

## RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

### 1) P-Patch Community Work

- a) P-Patch gardeners are required to complete a minimum of 8 hours volunteer work per year (counted November-November; not related to the date of plot assignment).
  - i) The work must happen in the collective areas of the garden (not inside an individual plot).
  - ii) A minimum of 4 of the 8 hours must be completed at the garden where the plot holder gardens. Volunteer hours can also be done outside the garden, as long as the work supports the P-Patch Program.
  - iii) Yearly volunteer hours accrue beginning November 1 and are due by October 31. For new gardeners, hours may be pro-rated for those who are assigned space later in the year. This amount needs to be established with P-Patch staff.
  - iv) It is the plot holder's responsibility to complete and record volunteer hours.
  - v) P-Patch does not accept other forms of payment in lieu of volunteer hours.
  - vi) P-Patch may grant exceptions based on personal hardship and special circumstances. Arrangements need to be made with P-Patch staff.
- b) Secure the communal tool shed and help maintain the shared tools.
- c) Do not take individual action in any common areas without working/communicating with the whole garden.

### 2) Use of Individual Plot Space

#### a) Gardening and Maintenance

- i) Organic methods only. NO synthetic chemicals including; pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, weed killers, and fertilizers.
  - (1) Organic fertilizers are allowed (compost, fish meal, composted manure, lime, etc).
- ii) Year-round gardening and maintenance of the assigned garden space is the plot holder's responsibility. Garden space is defined as a garden plot and the pathway that surrounds that plot.
  - (1) Garden space must be weeded and planted within 2 weeks of plot assignment.
  - (2) Active gardening reflects seasonality (i.e. winterization by October 31, spring weeding and planting, fall cleanup, summer maintenance, harvesting, etc).
  - (3) If vacations or other circumstances prevent the plot holder from caring for the plot space, they must arrange for someone else to care for it in a way consistent with P-Patch standards.
  - (4) Monitoring plot use: P-Patch staff and volunteer site leaders monitor plots throughout the year. When a garden space is untended, the plot holder will be contacted and asked to take care of the space by a certain date. If P-Patch staff contact a plot holder about an untended garden space two times in one year and it becomes untended a third time, staff will reassign the garden space.
- iii) Pathways: Please keep garden pathways inside and adjacent to garden plots safe, level, tidy, clear of weeds, and free of obstacles.
- iv) Do not expand your garden space beyond its designated area.
- v) There is no garbage service.
  - (1) Pack it in; pack it out.
  - (2) Do not pile debris in any garden space; it can create habitat for rodents and be unsafe.

#### b) Plot Turnover

- i) One plot (or maximum allowable square footage for your garden) per household.
- ii) Garden space allowed in only one P-Patch.
- iii) Annual renewal: Plot holders must renew their garden space annually.
- iv) Plot holder cannot give the garden space to others.
  - (1) Co-Gardeners are allowed. However, they can only become the primary plot holder if they have been co-gardening long enough to be assigned a plot from the interest list.
- v) When the plot holder no longer wants the plot:
  - (1) Plot holder must notify and establish a timeline for turnover with a P-Patch staff person.
  - (2) Plot holder needs to leave the garden space in reasonable condition. They must remove all structures and other non-plant materials unless arrangements are made with garden leadership.
- vi) Plot holders are not allowed to permanently work other peoples' plots.

### c) Structures

- i) Fences: The P-Patch Program discourages individual plot fencing. If the plot holder feels there are conditions that warrant an individual fence, the plot holder must adhere to the following criteria:
  - (1) Height for perimeter plot fencing is limited to 3'; exceptions allowed only with P-Patch staff approval.
  - (2) For the safety of gardeners, visitors, and wildlife the fence must be:
    - (a) placed within the perimeter of the plot.
    - (b) securely and safely built, without infringing upon any pathway or neighboring plot.
    - (c) must not pose potential harm to others.
  - (3) You build it, you remove it.
- ii) Locks: Locks, or anything that gives the visual impression of a lock, are not allowed.
- iii) Tires, railroad ties and treated lumber are not allowed.

### d) Plants

- i) Tall plants and trellises that support them must not shade neighboring plots.
- ii) No trees (including fruit) or large shrubs allowed in plots.
- iii) Keep invasive, vining and spreading crops confined to your assigned garden plot. Refer to the P-Patch Program's Guidelines for more information about invasive plants.
- iv) Plot holder must process the plant material generated within their assigned space (compost, bury or remove plant waste).

**e) Water:** Service is turned off near first frost date, remains off for the winter months, and is turned back on in the spring near the last frost date.

- i) Water responsibly (contact the P-Patch office for resources).
- ii) Treat hoses carefully.
- iii) Report leaks.
- iv) Sprinklers & drip systems:
  - (1) Gardener must be present.
  - (2) Must not affect other gardening space.
- v) Never water others' garden spaces without permission.

### 3) Being a Considerate Community Gardener

- a) P-Patches are public spaces. Respectfully welcome visitors to the garden.
- b) Do not take produce from other garden spaces without permission.
- c) Smoking is prohibited in P-Patch gardens.
- d) Loud radios are prohibited.
- e) The sale of produce or flowers is only permitted through the P-Patch Market Garden Program or for a P-Patch fundraiser.
- f) The P-Patch garden cannot be used to conduct personal commerce.
- g) \*Plot holders may not utilize paid labor to perform plot maintenance on an ongoing basis.
- h) Well-mannered, leashed dogs are allowed within your own garden space, unless complaints are received. Please scoop and remove poop.
- i) Closely supervise your children; help them learn respect for gardening and boundaries.
  - i) Children using tools in the garden must be under direct and constant supervision of a parent or responsible adult. "Direct" means to be within sight and voice distance.
- j) Use common courtesy and resolve differences in a neighborly way.
  - i) For problems with fellow gardeners, stay polite and listen carefully. Usually a solution is within reach.
  - ii) Refer to the P-Patch Program Code of Conduct for a list of behaviors prohibited in P-Patch Community Gardens.
  - iii) Refer to the P-Patch Program grievance procedure if you are unable to resolve differences.

For more information on How P-Patch Works: <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/gardening.htm>



**P-PATCH COMMUNITY  
GARDENING PROGRAM**