

# P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

## GARDEN SPACE MONITORING

To help ensure a healthy and productive garden, the P-Patch Program has developed the following protocol for monitoring garden spaces. It describes the various roles involved and the means of enforcement.

### Garden Maintenance

P-Patch Program participants must actively maintain their assigned garden space throughout the year. Garden space is defined as a garden plot and the pathway that surrounds that plot.

Untended garden spaces can create problems like the spread of weeds to surrounding gardens, attracting pests, and harboring plant disease. Untended garden space can also create safety hazards and lower the morale of other gardeners and of neighbors.

### Garden Monitors

Each P-Patch will establish one or more monitor(s). This is one person, or a group of people, who agree to regularly observe all assigned garden spaces and to contact gardeners who are not in compliance with requirements. If a garden does not have garden monitor(s) in place, P-Patch Program staff will fulfill this role until a monitor is available.

### Standards

Garden monitors will assess garden spaces as follows:

- Garden spaces may contain a broad range of gardening styles that reflect the diversity of people's knowledge, skill levels, interests, cultures, and reasons for gardening.
- Garden spaces must follow "Rules for P-Patch Participants". Garden spaces may not contain any plants from "Class A" of the King County Noxious Weed List.
- Certain plants must be controlled or removed from P-Patch garden spaces. Please see the "P-Patch Invasive Plant Guidelines".
- Plants must not spread into neighboring garden spaces, pathways, or common areas.

### When an Assigned Garden Space is Not Maintained

#### Step One: Monitor(s) Make Initial Contact

Monitor(s) will contact the gardener via phone, e-mail, or in person. The Monitor(s) will describe what they have observed happening in the plot, offer suggestions on how to address the maintenance issues, and discuss what resources are available to the gardener. The Monitor(s) will specify a deadline of at least two weeks for the assigned garden space to be compliant. *(continued on next page)*



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### **When an Assigned Garden Space is Not Maintained** *(continued)*

#### **Step Two: P-Patch Staff Make Contact**

If the deadline from Step One has passed and the garden space remains unmaintained, the Monitor(s) will contact the P-Patch office to initiate staff action. The Monitor(s) must provide the P-Patch staff with documentation of their previous contact(s) with the gardener. The P-Patch staff will send the gardener an official notice via mail, phone or e-mail. They will identify the specific assigned garden space maintenance issues and will specify a deadline of at least two weeks for the assigned garden space to be compliant.

#### **Step Three: Written Notice of Plot Re-Assignment**

If the assigned garden space is not fully maintained by the deadline established in Step Two, P-Patch staff will send an official written notice through the regular mail to the plot holder explaining that their plot is being re-assigned to a gardener from the interest list.

*The P-Patch Program may grant exceptions to the above protocol in the case of personal hardship. Please contact your P-Patch Staff.*

**P-Patch Program**  
**(206) 684-0264**  
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