

# P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

## RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

### 1) Accommodation

- a) Gardeners may make a request for a reasonable accommodation to the P-Patch program based on a disability. For more information please contact P-Patch staff.

### 2) P-Patch Community Work

- a) P-Patch gardeners are required to complete a minimum of 8 hours of community work per year (counted November 1-October 31); not related to the date of plot assignment).
  - i) The work must happen in the collective areas of the garden (not inside an individual plot).
  - ii) A minimum of 4 of 8 hours must be completed at the garden where the plot holder gardens. Community hours can also be done outside the garden, as long as the work supports the P-Patch Program.
  - iii) Yearly community hours accrue beginning November 1 and are due by October 31. For new gardeners, hours may be pro-rated for those who are assigned space later in the year. This amount needs to be established with P-Patch staff.
  - iv) It is the plot holder's responsibility to complete and record Community hours.
  - v) P-Patch does not accept other forms of payment in lieu of Community hours.
  - vi) P-Patch may grant exceptions based on personal hardship and circumstances. Make arrangements with P-Patch staff.
- b) Secure the communal tool shed and help maintain the shared tools.
- c) Do not take individual action in any common areas without working/communicating with the whole garden.

### 3) Use of Individual Plot Space

#### a) Gardening and Maintenance

- i) Organic methods only. NO synthetic chemicals including; pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, weed killers, and fertilizers.
  - (1) Organic fertilizers are allowed (compost, fish meal, composted manure, lime, etc.).
- ii) Year-round gardening and maintenance of the assigned garden space is the plot holder's responsibility. Garden space is defined as a garden plot and the pathway that surrounds that plot.
  - (1) Garden space must be weeded and planted within 2 weeks of plot assignment.
  - (2) Active gardening reflects seasonality (i.e. winterization by October 31, spring weeding and planting, fall cleanup, summer maintenance, harvesting, etc.).
  - (3) No composting of food scraps.
  - (4) If vacations or other circumstances prevent the plot holder from caring for the plot space, they must arrange for someone else to care for it in a way consistent with P-Patch standards.
  - (5) Monitoring plot use: P-Patch staff and volunteer site leaders monitor plots throughout the year. When a garden space is untended, the plot holder will be contacted and asked to take care of the space by a certain date. If P-Patch staff and or volunteer site leaders contact a plot holder about an untended garden space two times in one year and it becomes untended a third time, staff will reassign the garden space.
- iii) Pathways: Please keep garden pathways inside and adjacent to garden plots safe, level, tidy, clear of weeds, and free of obstacles.
- iv) Do not expand your garden space beyond its designated area.
- v) There is no garbage service.
  - (1) Pack it in; pack it out. Do not pile debris in any garden space; it can create habitat for rodents and be unsafe.

#### b) Plot Turnover

- i) One plot (or maximum allowable square footage for your garden) per household.
- ii) Garden space allowed in only one P-Patch.
- iii) Annual renewal: Plot holders in good standing\* can renew their garden space annually.
- iv) A Plot holder cannot give garden space to others.
  - (1) Co-Gardeners are allowed. However, they can only become the primary plot holder if they have been co-gardening long enough to be assigned a plot from the interest list.
- v) When the plot holder no longer wants the plot:



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- (1) Plot holder must notify and establish a timeline for turnover with a P-Patch staff person.
- (2) Plot holder needs to leave the garden space in reasonable condition. They must remove all structures and other non-plant materials unless arrangements are made with garden leadership.
- vi) Plot holders are not allowed to permanently work other peoples' plots.

**c) Structures**

- i) Fences: The P-Patch Program discourages individual plot fencing. If the plot holder feels there are conditions that warrant an individual fence, the plot holder must adhere to the following criteria:
  - (1) Height for perimeter plot fencing is limited to 3'; exceptions allowed only with P-Patch staff approval.
  - (2) For the safety of gardeners, visitors, and wildlife the fence must be:
    - (a) placed within the perimeter of the plot.
    - (b) securely and safely built, without infringing upon any pathway or neighboring plot.
    - (c) must not pose potential harm to others.
  - (3) You build it, you remove it.
- ii) Locks: Locks, or anything that gives the visual impression of a lock, are not allowed.
- iii) Tires, railroad ties and treated lumber are not allowed.

**d) Plants**

- i) Tall plants and trellises that support them must not shade neighboring plots.
  - ii) Temporary plant supports and trellises must be taken down for the winter by October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - iii) No trees (including fruit) or large shrubs allowed in plots.
  - iv) Keep invasive, vining and spreading plants confined to your assigned garden plot. Refer to the P-Patch Program's Guidelines for more information about invasive plants.
  - v) Plot holder must process the plant material generated within their assigned space (compost, bury or remove plant waste).
- e) Water:** Service is turned off and drained by November 11<sup>th</sup> and remains off for the winter months, and is turned back on in the spring after March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- i) Water responsibly (contact the P-Patch office for resources).
  - ii) Treat hoses carefully.
  - iii) Report water leaks to garden leadership and P-Patch staff.
  - iv) Sprinklers & drip systems:
    - (1) Gardener must be present.
    - (2) Must not affect other gardening space.
  - v) Never water others' garden spaces without permission.

**4) Being a Considerate Community Gardener**

- a)** P-Patches are public spaces. Respectfully welcome visitors to the garden.
- b)** Do not take produce from other garden spaces without permission.
- c)** Smoking is prohibited in P-Patch gardens.
- d)** Loud radios are prohibited. The sale of produce, flowers, or raw honey is only permitted through the P-Patch Market Garden Program or for a fundraiser that benefits a whole P-Patch garden or the P-Patch Program.
- e)** The P-Patch garden cannot be used to conduct personal commerce.
- f)** Plot holders may not utilize paid labor to perform plot maintenance on an ongoing basis.
- g)** Well-mannered, leashed dogs are allowed within your own garden space, unless complaints are received. Please scoop and remove poop.
- h)** Closely supervise your children; help them learn respect for gardening and boundaries.
  - i) Children using tools in the garden must be under direct and constant supervision of a parent or responsible adult. "Direct" means to be within sight and voice distance.
- i)** Use common courtesy and resolve differences in a neighborly way.
  - i) For problems with fellow gardeners, stay polite and listen carefully. Usually a solution is within reach.
  - ii) Refer to the P-Patch Program Code of Conduct for a list of behaviors prohibited in P-Patch Community Gardens.
  - iii) Refer to the P-Patch Program grievance procedure if you are unable to resolve differences.

**5) Signage**

- a)** Political signage is not allowed in individual or communal areas of any P-Patch Community Gardening Program managed space.

\*A **Plot holder in good standing** is a gardener who has completed community hours and has had no outstanding plot compliance issues during the previous year.

For more information on How P-Patch Works: <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/p-patch-community-gardening>.