

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

INFORMATION SHEET

I. OVERVIEW

Community Gardening Definition

Community garden is fundamentally a community building activity bringing neighbors together to steward (plan, plant, and maintain) open space in their neighborhood. Traditionally community gardens in Seattle include individual plots for which community members pay a small fee, while common areas in the garden are maintained by all plot holders. All maintenance is done by the gardeners.

National Context

Community gardening is a nationwide movement—most major metropolitan areas host community gardens. Seattle is recognized as a leader and is one of the largest.

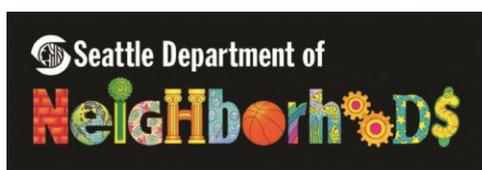
- Three management models—gardener organized, non-profit managed, municipally managed. Seattle is municipally managed but also relies on gardeners and the non-profit, P-Patch Trust. Research has shown that governmental support over the long term helps sustain community gardens. (Lawson, Laura, City Bountiful, A Century of Community Gardening in America, 2005)
- Two organizational types – allotment style, where gardeners pay a fee for a plot, and collective gardening.

What is a P-Patch?

P-Patch is the name given to community gardens in Seattle that are managed by Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch Program. Members practice organic gardening techniques and plant a mix of food crops, flowers, herbs, fruiting bushes & trees.

Basic Program Statistics

- 41 years old
- 85 P-Patches operating, 5 sites in active design/development, and 3 market gardens
- Approximately 31 Acres
- 2850 households have plots
- More than half of P-Patch community gardens are located in Southeast, Southwest and Central
- Program Areas
 - *Community Gardens* – 50 neighborhood-based community gardens
 - *Food security* -- 20 gardens focused largely on low income and immigrant communities; 38 food bank gardens and other giving opportunities
 - *Youth Gardening*—30 plots focused on youth 2014. The gardens are managed by neighborhood groups, gardeners, schools, daycares and afterschool programs
 - *Market Gardening* -- 3 market gardens offer low income people supplemental income and opportunities to connect with the larger community
- Staff- Community Garden Coordinators-6 fte



**P-PATCH COMMUNITY
GARDENING PROGRAM**

Supporting legislation

- Ordinances
 - 104475 --Purchase Picardo for the "... City's Community Garden Program ("P-Patch" Program)..."
 - 117100--\$650,000 for P-Patches city-wide (used for Thomas St)
 - 2008 Parks and Open Space Levy authorizes 2 million for the development of P-Patches and community gardens
- Resolutions
 - 28610—Council Mayor resolution to, among other things, promote "cooperation among such agencies as Parks...for community gardening".
 - 30194 –Adopting the P-Patch Program 2000-2005 Strategic Plan

Public Access:

- All community gardens are open to the public and have a combination of community spaces that offer passive and active educational opportunities, these include:
 - perennial and demonstration areas,
 - orchards,
 - wildlife habitat and native planting areas,
 - food bank "giving" gardens,
 - honey bees,
 - space for public events and education

Active Partners:

- GROW (12 Board Members)
- Community Gardeners (more than 6000 gardeners)
 - 32,690 community hours logged in 2012 (equivalent to 15.7 full-time staff) valued at \$653,800 (\$20 hour)
- Seattle Housing Authority
- Lettuce Link

II. GARDEN MANAGEMENT

Staff Roles

- plot assignment, registration and collection of plot fees
- waiting list management
- property liaison, leasing, and interdepartmental facilitation
- connecting people and resources
- outreach
- conflict resolution
- leadership development
- garden development
- communication

Annual Agreement with Gardeners

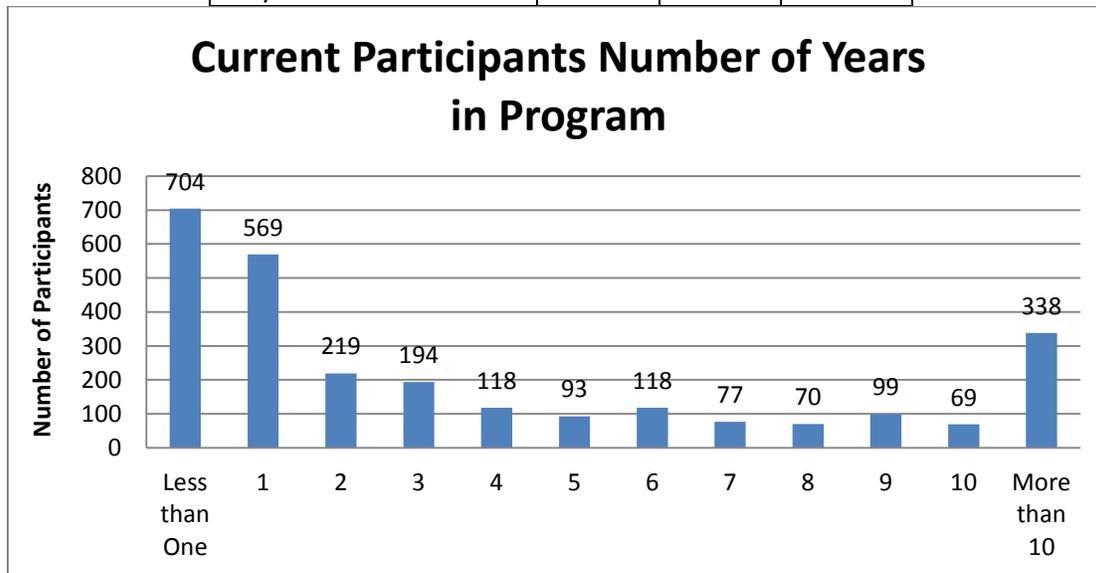
- Plot fee \$26 plus \$12 for each 100 sf. Plot fee assistance provided \$20,500 to 336 families in 68 P-Patches
- 8 community hours
- Organic year round plot utilization

Plot Turnover and Assignment –

- Volunteer leadership work with Staff to assess plot use and compliance of requirements. 986 plots turned over in 2013 (includes new garden openings).
- ***P-Patch community gardens are limited to Seattle Residents:***

- Currently only 7 of the current 2650 gardeners live outside the city and are grandfathered in.
- Staff waitlist and plot registration ensures that new gardeners are Seattle residents.
- Staff uses [guidelines](#) to manage plot assignment. Tools include:
 - Interest list
 - Balance for neighborhood representation
- Plot Turnover—Goal: Retain experienced gardeners while creating open opportunity for new ones

Number of Gardeners and years in P-Patch	2013	2011	2010
3 years or less	63%	56%	44%
5 years or less	71%	71%	66%
10 years or less	87%	90%	86%



Interest List Wait Time Statistics for 2013*

Average Wait time -- Number and percentage of P-Patches		
23	33%	Less than one garden season (change from 15 and 28% in 2012)
27	39%	Between one and two garden seasons (18 and 33% in 2012)
11	16%	Between two and three garden seasons (14 and 26% in 2012)
7	13%	Between three and four garden seasons (7 and 13% in 2012)
3	4%	More than four seasons.

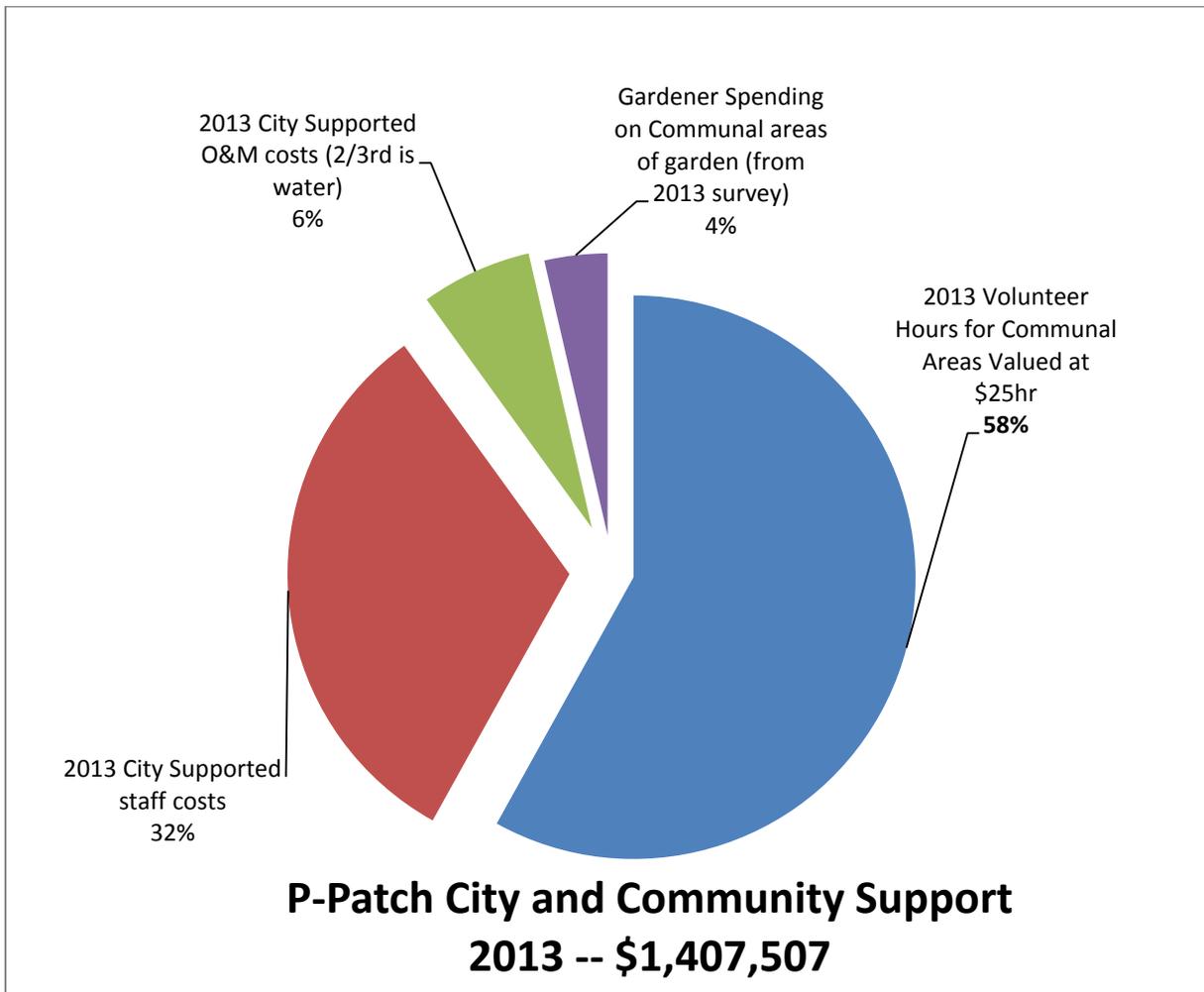
**76 P-Patches have Interest Lists; the rest are P-Patches that are new, market gardened or focused on low income and immigrant populations. 1309 people waiting at end of year 2013.*

• **Plot Sizes**

- Standard plot sizes depend on the wait time and size of a garden. Plot sizes range from 40 square feet to 800.
- Staff and volunteer leaders evaluate demand and have opened additional gardening space at existing P-Patches:

Plot sizes (in square feet)	Number of Gardens	Total Plots
40 -- 50	4	150
60 -- 120	70+	1590
120 -- 200	62	963
250 -- 350	13	39
350 -- 450	10	133
600 -- 700	2	4
800	1	11

- **FINANCES**



III. COMMUNITY BENEFIT -- *P-Patch Community Gardens Give Back*

- **Public Use**

- Gardeners hold community events—e.g. Interbay Plant Sale, Queen Anne Kids Day, Bradner Concert above the City
- Gardeners actively engage the community—P-Patchers report that one to two non-gardeners are always visiting the P-Patch. Gardeners answer questions from the public.

- **Food Bank Donations** – more than 28,637 lbs of produce to food banks and hot meal programs 2013

- 9% of gardeners donate once a week, 40% monthly
- 39 P-Patch community gardens have dedicated “giving gardens”

- **Community Volunteerism**

- In 201, 2345 P-Patch community gardeners contributed 32,690 volunteer hours. Valued at \$25 an hour, this equals a \$817,250 contribution by gardeners to the city. To accomplish the same amount of work by city staff would have required more than 15 full time staff.

- **Stewardship and Investment in Public Land**

- Successful community gardens require long-term investment by organic gardeners in soil, plants and social infrastructure that create the opportunity for public enjoyment and education.
- Long-term stewards are the biggest donors of their time and money. This investment sustains P-Patch community gardens.

- **Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) awards in P-Patches**—More than 90 in 21 years of NMF.

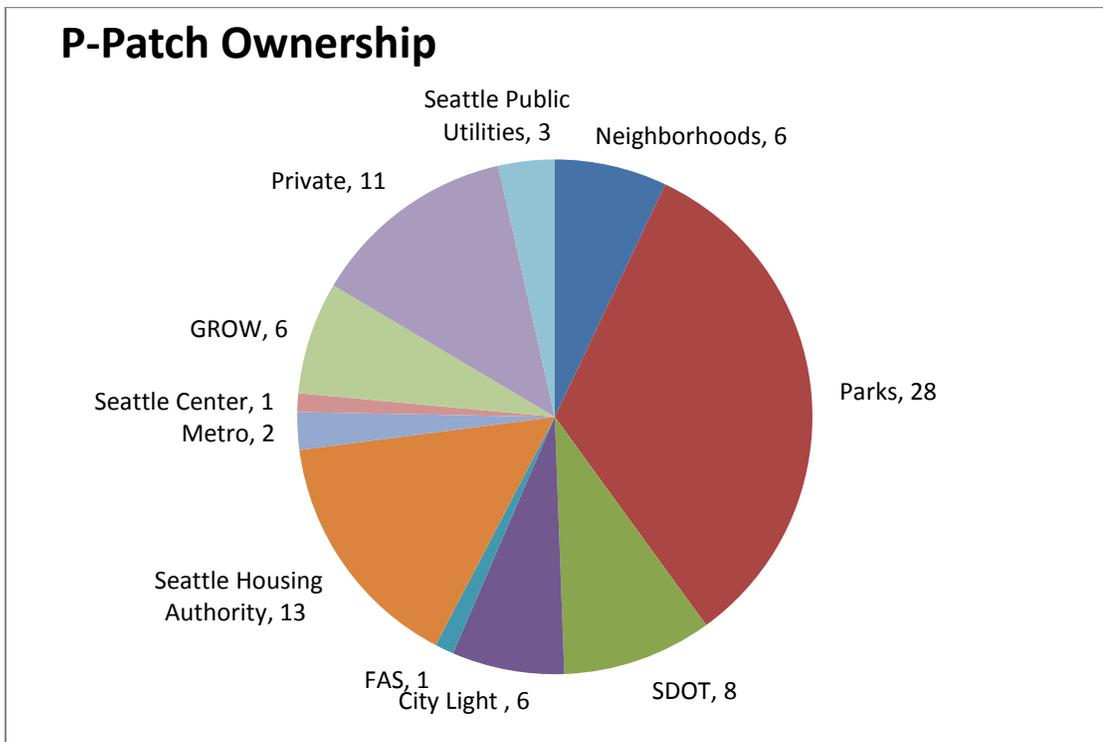
- **Education**

- Long-term gardener’s share and model organic gardening principles through direct education and demonstration.
- P-Patch community gardeners are a source of green innovations; examples include:
 - water collection systems,
 - composting toilets,
 - green building materials,
 - reuse of organic and inorganic materials
 - green roofs

IV. GARDENER DEMOGRAPHIC -- P-Patch Community Gardening Encourages Inclusivity (2010)

- Gardeners: 23% are people of color
- Income: 71% are low income (<80% median income)
- 48% live in multifamily dwellings
- 77% have no gardening space where they live

V. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP



Owner	Build date	Location
Department of Neighborhoods		
Squire Park	1995	14th Ave / E Fir St
Roosevelt	2003	7012 12th Ave NE
Brandon Orchard	2004	47th Ave S / S Brandon
Hawkins Garden	2005	E. Jefferson & MLK
Spring Street	2009	E. Spring and 25th Ave
Barton	2012	34th Ave SW & SW Barton St
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation		
Picardo Farm	1973	2600 NE 82nd St
Colman Park	1974	3098 S Grand St
Delridge (Puget Boulevard)	1974	5078 25th Ave SW
Interbay	1974	15th Ave W / W Armour St
Jackson park	1974	10th Ave NE / NE 133rd St

Owner	Build date	Location
Magnuson	1977	7500 Sandpoint Way
Eastlake (Fairview Park)	1981	2900 Fairview Ave E
Good Shepherd (Meridian Park)	1981	4698 Bagley Ave N
Bradner Park Gardens	1987	29th Ave S / S Grand St
Belltown	1994	Elliott Ave / Vine St
Queen Anne (Wolf Creek Ravine Natural Area)	1994	3rd Ave N / Lynn St
Cascade	1996	Minor Ave N / Thomas St
Thomas St Gardens	1996	1010 E Thomas St
Marra Farm (Marra Desimone Park)	1997	4th Ave S / S Director St
Queen Pea	2002	5th Ave N/ Blaine St
Linden Orchard	2003	Linden Ave N / 67th St
Longfellow Creek	2003	25th Ave SW/ SW Thistle
Thyme Patch	2003	NW 58th St / 28th Ave NW
Lincoln Park Annex (Solstice Park)	2004	7400 Fauntleroy Wy SW
Oxbow	2004	6400 Corson Ave. SW
Maple Leaf	2007	5th Ave NE & NE 103rd
Marra Market	2009	4th Ave S / S Director St
Greenwood Station (Greenwood Park)	2011	Fremont & N 87th St
Howell Collective (7 Hills Park)	2011	16th Ave & E. Howell
Unpaving Paradise	2011	E. John St & Summit Ave E
Kirke Park (levy)	2012	728 9th Ave NW
John C. Little* (levy)	2013	37th Ave S/ S Willow
Westcrest (levy)	2013	SW Henderson & 8th Ave SW
Seattle Department of Transportation		
Ravenna	1981	5200 Ravenna Ave NE
Estelle	1990	3400 Rainier Ave S
Phinney Ridge	1991	3rd Ave NW / NW 60th St
Courtland Place	1999	S Spokane St / 36th Ave S
Mad - P	2001	30th Ave E / E Mercer St
Pelican Tea Garden	2001	E Mercer St / 19th Ave E
Beacon Bluff	2002	S Mass St at 15th Ave S
Yesler Terrace Freeway	2005	I-5 / Main
Angel Morgan	2004	42nd Ave. S/ S. Morgan
Seattle City Light		
Evanston	1974	Evanston Ave N / N 102nd St
Snoqualmie	1974	13th Ave S / S Snoqualmie St
Thistle	1974	M L King Jr Wy S / S Cloverdale St
Ferdinand	1982	Columbia Dr S / S Ferdinand St
New Holly Youth & Family Garden	2000	32nd Ave. S/ S Holly Pk Dr
New Holly Power Garden	2003	Holly Park Drive S/ S Myrtle Pl
Seattle Public Utilities		
Magnolia Manor	2013	3500 28th Avenue W
Bitter Lake Reservoir* (levy)	2013	N 143rd & Linden Ave N
Finance and Administrative Services		
Hillside	2001	MLK Jr Wy S / S McClellan St
Seattle Center		
UpGarden	2012	2nd Ave N & Mercer
King County Metro		
University District	1976	8th Ave NE/NE 40th St
Greg's Garden	1999	14th Ave NW / NW 54th St
GROW		
Pinehurst	1976	12th Ave NE / NE 115th St
Judkins	1986	24th Ave S / S Norman St

Owner	Build date	Location
Greenwood	1997	345 NW 88th St
Fremont	1998	N 40th St / Woodland Park Ave N
Hillman City	1994	46th Ave S / S Lucile St
Hazel Heights	2010	Baker Ave NW & NW 42nd St
Private		
Ballard	1976	24th Ave NW / NW 85th St
Republican	1986	20th Ave E / E Republican St
Burke Gilman Gardens	1989	5200 Mithun PL NE
University Heights	1991	5031 University Way NE
Idamia Garden	1994	E Madison St / Lake Washington Bv E
Haller lake	1998	13045 1st Ave NE
Immaculate	1998	18th Ave E / E Columbia St
Climbing Water	2006	Dearborn & Hiawatha
West Genesee	2009	SW Genessee & 42nd Ave SW
Shiga's Garden	2010	5522 University Way
Leo St.	2012	51st Ave S & S Leo
Seattle Housing Authority		
Yesler Terrace Ballpark Garden	1995	8th Ave S / S Washington St
High Point. Juneau Community Garden	1998	32nd Ave SW / SW Juneau St
High Point Juneau Market Garden	1999	32rd Ave SW / SW Juneau St
New Holly 29th Ave Garden	2001	29th Ave S / S Brighton St
New Holly Lucky Garden	2001	Shaffer Ave S / S Holly St
New Holly Rockery Community Garden	2005	Holly Park Dr S & S 40th
New Holly Rockery Market Garden	2005	Holly Park Dr S & S 40th
Rainier Vista Snoqualmie Park Senior Garden	2006	29th Ave S and S Snoqualmie St
Rainier Vista Dakota Park	2008	S Lilac St and Martin Luther King Jr Way S
High Point MacArthur Lane	2009	SW MacArthur Ln & SW Juneau St
High Pont Commons Park	2009	31st Ave SW & SW Raymond St
Lake City	2012	33rd Ave NE & N# 125th
Rainier Vista-New Sunrise	2013	S Genessee & 33 Ave S