

## Bitter Lake P-Patch Annual Report - 2013

Our Bitter Lake P-Patch is the result of *lots* of wonderful volunteer time, expertise and sweat equity. It has taken 16 years for this garden to become a viable place, one in which gardeners create, plant, eat, and donate veggies from their individual plots. During 1997, the Broadview/Haller Neighborhood Plan was formed and the official neighborhood plans were adopted. These plans included our Bitter Lake P-Patch.

Since 2010, 4 years of planning, design and meetings resulted in construction of the P-Patch in the summer, fall and winter of 2012.

In the spring of 2013, 29 garden plots and 4 ADA raised beds were assigned and gardening begin!

Below is a lengthy list of the result of activities during our development period until the spring of 2013. This outreach involved:

- 2 Neighborhood Appreciation Events in collaboration with Broadview Garden Club
- Entry in 3 Greenwood Sea Fair Parades, winning first place for 2 years in the novelty class  
We are famous for our marching tomatoes!
- Planning meetings to recruit potential gardeners and volunteer help, including support and advice from Haller Lake P-Patch, Bob Brooks, and other community activists.
- Volunteers sweat equity (over 2,200 hours):
  - Planning meetings to help with design
  - Moving four 15 foot trees out of the p-patch area
  - Construction and ADA committees:
    - Summer of 2012, Seattle Conservation Corps prepared land and installed gabions, paths and water systems
    - Construction of garden shed (2013)
    - Moving soil to 29 garden plots, spreading chips on upper paths (2013)
    - Feb of 2013 - AmeriCorps, P-Patch office staff spent 2 and 3 days moving soil
    - Recruiting Troop 123 to help with moving soil (2013)
    - 3 Eagle Scout projects inclusive of finishing the shed, installing 4 garden troughs for the ADA raised beds and build and install our kiosk sign (2013)
    - Recruiting Troop 125 Eagle Scout project to build compost bins (2013)
    - Recruiting Seattle Central Community College to build north shed doors (2013)
    - United Way Day of Caring, September 20, 2013, Seattle Times IT Department spread gravel around ADA raised troughs.
    - Total volunteer hours for 2013 was 971.75. Total volunteers: 27 (doesn't include the 2 youth groups.

- April, 2013 – New gardeners meet Kenya Fredie, our Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch Coordinator to learn about rules and regulations of being a gardener and how to volunteer as leaders
- May 1, 2013 – Official assignment of plots and gardening begins!
- Planting, weeding and harvesting blueberries near sidewalk (2013)
- Preparing herb garden east side of P-Patch (2013)
- Weekly harvesting for Greenwood Food Bank – total donated was 381pounds (63% from our Giving Garden and 37% from individuals. One delivery was given to the Greenwood Senior Center meal program (2013).

We feel our first year was *very* successful. Those long hours of moving soil, hauling chips and building our shed have become a blur when we look back on the colorful and tasty vegetables we saw on our kitchen tables, ate off our plates and donated to the food bank. Sometimes, our veggies didn't make it that far. We just stood in our patches and ate them while we picked. Yum! Yum! Yum!

## Photos





Getting tools for working!



Pollination research.



Weeding the paths.





A veggie delight!



Is Nancy really fixing the roof?  
Always smiling!



The shed building crew. Who is that gloved man?



Moving soil and soil and more soil...



Lettuce, chard and beans .



Picking beans. Picking beans. Picked beans.



Installing our kiosk sign.