

# P-PATCH CODE OF CONDUCT

## RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

### 1) Accommodation

a) Gardeners may make a request for a reasonable accommodation to the P-Patch program based on a disability. For more information please contact P-Patch staff.

### 2) P-Patch Community Work

a) P-Patch gardeners are required to complete a minimum of 8 hours of community work per year (counted November 1-October 31); 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) or for the Salmon Center in general.

ii) A minimum of 4 hours must be completed in the Salmon Center's U-Pick Garden.

iii) Yearly community 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 Community hours.

v) P-Patch does not accept other forms of payment in lieu of Community hours.

vi) P-Patch may grant exceptions based on personal hardship and circumstances. Make arrangements 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.

### 3) 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). See Salmon Center Staff for a list of allowable materials.

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 and or volunteer site leaders 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. All garbage is to be hauled to the dumpster at the North end of the Salmon Center Property. Please see Salmon Center staff if unsure of the location.

(1) Pack it in; pack it out to the dumpster. Do not pile debris in any garden space; it can create habitat for rodents and be unsafe.

#### **b) Plot Turnover**

i) Maximum allowable square footage per household is 400 sf.

ii) 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 become a member of the Salmon Center.

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: 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 Salmon Center 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 plants confined to your assigned garden plot.
- 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 while water is in use.
    - (2) Must not affect other gardening space.
  - v) Never water others' garden spaces without permission.

#### **4) Being a Considerate Community Gardener**

- a)** The Salmon Center P-Patch is a public space. 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 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.

#### **5) Signage**

- a)** Political signage is not allowed in individual or communal areas of any P-Patch Community Gardening Program managed space.

For more information on the Salmon Center Community P-Patch: [www.pnwsalmoncenter.org](http://www.pnwsalmoncenter.org)