P-Patch Community Gardening Program

Safety in the Garden

Tip

PP504

3/8/15

P-Patch TIPS are reference documents that address topics related to the development and ongoing management of P-Patch Community Gardens.

P-Patches are public open spaces. Our gates are welcoming and as a community garden program, P-Patch encourages local access to each and every one of our gardens. As we invite people to share and enjoy community garden space, we have a Code of Conduct all should be adhering too. As public open space we also receive some unwanted behavior. However there are ways of protecting yourself and the garden against it. This Tip sheet can help guide you on how to work through things that can present themselves at the garden.

Personal Safety

It is important to be aware and prepared. The following is a list of suggestions:

- Know the address of your garden.
- Walk through the garden when you arrive to make your presence known.
- Interact with strangers in and around the garden in a positive, inviting and friendly manner. Follow your personal instincts in interacting with people if you do not feel safe.
- Carry your cell phone with you IN the garden.
- Get off the pathway, allow a quick exit if someone is in the garden that is doing illegal activities.
- Keep your car locked at all times.
- Invite a buddy to be in the garden with you if your personal comfort level is challenged. Seek buddies within the garden community as well as invite your personal friends to visit with you in the garden.

General Crime Prevention

- Know your p-patch's address
- Know your garden's neighbors. Encourage the neighbors to keep an eye on the garden.
- Use Signage to let people know what you can and can't do at the site.

- Community Actions: Neighborhood Block Watch and other community safety groups in your neighborhood, group events, etc.
- Use the space more often as a group, positive group activities go a long way in discouraging unwanted behavior.
- Create a presence in the garden throughout the day, not just at predictable times of the day.
- Communicate with your fellow gardeners in positive and beneficial ways.
- Make the Police aware of incidents that occur in your garden. Call the Seattle Police Department (SPD): 911 in progress emergencies.
- For repeated problems call the Community Police Team officer. **West** Precinct: 684-8917, **North** Precinct: 684-0850, **South West** Precinct: 733-9800, **East** Precinct: 684-4300, **South** Precinct: 386-1850.
- Report any incidents to the P-Patch office.

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How to File a Police Report
When a crime has happened at the P-Patch, please file a report with the police. This will help the police be more aware of illegal activities in the garden. Follow these instructions to file a police report. These instructions are for non-emergency situations. If you witness a crime happening or if you are in danger, call 911

By Phone: Call (206) 625-5011.

- You'll hear a list of options. Press 2.
- You'll hear a second list of options. Press 8.
- Someone will answer and take the report. If their office is too busy to talk to you right away, they will proceed as follows:
  The police will ask for a contact phone number and will call that number. They need to speak directly to the person reporting the crime. They will try to contact you twice that day. They will not leave a message. If they fail to reach you they will not file a report. You can call back and start the process the next day or so if you miss their call.

Online:
http://www.seattle.gov/police/report/default.htm

Design Plays a Role in Crime Prevention
Crime Prevention Though Environmental Design (CEPTED): CEPTED looks at an entire area to identify areas or elements that may have the potential to attract crime. Check with your Community Police Team to see if someone is available to walk the site with you to get ideas on how to make the garden design safer. Some CEPTED design principles to think about in the p-patch are:

•**Landscaping** – Generally uniformly shaped sites are safer than irregularly shaped sites because there are less hiding places. Plants should follow the 3-8 rule of thumb; hedges no higher than 3 feet, and tree canopies starting no lower than 8 feet. This should is especially important around entryways and windows.
•**Fencing** – Fences should allow people to see in. Even if the fences are built for privacy, they should be of a design that is not too tall and has some visibility.
•**Entrances-**Entrances should have open, uninhibited access and a defined entry point.

Community Police Teams

If your garden is downtown and on parks land: Parks Rangers (206)615-0387. The Park Rangers provide respectful and professional assistance to downtown park users, and ensure compliance with laws and the Parks Code through education and enforcement. **Community Police Teams:** Check with your local precict and invite them to talk and visit your garden. Keep them informed and ask them to do patrols.

Behavior-Code of Conduct

If you witness any illegal activity in the p-patch, such as:

- Defacing, destroying, or otherwise vandalizing P-Patches, including garden beds and plants, fixtures, signs, or other structures;
- Theft of produce, plants, or any other P-Patch property;
- Sexual misconduct, such as indecent exposure, offensive touching, sexual harassment, or prostitution;
- Possession, sale, or use of illegal drugs;
- Possession or use of illegal fireworks, firecrackers or any other explosive or incendiary device;
- Possession of firearms or dangerous weapons, except as specifically provided by law.

CALL 911

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Theft

You worked so hard to grow your garden, but somebody keeps poaching your vegetables before you can donate them or use them yourself! This is a common challenge facing community gardens. While there are no fail-safe solutions, here are a few good strategies to reduce unwanted harvesting:

- **Signage** is especially effective-include ways for them to get involved.
- **Community Beds**-consider adding an area in shared beds for community picking.
- **Involve your neighbors** in the garden-try an open house, produce giveaway, or neighborhood invited work day. P-Patch staff can draft you a letter to take to neighbors, distribute in a 2-block radius. You can also send notice to neighborhood blog.
- **Keep things tidy and promptly harvest produce-**don't let produce go unpicked, initiate a gleaning protocol for your garden.
- **Plant things people don't want to pick-**Less familiar plant varieties such as rhubarb or unusual tomatoes can be less attractive to sneaky pickers.
- **Make it Hard to Pick Produce**
    - Limit paths from inside plots.
    - Wrap chicken wire around valuable plants.
    - Tie Reemay fabric around & over plants to hide them
    - Cover pumpkins w/ burlap as they ripen to orange.
    - Grow barrier plants in front of produce/on edge of plot.
- **Report on-going or systematic theft** to the police and the p-patch program.

Un-Wanted Items

There are three levels at which P-Patch's can encounter unwanted items left in the garden. This is an attempt to help you navigate what you need to do and what resources are available to help. We can only provide so much detail here, if you end up with an exceptionally complicated situation, work directly with your p-patch staff person.

Garbage/Illegal Dumping

Garbage may be thrown away. If you need help removing larger items check on illegal dumping.
What is illegal dumping? It is considered illegal dumping when any junk, garbage (in present condition doesn't have apparent utility) or debris is left on public property—including roadsides, open streets, and paved alleys. The items most commonly reported are TVs and computers; furniture; paints, solvents and other potentially hazardous liquids; tires; garbage, yard waste, and construction debris. It is not illegal dumping if a gardener has left items behind, that responsibility falls on the garden.

Report Illegal dumping:
To report problems on public property, use the Illegal Dumping Report Form, or call (206) 684-7587. If you see a dumping in process call 911.

Graffiti

- **Materials & Surfaces-**use ones that make graffiti difficult: apply clear coat finish to protect painted & unpainted surfaces.
- **Create a barrier-**green open flat surfaces with plants
- **Remove promptly-**whenever it occurs you should remove it right away.

To report graffiti or illegal dumping, call the City's Graffiti Report Line at (206) 684-7587 or use the **Online Report Form**.

Feces Removal: This sometimes happens at gardens. Use protective measures when handling with the material.

- Test soil after removal
- Do not eat any vegetables directly in contact and around feces
- Always remember to wash food grown in a P-Patch Community Garden

Removal
Step 1: Pour water:bleach (10:1) on feces to kill germs. Leave on for few minutes.
Step 2: Shovel feces and double bag and place in trash
Step 3: Clean shovel with same bleach and water formula as above.
Condoms: Use gloves to dispose of

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Syringe/Needle Disposal:

As public open space, gardens can sometimes be used for drug use in many forms. Gardens often do find needles, we want you to be alert to the fact that this can happen.

- Always watch where you are putting your hands
- If you find a syringe or needle follow this procedure
  - ◊ Do not pick it up with bare hands
  - ◊ Use gloves and tongs, shovel, or some other device to pick it up.
  - ◊ Place in the sharps container in your shed
- Once your gardens sharps container is full follow this procedure
  - ◊ No syringes/needles can be disposed of directly in the garbage.
  - ◊ Sharps Containers must be taken to the north or south transfer stations and placed in the special collection bins. It is free. If you can't transport talk to your P-Patch staff person.
  - ◊ Alert your P-Patch staff person that you need another container.
  - ◊ Repeat

Personal Items

We want gardeners to move forward from a compassionate place. Assess whether items are of personal use. Be mindful of survival gear, such as: tents, blankets, medicine, eyeglasses, crutches & wheelchairs, stoves, pots, pans, dishes, and lanterns. Be mindful of things of personal importance, such as: cameras, photos, radios, jewelry, electronics, items w/contact info.

What to do if you think they are items of personal use?

1. Alert your p-patch staff of problem
2. Photograph ALL property (whether deemed personal or garbage) to be sent to the garbage or being collected.
3. Sign items: *Notice & Order to Remove Personal Property signs* are available from p-patch staff. The sign will give a date when items will be removed.
4. Items are presumed abandoned if a reasonable person would not allow the property to be there unattended for the length of time the property has been there.
5. If items remain are still there at given date and do not appear abandoned you will need to work with p-patch staff to remove and store items for a period of time. P-Patch staff will remove items and place recovery signs where items were. Personal items are stored for a period of 60 days, after 60 days items are disposed of.

Illegal Camping

Illegal Camping or taking up residency in the garden? Encampments are defined as 1 or more tents.

Gardens on Parks & Recreation land:
If your garden is on parks land there is a no camping ordinance 18.12.250 Camping. It is unlawful to camp in any park except at places set aside and posted for such purposes by the Parks Superintendent. Garden should alert staff and work with parks staff to resolve.

For gardens on non-park property, **if an permanent Encampment is present you should follow these procedures:** *a sub administrative rule and procedure, "unauthorized camping policy" related to procedures on public property. It is geared toward major encampment's* To report an encampment, call the City's Customer Service Bureau at (206) 684-CITY or use the CSB **Service Request Form**. Notify your p-patch staff person right away.

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Tool Safety

Remember to make sure everyone knows how to use tools in the garden safely.

- *Place shovels, forks, rakes facedown.*
- *Never put down a sharp tool where a child can pick it up.*
- *Wear gloves and watch for glass, needles and other sharp objects as you weed.*
- *The shed has a basic First Aid Kit.*

Animals

For life threatening situations call 911. For other things such as: vicious or biting, injured, found, loose animals or to report cruelty and neglect call Animal Control at 206-386-4254.

Pocket Guide to Useful Phone Numbers in Seattle	
911	When witnessing ANY **suspicious, threatening or criminal activity**
625-5011	Report any **NON-EMERGENCY** concern to the Police
684-CITY	Customer Service Bureau
255-8325	On-duty cell phone for the **Parks Safety Office**
684-7587	To report any **graffiti or illegal dumps**
684-7250	To report any **graffiti on Park property**
684-8763	To report **ABANDONED cars** to Parking Enforcement
684-8660	To contact Police Vice Unit about **PROSTITUTION**
684-5797	To contact Police Narcotics about **DRUG ACTIVITY**
All numbers are area code 206	

Pocket Guide to Useful Phone Numbers in Seattle	
386-1850	To contact Seattle Police **South Precinct**
684-4300	To contact Seattle Police **East Precinct**
684-8917	To contact Seattle Police **West Precinct**
684-0850	To contact Seattle Police **North Precinct**
386-7387	To report injured/stray/dangerous animals or animal cruelty to **Animal Control** (complaint line)
386-4258	**Animal Control** (back line)
461-3222 or 866-427-4747	To contact **24-hr Crisis Clinic** for help with any problem (homeless shelters, domestic violence, child abuse, mental illness, depression, drug abuse, alcoholism, etc.)
All numbers are area code 206	

Seattle Neighborhood Group-*prevent crime and build community through partnerships with residents, businesses, law enforcement and other organizations*-**Call: 206-323-9666 E-mail: info@sngi.org Subject: Crime prevention presentation**

Additional Resources

CEPTED: http://www.seattle.gov/police/prevention/Neighborhood/CPTED.htm

Theft ideas:
ACGA Theft and Vandalism
Denver's Tips
Link to our Handbook

Community Police Teams: http://www.seattle.gov/spd/community/default.htm

P-Patch program's *Code of Conduct*
ENCAMPMENTS
http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/dr_MDAR%2008-01.pdf
Parks Directors Rules
http://web1.seattle.gov/dpd/dirrulesviewer/

SPD Graffiti and Vandalism Webpage: **http://www.seattle.gov/police/prevention/graffiti.htm**

Homeless Emergency and other Resources:
If you are a homeless person needing assistance, please contact the 211 Community Information Line by dialing 211 or 1-800-621-4636. **http://www.scn.org/crisis/homeless.html**
http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/partners.htm
http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/emergencyservices/
Storage Lockers: 1015 Republican at Terry, lockers are open weekday mornings 6:30am-8:30am and weekend mornings 7:00am-9am. Day and long-term storage are both available. Call 623-0390
WHEEL– is a women's group that works on problems of homelessness affecting women. Offices are located at Josephinum at 1902 2nd Ave, 2nd floor. Women only weekly meetings with lunch is at noon on Wednesdays, check with WHEEL for location it moves around. 206-956-0334
SHARE/WHEEL Shelters-Information about shelters are best found by coming to a screening call SHARE at 206-283-6070 ask for a "logistics coordinator" operator can not answer questions

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