P-Patch Community Garden Program 50th Anniversary

**Background**

On January 30, Seattle City Council and Mayor Bruce Harrell proclaimed 2023 to be the Year of Community Gardening in honor of the [P-Patch Community Gardening Program’s 50th anniversary](https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/p-patch-gardening/about-the-program/50th-anniversary). Seattle Department of Neighborhoods staff were presented with the formal proclamation at the January 31 meeting of the full Seattle City Council. This milestone will be celebrated by P-Patch community gardeners, City staff, and program partners throughout the year with events, stories, celebrations, improvement projects, and more.

**Newsletter/Blog Copy**

Officially started in 1973, the City of Seattle’s P-Patch Community Gardening Program is celebrating its 50th anniversary all year long with events, stories, celebrations, improvement projects and more. The program is managed by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and is the largest municipally governed community gardening program west of New York.

“An anniversary is a celebration of time passed together, but in truth, our passion for community gardening and its ability to foster health and wellbeing in our neighborhoods transcends time,” said Kenya Fredie, P-Patch Program Supervisor.

The name “P-Patch” commemorates the Picardo family who operated a truck farm in the Wedgwood area in the early twentieth century. In the early 1970s, the family let a neighbor use a portion of their property to start a community garden to grow food for people impacted by the economic recession. The community garden space was initially managed by Puget Consumers Co-op (now PCC Community Markets). The experiment was so successful that the Picardos eventually sold the remainder of the farm to the City of Seattle, becoming the city’s first P-Patch.

Today, the P-Patch Program has grown to serve more than 3,500 households in 91 gardens located in neighborhoods throughout Seattle. True to its origins, the P-Patch program continues to grow food for those in need and focuses on supporting low-income and historically underserved community members. Department of Neighborhoods staff have prioritized achieving racial equity within the program by dismantling the institutional racism and systemic barriers that have prevented people of color from fully participating in the program. In 2022, the P-Patch Community Gardening Program:

* Provided $66,152 in plot fee assistance to 858 low-income gardeners.
* Welcomed 335 new Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income gardeners through its priority placement initiative, representing 46% of all new plot assignments.
* Helped facilitate the donation of 44,403 pounds of organic produce to meal programs and food banks across Seattle through its Giving Gardens program.

“The program has made great strides to break down barriers and make gardening more inclusive and accessible to all, and we are excited to see how it continues to grow and build strong communities in the years to come,” **said Mayor Bruce Harrell.**

To catch all the stories and events celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the P-Patch Community Gardening Program, follow the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SeattleNeighborhoods), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/SeaNeighborhood), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/seattle_neighborhoods/), or visit: [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/p-patch-gardening/about-the-program/50th-anniversary](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/p-patch-gardening/about-the-program/50th-anniversary)

**Press Release**

[frontporch.seattle.gov/2023/02/01/city-of-seattles-p-patch-community-gardening-program-celebrates-50th-anniversary/](https://frontporch.seattle.gov/2023/02/01/city-of-seattles-p-patch-community-gardening-program-celebrates-50th-anniversary/)

**Website**

[www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/p-patch-gardening/about-the-program/50th-anniversary](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/p-patch-gardening/about-the-program/50th-anniversary)

**Social Media Content**

*When posting on social media, be sure to use* ***#ppatch50*** *and tag the Department of Neighborhoods whenever you can.*

Facebook: @SeattleNeighborhoods

Instagram: @seattle\_neighborhoods

Twitter: @SeaNeighborhood

**Photos and Graphics:** [P-Patch 50th Graphics](https://seattlegov.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/r/sites/DON_COMMS_GRP/Shared%20Documents/General/Programs%20%26%20Services/P-Patch/50th%20Anniversary/P-Patch%2050th%20Graphics?csf=1&web=1&e=Hdekiq)

**Social Posts:**

Twitter:

1. Happy 50th Anniversary to @SeaNeighborhood P-Patch Community Garden Program! All year, we will be celebrating with events, stories, projects, and more. Follow #ppatch50 to keep up!
2. Did you know that 2023 is the P-Patch Community Gardening Program's 50th anniversary?! Learn more about the P-Patch program & read community gardener stories at: <https://frontporch.seattle.gov/category/ppatch/> #ppatch50
3. Did you know that Seattle’s P-Patch Community Garden Program is the largest municipally governed community gardening program west of New York? The program serves more than 3,500 households in 90 gardens across the city! Learn more at: <https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/p-patch-gardening> #ppatch50
4. P-Patch community gardens are restorative places and neighborhood gathering spaces! These community networks have fostered relationships and connections since 1973. Happy 50th Anniversary P-Patch! #ppatch50

Facebook/Instagram:

1. Did you know the P-Patch Community Gardening Program is celebrating its 50th anniversary?! This community network of 90 gardens has fostered civic engagement and comradery since 1973! Throughout the year, P-Patch community gardeners, City staff, and program partners will celebrate with events, stories, improvement projects, and more. Follow #ppatch 50 and @SeattleNeighborhoods to keep up with everything that’s growing on!
2. “Although English may not be the tool we can use to speak to one another, gardening has been that universal language. It just demonstrates to me that the garden is the world.” -Marsha Tolon, Burke-Gilman P-Patch

Since 1973, the P-Patch Community Gardening program has brought people together in community. As we celebrate the Year of Community Gardening for the P-Patch’s 50th Anniversary, we are excited to share stories from gardeners across the city and to hear the impact community gardening has had on their lives. #ppatch50

<https://frontporch.seattle.gov/category/ppatch/>

1. The P-Patch program officially started in 1973 but grew out of a larger movement focused on growing food for folks in need. Now, 50 years later, the program continues to support low-income and historically underserved community members through priority placement, financial assistance, and giving programs. #ppatch50 <https://frontporch.seattle.gov/2023/01/25/more-than-44000-pounds-of-produce-donated-to-local-food-banks-and-meal-programs-through-the-p-patch-giving-garden-program/>
2. Did you know that Seattle’s P-Patch Program was named in honor of the Picardo family? The Picardos operated a truck farm in the Wedgwood area in the early twentieth century. During the economic downturn they let a neighbor use a portion of their property to grow food for those experiencing hard times. The experiment was so successful that the family sold what was left of their farm to the City of Seattle which became the first P-Patch Community Garden in 1973.

Learn more about Seattle’s community gardens and events happening around the city to commemorate the P-Patch program’s 50th anniversary. #ppatch50 <https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/p-patch-gardening/about-the-program/50th-anniversary>