

DON

Director's Rule 2-2025

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| Agency: City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods | Page 1 of 2 | Supersedes: N/A |
| | Publication: December 22, 2025 | Effective: For 2025-2026 plot fees |
| Subject: Setting Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch plot fees for the 2025-2026 gardening season. | Code and Section Reference: SMC 3.35.060 | |
| | Type of Rule: Code Implementation | |
| | Ordinance Authority: SMC 3.35.060 | |
| Index: Neighborhoods, P-Patch plot fees, SMC Section 3.35.060 | Approved Date | |
| | Jenifer Chao, Director Department of Neighborhoods | |

BACKGROUND

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Section 3.35.060 authorizes the Director of the Department of Neighborhoods to adjust P-Patch plot fees for inflation approximately in proportion to the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), All Urban Consumers, every two years and to increase fees by up to 5% to accommodate increased operational costs. The next scheduled adjustment will apply to *2025 and 2026. Plot fees include an application fee, which applies to any size plot, and a base permit fee for each standard unit of a plot. A standard unit generally equals approximately one hundred (100) square feet. For 2023 and 2024, the application fee was \$36.00, and the base permit fee was \$17.00.

To calculate the new 2025-2026 plot fees, 2023-2024 fees increased by 21.2%, which was the combined CPI adjustment for the Seattle area from 2021-2024 as the last adjustment was using CPI through 2021. With inflation rates continuing to be exceptionally high over the past few years impacting the economic health of thousands of Seattle households, the Director of the Department of Neighborhoods will not apply an operational cost adjustment for the 2025-2026 biennium.

As a result, the *2025-2026 application fee will be \$44.00, and the base permit fee will be \$21.00. The expected additional revenue effect of this plot fee increase is approximately \$5,000 per year.

METHODOLOGY

Plot fees for 2025-2026 were calculated by increasing 2023-2024 application and permit fees by the combined CPI adjustment for the Seattle area for 2021–2024-year period for which actual data is available. The combined CPI change for the Seattle area for 2021-2024 was 21.2%. No operational cost adjustment was applied. To calculate 2025-2026 plot fees, the Department of Neighborhoods used the following method:

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| Application Fee | |
| 2023-2024 Application Fee | \$36.00 |
| CPI 2021-2024 | 21.2% |
| | \$9.63 |
| Operational cost adjustment | Not applied |
| | \$0.00 |
| 2025-2026 Application Fee – Rounded Amount | \$44.00 |
| Base Permit Fee | |
| 2023-2024 Base Permit Fee | \$17.00 |
| CPI 2023-2024 | 21.2% |
| | \$3.60 |
| Operational cost adjustment | Not applied |
| | \$0.00 |
| 2025-2026 Base Permit Fee – Rounded Amount | \$21.00 |

RULE

For permits covering all or part of calendar years 2025 or 2026, the application fee under SMC Section 3.35.060 shall be Forty-four Dollars (\$44.00) per year for any size plot and the base permit fee shall be Twenty-one Dollars (\$21.00) per year for each standard unit or any part of a standard unit. The same fees shall apply to later years unless modified by rule or ordinance.

*DON did not implement the Director's Rule for P-Patch Fee Setting for 2025