

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

PLOT ASSIGNMENT

GUIDELINES

Potential gardeners can get plots in new and existing P-Patch Community Gardens. These guidelines explain how the program assign plots.

Value Statement: The P-Patch Community Gardening Program, believes that “community” is the most important word in “community gardening.” Just as a diversity of plants leads to healthy gardens, strong community is built when gardens are inclusive and representative of the neighborhoods in which they are located. We understand that getting involved with the P-Patch Community Gardening Program is not yet equally accessible to all individuals, and we use the following strategic goals to help increase the ability for all members of a community to participate in their P-Patch community garden.

Plot assignments in existing P-Patch Community Gardens happen in the following ways:

When openings occur in P-Patch gardens, staff assign garden participants based on the following criteria:

- 1. Individuals and groups who follow all requirements and program rules, as monitored by staff and garden volunteer leadership, have first option to renew their space annually.** In cases of personal hardship, staff may grant exceptions.
- 2. Individuals and groups who currently have a plot have the option to move within and between P-Patches.**
 - Within P-Patches: the gardener may request to be moved. Staff, along with site leadership, honors requests in order received by P-Patch staff.
 - Between P-Patches: the gardener may request to be transferred to another P-Patch. Staff honor requests based on the gardener’s original Interest List date.
- 3. Individuals and groups who are on P-Patch Interest Lists.** Refer to document, “How Interest List Works” at <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/howwaitlistworks.htm>

The following principles guide staff plot assignment and help the program meet Department goals for inclusion and facilitate community building:

- P-Patches reflect the diversity of their surrounding neighborhood.
- P-Patches have adequate number of gardeners living directly from the surrounding neighborhood.
- P-Patches assist populations underserved by the program. In 2012, these groups immigrants and refugees, children and youth groups up to age 24, people who need to garden in an accessible raised bed and groups that serve seniors.
- P-Patch encourages the dedication of at least one area in each P-Patch to grow food for donation to food banks, hot meal programs or other forms of giving.



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New P-Patch Community Gardens: Plot assignments happen in the following ways:

1. Individuals who help develop the new garden accrue volunteer hours. **The total number of garden development volunteer hours is the principle basis for assigning plots. Only one plot per household is allowed.**
 - Volunteer hours can be earned through a variety of means such as physical labor, organizing, fundraising and administrative tasks for the garden development.
 - Other forms of payment may not be made in lieu of volunteer hours.
 - Volunteer hours towards garden development can be accrued by a potential gardener, family members and/or friends.
2. **In the case of limited garden space, newly opened garden interest lists begin with individuals who contributed volunteer hours for the garden's development, but were not assigned a plot.** Subsequently, regular Interest List procedures apply.

Expanding P-Patch Community Gardens: Plot assignments happen in the following ways:

1. **Individuals who help expand an existing garden accrue volunteer hours. The total number of garden development volunteer hours is the principle basis for assigning plots.** Time spent on the Interest List is accrued at one volunteer hour per year and is included in the total.
 - Volunteer hours can be earned through a variety of means such as physical labor, organizing, fundraising and administrative tasks.
 - Other forms of payment may not be made in lieu of volunteer hours.
 - Volunteer Hours contributed to garden expansion can be accrued by a potential gardener, family members and/or friends.
2. **Once a garden has expanded, the existing Interest List is merged with the list of individuals who contributed volunteer hours for the expansion, but were not assigned a plot due to limited space.** Time spent on the Interest List is accrued at one volunteer hour per year and is included in the total. Subsequently, regular Interest List procedures apply.

P-Patch Plot Size Management—Demand for P-Patch Community Gardening is rising and wait times are increasing in limited areas of the city. Building more gardens and ensuring compliance with the rules are components of creating more gardening opportunities, but more is needed. The P-Patch Program is implementing a number of strategies to address demand and increase plot space equity among community gardeners.

Available gardening plot sizes are unique to each P-Patch.

1. Each garden has a standard plot size (ranging from 40-800sq ft). Plot sizes are based on the overall garden size and average wait time on the interest list.
2. One plot per household is allowed and you can only be at one garden.
3. As plots turn over, plot sizes may be adjusted by staff based on the overall garden size, average wait time on the interest list.
4. In P-Patch community gardens with a variety of plot sizes, larger plots are assigned to gardeners based on need, experience, and demonstrated ability to steward the plot. To be revised in 2013
5. These *plot assignment guidelines* apply to all gardeners beginning on 1/1/2010. Beginning in 2013 P-Patch Program will begin mandatory enforcement of strategies to increase plot space equity throughout the program.