

# SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

# P-PATCH COMMUNITY

# GARDENING PROGRAM

*The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is made up of community managed open spaces in Seattle neighborhoods. Gardeners, individually and collectively, use small plots of land to grow organic food, flowers, fruits, and herbs.*

*The gardens are open to the public to enjoy. Each garden is unique, and their amenities may include picnic areas, benches, art, flower gardens, educational signage, sustainability demonstrations, and childrens' gardens.*

## PROGRAM DETAILS

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is managed by Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. As of December 2015, there are 88 P-Patch community gardens, 3098 plots, and 6800 gardeners.



P-Patch gardens have a diverse history and serve diverse needs. The first garden, Picardo Farm, was created in 1973 by a group of community residents and the city of Seattle. Since then, gardens have rapidly grown and continue to do so. Gardens are built on public property owned by various city departments and other public and private owners. Gardens range from small to large, and cooperative style (shared plots) to large-tract market gardens (food grown by low-income farmers to sell).



## FUN FACTS

*Oldest Site:* Picardo (2.5 acres)

*Largest Site:* Thistle (3+acres)

*# of Sites with Accessible Raised Beds:* 18

*Newest Site:* Horiuchi Park

*Smallest Site:* IdaMia (700 square feet)

*# of Market Gardens:* 3



## P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

# Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

## P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

### MORE PROGRAM FACTS

#### SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to our staff's work, P-Patch community gardens thrive through the dedication of many organizations and the gardeners themselves.

- Solid Ground's Lettuce Link.
- GROW.
- Seattle Tilth.
- Seattle Housing Authority.
- 6800+ gardeners who volunteer 42,000 hours annually.



#### P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS IN DEMAND

Because demand is high, staff works to grow capacity, as well as support other community gardening efforts:

- 1,000+ people on Interest List (as of December 2015).
- Waiting time for individual gardens is between 3 months and 5 years.
- Annual turnover across entire program averages 30%.

#### PROGRAMS FOR LOW-INCOME AND UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS

One of our core values is support to low-income and underrepresented populations. One example is the Market Garden Program. Low-income and immigrant families living in South Park and Seattle Housing Authority properties garden and sell their produce to local residents. In 2015, 12 gardeners representing seven cultures collaborated to provide produce for a variety of venues: farm stands, senior centers, and through community-supported agriculture (CSA).

The program also provides financial assistance. In 2015, more than 400 families from 68 P-Patch gardens received assistance.

#### Garden Fees

Garden plots run in different sizes:

10' x 10' – \$40

10' x 20' – \$53

10' x 40' – \$79

Financial assistance is available for those who can't afford plot fees.

In addition to the annual fee, eight hours of volunteer time are required to maintain public areas of the P-Patch.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

**P-Patch Community Gardening Program  
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**

**Phone: (206) 684-0264**

**Email: [p-patch.don@seattle.gov](mailto:p-patch.don@seattle.gov)**

**Web: [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/)**

#### GARDENERS SUPPORT FOOD BANKS

- 58 gardens have gleaning programs or a designated "giving garden" plot in which the food is grown for food banks and hot meal programs.
- Gardeners donated more than 40,000 pounds of produce in 2014.

