

# SAFETY IN THE GARDEN

*P-Patch TIPS are reference documents that address topics related to the development and ongoing management of P-Patch Community Gardens.*

Tip

PP504

9/9/20

Community gardens bring neighbors together and are a source of neighborhood pride. Studies show that residents living near gardens and green spaces tend to perceive their neighborhoods as being safer. As a steward of the garden, you are able to enhance neighborhood safety by building community with gardeners and other neighbors, being a positive presence in the area, and paying attention to what is happening around you. This Tip sheet can guide you on working through challenges that present themselves at the garden.

## Personal Safety

Practice personal safety skills and encourage your peers to follow suit. Never jeopardize your safety for a radish, cucumber or zucchini... your safety comes first. The following is a list of suggestions:

- Know the address of your garden.
- Walk through the garden when you arrive to make your presence known.
- Interact with strangers in and around the garden in a positive, inviting and friendly manner. Follow your personal instincts in interacting with people if you do not feel safe.
- Carry your cell phone with you IN the garden.
- Get off the pathway, allow a quick exit if someone is in the garden that is doing illegal activities.
- Keep your car locked at all times.
- Invite a buddy to be in the garden with you if your personal comfort level is challenged. Seek buddies within the garden community as well as invite your personal friends to visit with you in the garden.

## General Crime Prevention

- Know your garden's address
- Know your garden's neighbors. Encourage the neighbors to keep an eye on the garden.
- Use Signage to let people know what you can and can't do at the site.



- Use the space more often as a group, positive group activities go a long way in discouraging unwanted behavior.
- Create a presence in the garden throughout the day, not just at predictable times of the day.
- Communicate with your fellow gardeners in a friendly manner.
- For repeated problems call the Community Police Team officer and/or Crime Prevention Officers and set up a meeting. **West Precinct:** 684-8917, **North Precinct:** 684-0850, **South West Precinct:** 733-9800, **East Precinct:** 684-4300, **South Precinct:** 386-1850. If your garden is downtown and on parks land. The Park Rangers provide respectful and professional assistance to downtown park users, and ensure compliance with laws and the Parks Code through education and enforcement. Parks Rangers (206)615-0387.

## P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING

### Design Plays a Role in Crime Prevention

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED): CPTED looks at an entire area to identify areas or elements that may have the potential to attract crime. Check with your [Community Police Team](#) to see if someone is available to walk the site with you to get ideas on how to make the garden design safer. Some CPTED design principles to think about in the P-Patch are:

- **Landscaping** – Generally, uniformly shaped sites are safer than irregularly shaped sites because there are less hiding places. Plants should follow the 3-8 rule of thumb; hedges no higher than 3 feet, and tree canopies starting no lower than 8 feet. This is especially important around entryways and windows.
- **Fencing** – Fences should allow people to see in. Even if the fences are built for privacy, they should be of a design that is not too tall and has some visibility.
- **Entrances** - Entrances should have open, uninhibited access and a defined entry point.

**You have choices when confronting un-wanted behavior in the garden. If it is not life-threatening, consider the following when deciding your course of action. Read the graphic on the next page, “Steps to Ask Yourself Before Calling The Police” for guidance. Link: [BIT.LY/SafetyBeyondPolice](https://bit.ly/SafetyBeyondPolice)**

### Mediation & Hotlines Resources

**Mental Health Support:** [Crisis Connections 24/7 \(866\)-427-4747](#) Provides immediate help to individuals, families, and friends of people in emotional crisis. We can help you determine if you or your loved one needs professional consultation and we can link you to the appropriate services.

**Homeless Outreach Stabilization and Transition 24/7 206-464-1570 x 3055** Strives to open up a safe space and empower the most vulnerable members of our community significantly impacted by severe and persistent mental illness. They travel throughout Seattle to meet their clients where they're at. HOST case managers provide support, education, and advocacy to people experiencing homelessness.

**Sexual Assault:** [King County Sexual Assault Resource Center 24/7 \(888\)-998-6423](#) is a victim-advocacy organization that provides critical support, tools, and direct services to children, teens, women and men who are victims of sexual assault in the King County area.

**Victim Support Services:** [24/7 1\(888\)-288-9221](#) provides peer support and advocacy for victims of crime. Speak with a trained advocate who can provide assistance with needs resulting from victimization via the number above.

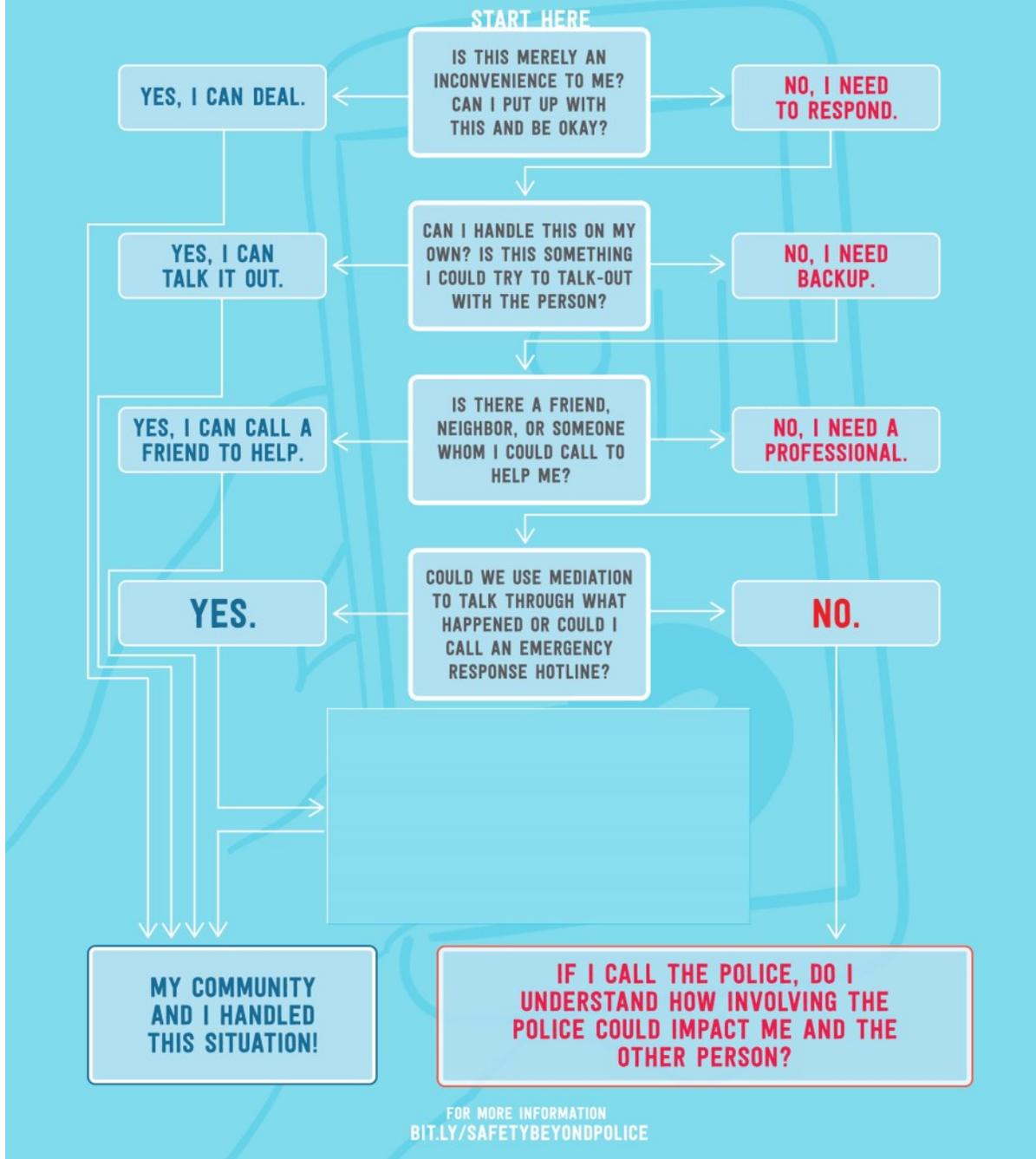
**Police Misconduct:** [File a Police Complaint \(206\)-625-5011](#) If you call, ask to speak with a supervisor. You can initiate misconduct complaints against Seattle Police Department (SPD) officers by calling or filling out an online form. You can also write a letter to the chief of police.

**Domestic Violence:** [Domestic Abuse Women's Network \(DAWN\) 24/7 \(425\) 656-7867](#) DAWN protects men, women and children from domestic abuse, providing shelter, support and empowerment. DAWN offers Community and Legal Advocacy, Mental Health Counseling, and Support Groups for women and children in both English and Spanish. We have a 24 hour advocacy hotline, and are the sole provider of emergency shelter for victims of **domestic violence in the area.**

**Try contacting Crime Prevention Coordinators** with ongoing safety concerns. Information by precinct here: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/crime-prevention/crime-prevention-coordinators>. They provide Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments and can provide other crime prevention tips.

# P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING

## STEPS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE CALLING THE POLICE



## P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING

**Domestic Violence for LGBTQIA+ communities:** Northwest Networks 24/7 (866) 427-4747 Skilled support for survivors of domestic, dating and sexual abuse. All genders welcome. LGBT competent assistance with protection orders, counseling, safety planning, legal advocacy, group support, and individual therapy. Skilled support for survivors of domestic, dating and sexual abuse.

**Involving the Police** If you witness a crime happening or if you are in danger, call 911. If you call 911 for someone experiencing an emergent mental health crisis and it's a public safety issue for themselves or others – call 911 and request the **Health One team**. The Health One Program run by Seattle Fire Department responds to such calls. These are triaged by 9-1-1 operators so be sure to clearly request the Health One team.

**Another resource are the Community Service Officers:** <https://www.seattle.gov/police/community-policing/cso>

Community Service Officers are civilian employees who help residents and businesses involved in non-criminal calls navigate services, engage with communities and neighborhoods, and support programming for at-risk youth.

CSOs focus on the following areas:

1. Patrol Support
2. Equity Building
3. Community Engagement
4. Youth Diversion
5. Education

**Follow these instructions to file a police report.**

**By Phone:** Call (206) 625-5011 or on-line **Online:** <http://www.seattle.gov/police/report/default.htm>

- You'll hear a list of options. Press 2.
- You'll hear a second list of options. Press 8.
- Someone will answer and take the report. If their office is too busy to talk to you right away, they will proceed as follows:

The police will ask for a contact number and will call. They need to speak directly to the person who is reporting the crime. They will try and reach out the same day but will not leave a message and will only try twice. If they don't reach you they will not file a report. You will need to start the process over if you miss their call.

## Garbage/Illegal Dumping

Garbage may be thrown away.

What is illegal dumping? It is considered illegal dumping when any junk, garbage (in present condition doesn't have apparent utility) or debris is left on public property—including roadsides, open streets, and paved alleys.

The items most commonly reported are TVs and computers; furniture; paints, solvents and other potentially hazardous liquids; tires; garbage, yard waste, and construction debris. It is not illegal dumping if a gardener has left items behind—that responsibility falls on the garden.



### Report Illegal dumping

To report problems on public property (other than Parks land), use the [Illegal Dumping Report Form](#), or call (206) 684-7587. If you see a dumping in process call 911. For Parks land call (206) 684 4075.

### Personal Items

We want gardeners to move forward from a compassionate place. Assess whether items are of personal use. Be mindful of survival gear, such as: tents, blankets, medicine, eyeglasses, crutches & wheelchairs, stoves, pots, pans, dishes, and lanterns. Be mindful of things of personal importance, such as: cameras, photos, radios, jewelry, electronics, items w/ contact info.

## What to do if you find feces

This sometimes happens at gardens. Use protective measures when removing feces:

- Do not eat any vegetables directly in contact and around feces
- Always remember to wash food grown in a P-Patch Community Garden

### Removal

**Step 1:** Pour water: bleach (10:1) on feces to kill germs. Leave on for few minutes.

**Step 2:** Shovel feces and double bag and place in trash

**Step 3:** Clean shovel with same bleach and water formula as above.

## P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING

### What to Do if You Find a Used Condom

- Use plastic gloves
- Put it in a plastic bag
- Seal the bag and put it in the garbage
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water

### What to Do if You Find a Syringe or Needle

As public open space, gardeners often find needles, so stay alert and watch where you put your hands.

#### Tips for Picking Up Sharps

The aim is to transfer the needle/syringe into an appropriate container safely to minimize the risk of needle stick injury.

- If you find a used syringe without a needle, carefully inspect the area
- Get gloves and the sharps container from the shed
- If you cannot find a sharps container, alert your P-Patch staff person that you need another container.
- Put on nitrile gloves it is the safest and most controlled way to pick up needles.
- Do not attempt to recap the needle
- Do not break, bend or otherwise try to render the syringe useless.
- Put the needle container on a flat surface
- Pick up the needle/sharp by its shaft (not the needle end) with your gloved hand
- Using one hand, place the sharp, needle end first into the container.
- Don't pick up the container with your free hand in order to do this or ask someone else to hold the container – you could accidentally jab yourself or someone else.
- Do not take the needle to the container, bring the container to the needle
- Close the lid. DO NOT close the lid of the container until the needle is inside.
- Close container, if full follow instructions for disposal, if not full close and put back into shed.
- Remove the gloves by rolling them off your hands so that they become inside-out. That way the outside of the gloves won't touch your skin
- Dispose of the gloves into the garbage
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water

### What to Do if You Get Accidentally Pricked by a Needle

- Try to keep the area downward to promote bleeding
- Don't put the area in your mouth!
- Wash the area thoroughly with soap and warm water
- Go to the nearest medical clinic or hospital immediately

### Tips for Disposing of Sharps



**In the City of Seattle, it is *illegal* to dispose of needles, lancets, and syringes in your regular garbage can or recycling container.**

Sharps drop boxes are available 24 hours a day at the following locations through Seattle Public Utilities:

- Dr. José Rizal Park (1007 12th Ave S, Seattle, 98144)
  - Intersection of Airport Way South and South Holgate Street
  - Intersection of 27th Avenue South and Cheasty Boulevard South (center median)
  - Fremont Canal Park (199 North Canal St, Seattle, WA 98103)
  - Freeway Park (700 Seneca St)
  - Licton Springs Park (9536 Ashworth Ave N, Seattle, 98103)
  - Mineral Springs Park (1500 North 105th St, Seattle, WA 98133)
  - Roxhill Park (2850 SW Roxbury St, Seattle, WA 98126)
  - Westcrest Park (9000 8th Ave SW, Seattle, 98106)
- Bring full sharps containers to the new North Transfer Station (1350 North 34th Street) or the South Transfer Station (130 South Kenyon Street) from 8:00am-5:30pm, 7 days a week. It is free to dispose of one sharps container per trip.

#### Questions on Sharps Disposal?

- Visit <http://www.seattle.gov/util/EnvironmentConservation/OurCity/SharpsCollection/index.htm> or call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 931-5411 or (206) 684-3326

**Sharps are not allowed in the garbage** because they can injure garbage collection workers, residents, and employees who handle the garbage.



## P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING

### Graffiti

- **Materials & Surfaces**-use ones that make graffiti difficult: apply clear coat finish to protect painted & unpainted surfaces.
- **Create a barrier**-green open flat surfaces with plants
- **Remove promptly**-whenever it occurs you should remove it right away.

To report graffiti, call the City's Graffiti Report Line at (206) 684-7587

### Tool Safety

Make sure everyone knows how to use tools in the garden safely.

- Place shovels, forks, rakes facedown.
- Never put down a sharp tool where a child can pick it up.
- Wear gloves and watch for glass, needles and other sharp objects as you weed.
- The shed should have a basic First Aid Kit.

### Animals

For life threatening situations call 911. For other things such as: vicious or biting, injured, found, loose animals or to report cruelty and neglect call Animal Control at 206-386-4254.

### Hazard Trees

There are several visible signs that a tree might be a hazard. They are: root damage, poor crown form, cracked or split bark, dead wood, cankers (areas of missing, sunken, or damaged bark), weak branch attachment or co-dominant leaders, and decay.

Information: [www.organicplantcarellc.com/dangerous-tree-identify-safety-hazards/](http://www.organicplantcarellc.com/dangerous-tree-identify-safety-hazards/)

Here's what to look for to determine whether or not your tree is a hazard. And remember, if in doubt, bring in a Certified Arborist ASAP and follow Seattle Codes related to any tree removal: [http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/permits/permits-we-issue-\(a-z\)/tree-and-vegetation-removal](http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/permits/permits-we-issue-(a-z)/tree-and-vegetation-removal)

### Surveillance Camera Policy

No privately owned and/or operated surveillance cameras may be installed in P-Patch Community Gardens that are managed by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.



### Lighting Options

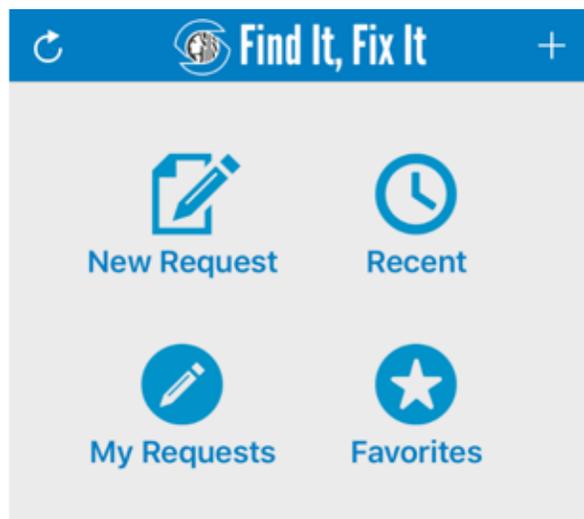
Sometimes gardens would like to explore lighting for the garden in trouble areas. Most gardens do not have electricity and **adding lighting requires public outreach**. If you chose to explore this as an option there are some options available through Seattle City Light

- Garden is responsible for monthly charges
- Street light must be present
- Two-year minimum contract required (after 2 years it goes month to month)
- Arm length from pole is 6', 8' or 10' long

Outreach to all neighboring tenants and property owners is required.



## P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING



### Find It, Fix It Mobile Application

Nuisance and safety issues such as graffiti, overgrown vegetation, and litter are problems that require continuous attention. You and your neighbors can help the City of Seattle maintain your neighborhood by letting us know when a problem arises and doing your part to fix it. Smartphone users on the iOS or Android platforms can report many common concerns such as potholes, graffiti, abandoned cars and more. With the [Find It, Fix It app](#), reporting an issue is as easy as snapping a photo and hitting submit. The map's drag and drop feature, or the phone's GPS technology, can be used to pinpoint the location.

[Download the Find It, Fix It smartphone app](#)

**Don't have a computer or smartphone?** simply call it in to 684-CITY

**For Parks Sites Only: Do you need help with a maintenance issue after regular hours?** Please call the **After Hours Service Line at (206) 684-7250 and press 2** when prompted. Someone will call you back right away

### Emergency, and Other Resources

If you are person experiencing homelessness and need-assistance, please contact the 211 Community Information Line by dialing 211 or 1-800-621-4636.

<http://www.scn.org/crisis/homeless.html>

<http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/partners.htm>

<http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/emergencyservices/>

### HOST/Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC)

Clinical service team that takes to the streets and attempts to provide services and help people get off the streets: <http://www.desc.org/host.html>  
Clinical Services: 216 James Street, Seattle 98104 (206)464-6454, or 206-464-1570

**Storage Lockers:** 1015 Republican at Terry, lockers are open weekday mornings 6:30am-8:30am and weekend mornings 7:00am-9am. Day and long-term storage are both available. Call 623-0390

**WHEEL**— is a women's group that works on homelessness affecting women. Offices are located at Josephinum at 1902 2nd Ave, 2nd floor. Women only weekly meetings with lunch is at noon on Wednesdays, location changes, check with WHEEL. 206-956-0334

**SHARE/WHEEL** Shelters-Information about shelters are best found by coming to a screening call SHARE at 206-283-6070 ask for a "logistics coordinator" operator can not answer questions

**Union Gospel Mission's Search & Rescue Program** [http://www.ugm.org/site/PageServer?pagename=programs\\_sar](http://www.ugm.org/site/PageServer?pagename=programs_sar) you can ask them to add your p-patch to their routine route. Union Gospel Mission is always looking for volunteers to do this work.

**Comfort & Encouragement Project:** similar type of work, [comfortandencouragementproject@gmail.com](mailto:comfortandencouragementproject@gmail.com)