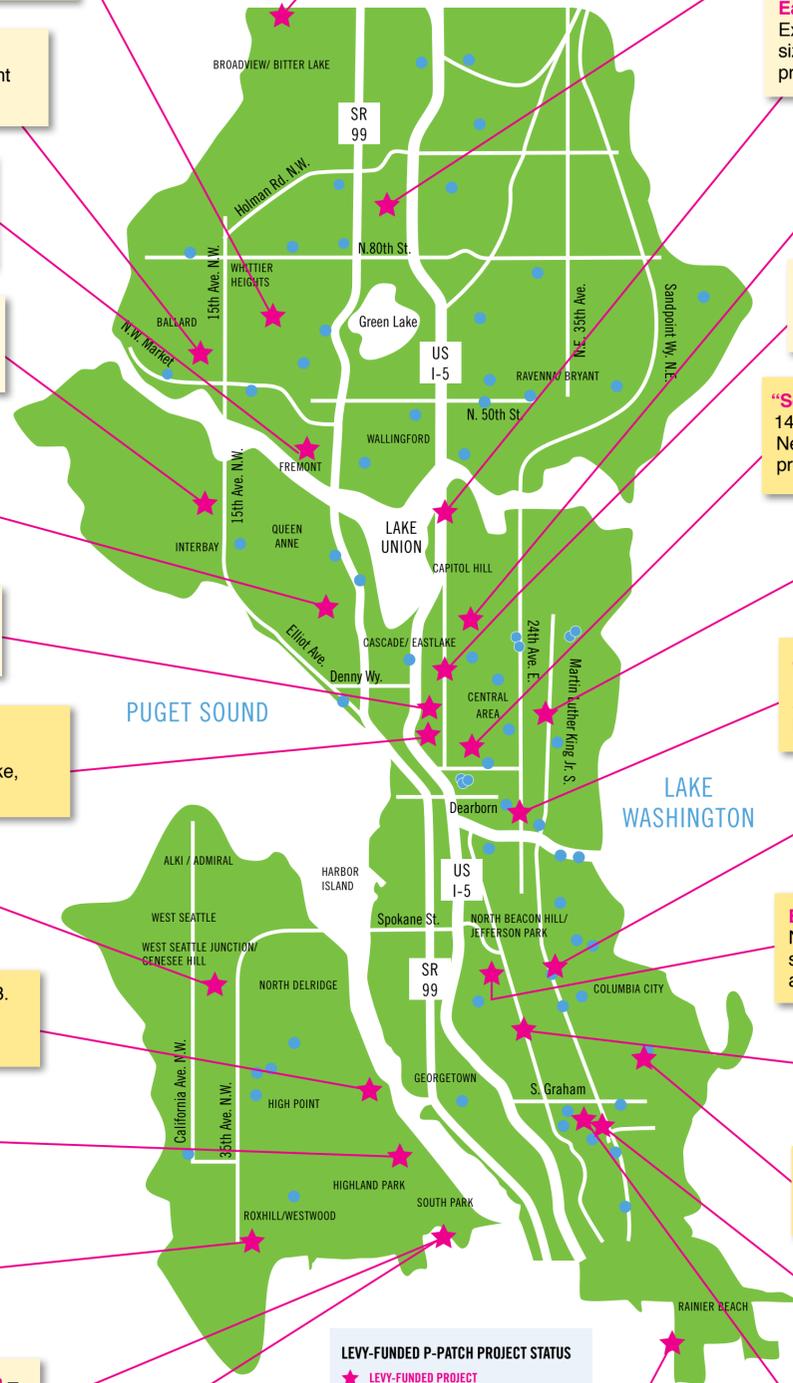
Maa nyei lai ndeic – 4913 Columbia Dr S.
Expansion, \$63,000. Expansion increases garden by 18,600 square feet and upgrades the perimeter fence.

Hillman – 4613 S Lucile St.
Expansion, \$44,000. Expansion added new plots and improved strolling pathways through the garden.

John C. Little Park – 6961 37th Ave S.
New, \$86,000. Terraced garden adds a vibrant element to a neighborhood park.

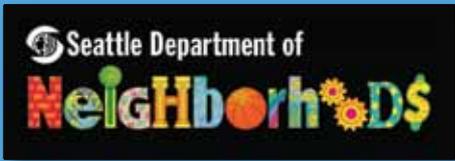
New Holly Youth and Family –
32nd Ave S and S Brighton St.
Expansion, \$ 60,000. Expansion more than doubles the size of this garden, improves existing plots, and adds a new gathering area.

Leo St. – 5106 S Leo St.
New, \$66,000. Garden provides sunny garden plots and a needed space for neighbors to gather.



LEVY-FUNDED P-PATCH PROJECT STATUS
★ LEVY-FUNDED PROJECT
● PRE-EXISTING P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDEN





Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
700 5th Ave, Suite 1700
PO Box 94649, Seattle, WA 98124-4649
206-684-0464

www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods



Photos courtesy of Patrick Robinson of the West Seattle Herald, John Bolivar, Eric Higbee, Nicole Kistler.