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## Director's Rule 3-2022

Agency:  City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods	Page  1 of 2	Supersedes:  N/A
	Publication:  November 29, 2022	Effective:  For 2023-2024 plot fees
Subject:  Setting Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch plot fees for the 2023 and 2024 gardening seasons.	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  11/29/2022
	Sarah Morningstar, Acting 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 2023 and 2024. 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 2021 and 2022, the application fee was \$34.00 and the base permit fee was \$16.00.

To calculate the new 2023-2024 plot fees, 2021-2022 fees were increased by 6.64%, which is the combined CPI adjustment for the Seattle area for 2020 and 2021, the last two years for which actual CPI figures are available. With inflation rates reaching 40-year highs in 2022 and 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 2023-2024 biennium.

As a result, the 2023-2024 application fee will be \$36.00 and the base permit fee will be \$17.00. The expected additional revenue effect of this plot fee increase is approximately \$8,500 per year.

**METHODOLOGY**

Plot fees for 2023-2024 were calculated by increasing 2021-2022 application and permit fees by the combined CPI adjustment for the Seattle area for the most recent two-year period for which actual data is available. The combined CPI change for the Seattle area for 2020-2021 was 6.64%. No operational cost adjustment was applied. To calculate 2023-2024 plot fees, the Department of Neighborhoods used the following method:

<b>Application Fee</b>	
2021-2022 Application Fee	\$34.00
CPI 2020-2021	6.64%
	\$2.26
Operational cost adjustment	Not applied
	\$0.00
<b>2023-2024 Application Fee – Rounded Amount</b>	<b>\$36.00</b>
<b>Base Permit Fee</b>	
2021-2022 Base Permit Fee	\$16.00
CPI 2020-2021	6.64%
	\$1.06
Operational cost adjustment	Not applied
	\$0.00
<b>2023-2024 Base Permit Fee – Rounded Amount</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>

**RULE**

For permits covering all or part of calendar years 2023 or 2024, the application fee under SMC Section 3.35.060 shall be Thirty-Six Dollars (\$36.00) per year for any size plot and the base permit fee shall be Seventeen Dollars (\$17.00) 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.