

# PLOT ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

*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. The City of Seattle’s Race & Social Justice Initiative’s (RSJI) goal is to change the underlying system that creates race-based disparities and to achieve racial equity. In order to align with the RSJI goal, we must dismantle institutional racism that has prevented people of color from fully participating in government programs. We want to increase the participation of people of color underrepresented by the program, specifically individuals who identify as Black or African American, Indigenous/Native, and Latinx or Hispanic.*

Potential gardeners can get plots in new and existing P-Patch Community Gardens. These guidelines explain the number of strategies the program uses to assign plots in P-Patches.

## **The Program assigns plots in existing P-Patch Community Gardens in the following ways:**

- 1. Individuals and group plot holders in good standing\* have first option to renew their plot annually.** In cases of personal hardship, staff may grant exceptions.
- 2. Individuals and group plot holder in good standing\* 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 date order received by P-Patch staff when alternative plots are available.
  - 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. Gardeners who relinquish their plot and want to get back on the Interest List.** Gardeners, who have been in good standing\*, have one year to request reinstatement at their original Interest List date; after which they start at the current date. Gardeners who have not been in good standing, start at the current date.
- 4. The following principles guide plot assignments and help the program meet Department goals for centering racial equity and investing in community building:**
  - P-Patches prioritize populations underserved by the program for plot assignments. These priority groups include individuals who identify as Black or African American, Indigenous/Native, and Latinx or Hispanic, households making 30% or below Seattle area median income, immigrants and refugees, people who need to garden in an accessible raised bed, and groups that serve seniors and children and youth (up to age 24).
  - Anti-Displacement Statement: The P-Patch Program recognizes individuals in our priority groups are experiencing displacement from their neighborhoods due to gentrification. To support our goal of increased participation of

underrepresented communities in P-Patches, gardeners in a priority group who are forced to move out of Seattle can keep their P-Patch plot if they are in good standing\*.

- 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.
5. **Individuals and groups who are on P-Patch Interest Lists\*\***, including their garden preferences, are considered. Refer to document, “How Interest List Works” at <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/howwaitlistworks.htm>

**The Program assigns plots in New & Rebuilt P-Patch Community Gardens** in the following ways:

1. **Individuals who help develop the new garden accrue volunteer hours. The total number of garden development accrued hours is the principle basis for assigning plots. Only one plot can be accrued per household.**
  - Accrued 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 accrued hours.
  - Accrued hours towards garden development can be accrued by a potential gardener, family members and/or friends.
  - In order to meet P-Patch Strategic goals (#3 above), P-Patch may reserve new plots for groups or individuals meeting those goals.
  - For rebuilt gardens, existing gardeners must participate in order to retain gardening space.
2. Once garden space is assigned, the Interest List is merged with the list of individuals who accrued hours but were not assigned a plot. Subsequently, regular Interest List procedures apply.

**The Program assigns plots in Expanding P-Patch Community Gardens** in the following ways:

1. **Individuals who help expand an existing garden accrue volunteer hours. The total number of garden development accrued hours is the principle basis for assigning new 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.
  - In order to meet P-Patch Strategic goals (#3 above) P-Patch may reserve new plots for groups or individuals meeting those goals.

- Time spent on the Interest List is accrued at one hour per year and is included in the total. Subsequently, regular Interest List procedures apply.
2. For gardens only adding garden space, people who already have plots, have option to renew their existing plot.
  3. Once garden space is assigned, the Interest List is merged with the list of individuals who accrued hours but were not assigned a plot. Subsequently, regular Interest List procedures apply.

**P-Patch Plot Size Management** - Available gardening plot sizes are unique to each P-Patch

1. Each P-Patch has a minimum and maximum plot size ranging from 40 sf (square feet) up to 1600 sf. It is based on the total size of the garden and the average Interest List wait time.\*\* In addition, plots offered through special programming may vary from this range due to overall space requirements, such as accessible raised beds and market gardening.
2. At P-Patches with a mix of plot sizes:
  - Gardens may not increase plot size if the average Interest List wait time is more than two years. The criteria for gardeners getting a larger plot will be established.
  - Size of plots (over 100 sf) may adjust annually based on the length of the average Interest List wait time and size of garden.
  - Requests to increase plot size are granted based on the following criteria: availability of larger plots at the P-Patch, the gardener is in good standing\*, and gardener has fully utilized current plot for preceding year.
3. Gardeners are only allowed space at one garden location.

***These guidelines apply to all gardeners.***

*\*A Plot holder in good standing is a gardener who has completed community hours and has had no plot compliance issues during the previous year.*

*\*\*The average Interest List wait time is the amount of time, based on growing seasons that people on the Interest List can expect to wait for a plot. The Interest List is a list by P-Patch Program of community members interesting in having a plot.*

**2020 Income Limits for Priority Placement**

Family Size	30% AMI (Annual Median Income)
1	21,050
2	24,050
3	27,000
4	30,100
5	32,500
6	34,900
7	37,300
8	39,700

From Seattle Office of Housing