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 different and their amenities may include picnic areas, benches, art, flower gardens, educational signage, sustainability demonstrations and children's gardens.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is managed by Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. As of May 2013, there are 85 P-Patch community gardens, 2750 plots, and 6300 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).

Oldest Site: Picardo (2.5 acres)
Largest Site: Thistle (3+acres)
# of Sites with ADA accessible raised beds:18

Newest Site: John C. Little in Southeast Seattle
Smallest Site: Pelican Tea Collective
# of Market Gardens: 3

NEW GARDENS OPENING

With $2 million from the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy, P-Patch community gardens are growing. In partnership with community volunteers, the program leveraged its original funding for four gardens to 22 new or expanded gardens. And with the recommendation of the Levy Oversight Committee, savings from the Levy will fund five additional projects in 2013. These projects will include urban agriculture and community garden opportunities.

Community members also work to develop gardens on their own with support from the P-Patch staff and Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund.

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

CELEBRATE 40 YEARS

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 through the gardeners themselves.

- 6300+ gardeners volunteer more than 28,000 hours annually (equivalent to 13.5 full-time staff).
- P-Patch Trust.
- Solid Ground's Lettuce Link.
- Seattle Tilth.
- Seattle Housing Authority.

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS IN DEMAND

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

- 1,000+ people on Interest List (as of December 2012).
- Waiting time is between 3 months and 4 years.
- Annual turnover across whole program averages 22%.

PROGRAMS FOR LOW-INCOME AND UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS

A core value of the P-Patch Program is to support low-income and underrepresented populations. For example, through 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 2012, 23 gardeners representing 9 cultures collaborated to provide produce for a variety of venues: farm stands, senior centers, and in community-supported agriculture (CSA).

Garden Fees

Garden plots run in different sizes:
10 x 10 – $38
10 x 20 – $50
10 x 40 – $74
Financial assistance is available for those who can't afford plot fees.

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

GARDENERS SUPPORT FOOD BANKS

- 40% of gardeners donate at least once a month.
- Many gardens have a designated "giving garden" plot in which the food is grown for food banks and hot meal programs.
- Gardeners donated more than 26,248 pounds of produce in 2012.

GARDENERS ARE DIVERSE

In 2010: 70% were low income.
27% were people of color.
46% live in apartments.
73% had no gardening space where they live.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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