

Friends of Magnolia Manor Park



A Vibrant Community Gathering Place for Magnolia Manor Park

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May-June 2013
Karen Andersen, Editor

Grand Opening Success!

by Susan Casey, Chair, FMMP

After more than three years of planning, Magnolia Manor P-Patch celebrated its Grand Opening on April 14th, joining about 90 other P-Patches in Seattle. Our garden is located on Seattle Public Utilities' property and is an example of the city's policy for co-use of public land.

Our P-Patch was funded from a variety of sources:

- ★ DON Small and Simple Neighborhood Matching Funds Grant
- ★ Funds from the 2008 Parks Levy
- ★ Private donations including \$15,000 from Umpqua Bank

Since January 14, more than 1400 hours of volunteer time was actually used to build the garden during the cold and wet months of January through March. Our volunteers moved over 140 tons of material (think 24 adult male elephants), plus huge cement blocks for the retaining walls. They also installed the irrigation system and built the tool shed. There are almost 45 gardeners now planting their plots. By next Spring 2014, additional plots will be added.

Speakers at the Grand Opening included: Bernie Matsuno, Director of Dept. of Neighborhoods, Christopher Williams, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation; Sally Clark, City Council President, Sharon Knoll, Volunteer Garden Coordinator, and Heather Ussery, Magnolia Umpqua Bank Manager. Alvin Hendricks, a neighbor who lives adjacent to the garden, opened the program with a celebratory song.



Susan Casey, Chair, FMMP and Bernie Matsumo, Director of the Department of Neighborhoods

Interview with Mark Haley Magnolia Manor P-Patch Coordinator

By Sharon Knoll

What makes a great P-Patch is the leadership team that builds a platform for all community talents to be contributed and appreciated. Recently I had the opportunity to ask Mark Haley some questions.

Why did you accept the group's request to be MMPP Coordinator?
I know how busy you are with your other jobs and board obligations?

First of all, I was honored to be asked.

The sense of community in this group is contagious. I want to help promote that sense of community to the larger Magnolia P-Patch family who have recently joined the P-Patch with those who have been around for a while. I like the fact that there are a few people with spouses who have said that once "X" is done, I am turning it over to the wife. Well, "X" got done and I still see those people in the garden, coming to soup time, and visiting with other people. When I was asked to be a steward of this community, I felt honored and it felt right to use my gifts to be that steward.

How would you describe the way the volunteer team worked together since January in the construction phase of the P-Patch?

We experienced stories we now share, and they are good stories. Having the concrete blocks delivered, Sharon and Carla calling me with "How are we going to move these?" Larry, Phil and Dean and a couple others looking at the blocks and *saying* "Well, they won't move themselves." Never having worked together before, *we tackled moving these 600 – 800 pound blocks* Ancient Egyptian style. Once we got to more solid ground, we advanced 4000 years in technology and used power machinery to move the blocks. We were all happy about that.

Building the Shed is another story. We got really lucky having a designer and multiple people who know how to build. It was also fun that the Architect got to rib the contractors and the builders jokingly roll their eyes at the architect. There were a couple of things that had to be fixed. The great thing about those couple of things, is they typically got fixed mid-week by one of the volunteers coming over outside the work party and making it right.

To give a sense of how things went over all, there were a few work parties where there were more people than the immediate tasks called for. Learning that early on a P-Patch project engineer (Sharon) was often ordering and taking material deliveries 2 to 3 weeks sooner than I had anticipated.

We are all very proud of that Shed and I am very proud of how everyone worked together.

How would you describe the P-Patch working together now in our growing phase?

- Trees!

Larry is saving the crab apple. Erik has modeled the sun shadow of where the fruit trees are being proposed. The gardeners adjacent to the trees have come together to share an understanding of what the trees will be and how they will impact each other.

- Boarders:

- ▶ Some plots have taken longer to get going because the plot owners have been helping out their neighbors.

Interview with Mark Haley

(Continued)

- Community Garden areas:
 - ▶ The Giving garden was one of the first to have plants.
 - ▶ Community herb garden has starts in it.
 - ▶ The Blueberry bog is being worked on.

And again, we are building stories and are learning from each other. Michael has straw bales and people are asking questions and adding their own thoughts. Jon and Monica are using juniper and have reached out to the rest of the community to see if others want to join in the order. Barb and Erik decided their plot is ideal for Steppe farming. Sharon is double digging and screening sifting her entire garden. These are stories the community knows and is part of the shared experience which turn strangers into friends, and friends into community.

You have introduced us all to Basecamp. What do you see Basecamp contributing to MMPP?

Basecamp is like the Dingo we used to move the concrete blocks. It is a piece of technology which makes things easier. When we were moving the blocks manually, everyone had to be in the same place doing one task. Once we started using the Dingo, some were prepping for the block, some were setting the blocks, some were moving the blocks and others were back-filling the blocks. We were able to get more done and involve more people moving the blocks.

With Basecamp - the blocks are replaced with information and conversation. The whole community is able to see what is happening, engage in conversation on their own time, plan without having to coordinate schedule, then when it comes to action, things are planned and ready and stuff happens.

Going back to the fruit trees as an example, the concern was put on Basecamp around how the trees would impact individual plots. All the plot owners came together expressing concerns and were able to come together to talk and plan. Erik added an architectural model, showing tree shadows and everyone was able to review the conversation, know what was happening and decide on their level of involvement. Basecamp allows for self organizing groups where those who are interested can participate and drive the projects.

THANK YOU!

- Kelly Fulks and Stacy White orchestrated the complex advance preparation. Kelly's son and husband manned the raffle station.
- Phil Best, Larry Bosi, Kit Hitchcock and Steven Damelio helped with the initial set up installations.
- Maureen Sullivan ran the birdhouse stand sales with assistance from Magi Speepenning.
- Joan and Dean Caldwell took care of the refreshments setup, along with Laura Osterbrock and Monica Wooten.
- Karen Andersen provided the A-board directional signs and prepared the program. Susan Casey and Karen worked on the invitations. Susan also invited our speakers and guests.
- The post clean-up crew included Jeremy Elmore, Martha Golder, Anna Welland and many others! Thank you also to our incredible gardeners and volunteers who showed up on the workdays leading to the Grand Opening so the garden looked as best as it possibly could!

OLA News

By Toni Infeld

The Parks Department has planted six Linden trees and three privet bushes along the north side of the Off Leash Area (OLA), near the shy dog area. We are expecting 'Gator' (Water) bags to be arriving soon. The water bags will help screen the OLA from the neighbors to the north of the park. The privet, especially, will expand and show off its white sweetly scented flowers. The planted buffer to the south of the OLA is looking very spring-like with the daffodils in bloom. You may have noticed that the shrubs we planted in November have begun to leaf out.

We had a very successful work party in the Dog Off Leash Area on Sunday, April 21st (in honor of Earth Day). Eighteen people volunteered over 26 hours of their time to scoop, rake, spread bark, sweep, shovel, move gravel, etc. and enjoyed the sunshine. Yes, there was sunshine (eventually)! Thank you to everyone, young and old, who volunteered. YOU are making Magnolia Manor Park!

Our next Work Party is Saturday May 11th from 10-12 noon. Don't have 2 hours? How about 30 minutes? Or even 15? Can't shovel heavy gravel? Maybe you can help scoop, pick up trash in the rest of the park, or distribute clean bags. We have something for every age, level of activity and time schedule, and are grateful for all the time people donate. Remember, our park is still on probation! How well we take care of the park and respect our neighbors will measure its success.

We've had a great response to our call for our Team of Ten, but could still use a few more to round out our Team of volunteers for the OLA. Please contact Toni at MagnoliaManor@email.com, or go to our website www.MagnoliaManorPark.org and fill out a contact form to volunteer. Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunity to Earn Hours

Gardeners! Are you looking for a little extra time for community gardening to earn your P-Patch or keep the one you have? Get up to 50% of your community credit by working in the rest of the park, including the OLA.

Just show up to the next OLA Work Party on **May 11th**. Sign in on the Parks' volunteer sheet on site, but also record your hours with the P Patch in their Shed so you get credit for your precious time. Thank you!

If you haven't yet read Monica Wooten's article about the P-Patch, here it is:

<http://www.magnolianews.net/main.asp?SectionID=26&SubSectionID=337&ArticleID=34033&TM=42788.87>

Memorial Day BBQ Monday, May 27th, 4 p.m.

A big thank you goes to Deborah and Michael Wade who will be donating a barbecue grill for us. Robert Nash is a chef, and he has offered to grill salmon fillets. Please BYOB and side dishes. Cost is \$10.00 per person, all funds will go to the Magnolia Manor P-Patch. You are welcome to bring guests.

Look for a sign up sheet in the Shed for the block captains to post so we can keep track of what each block will be bringing. Please either bring your own eating utensils, cups or glasses, or if a member wants to bring enough to share for all of us, that would be great too.

If you have any questions, please contact your block captain, or one of our Hospitality Leads, Joan Caldwell (caldwelldj@comcast.net) or Boots Rothgaber (boots_platon@yahoo.com). Bon appetit!

Lettuce Be Thankful

By Katherine Hitchcock and Anna Welland

All About Lettuce Link

One of the things that Lettuce Link does is connect gardeners growing food with people who need food. If you want to dedicate a row as a 'Giving Garden' then Lettuce Link can supply you with vegetable starts to plant in that row. When the vegetables are available for harvest they can pick them up and take them to the needed location. Our responsibility is to grow the food and maintain a record of what is donated, by weight. Last year over 26,000 pounds of produce was donated in Seattle to help our neighbors in need. Lettuce Link is a program of Solid Ground of Seattle.

Heads up!

Contact Mariah Pepper (206) 694-6751, or MariahP@solid-ground.org if you would like to get involved. More about Lettuce Link can be found at: <http://www.solid-ground.org/programs/nutrition/lettuce/Pages/default.aspx>

Deborah and Michael Wade are our Giving Gardening leaders at Magnolia Manor P-Patch. We are very excited to work with them to bring the Magnolia P-Patch into the giving chain and hope you all will consider participating. Look for the 'Giving Garden' sign to see what has been planted.

Some Giving Gardeners in Seattle are starting a new website:

<http://www.SeattleGivingGardenNetwork.com>. There are volunteer opportunities to help create and maintain this website. Contact Amy Ockerlander, who gardens at the Ballard P-Patch, via her email address: acoseattle@speakeasy.org.

Interbay P-Patch

Interbay P-Patch has an active Giving Garden program where dozens of plots are dedicated to growing food for the Food Bank. They meet every Tuesday evening at 5:30 for a work party followed by a potluck dinner. Just show up to volunteer and learn about their Giving Garden programs.

Have Fun and Get Involved!

July 31st - The Picardo P-Patch (the first P-Patch and the one that gave them the name P-Patch) is holding an event at their location. Check out their Facebook page for up-dates and more info: <https://www.facebook.com/picardofarm>.

August 8th-11th - The American Community Garden Association (ACGA), a national association that promotes community gardening and greening across the United States and Canada, is holding its annual meeting in Seattle this year. More information at: <http://www.communitygarden.org>.

August 10th - Members of the Ballard P-Patch announced that they will be holding their annual "Art in the Garden" at their P-Patch on August 10th. The ACGA will be touring that garden while they are in town. More info at: <http://ballardppatch.org/art-in-the-garden/>.

August 31st at Magnuson Park - 7th Annual Blues for Food Fest to support Seattle Giving Gardens, Lettuce Link and more. Website: <http://www.bluesforfoodfest.org>. Anyone wanting to volunteer for the Blues Fest are invited to contact them, or Deb Rock at Interbay P-Patch.

We Love Our Lawton Elementary Artists!

by LuAnn Mitchell

History has been made! Yes, the latest step in a series of “community in action” projects involving the Lawton Elementary 5th grade is now history! On April 16th, 2013 Lawton’s “Art for the Park” artwork was installed on Manor Park’s north fence and has given the once ordinary walk a striking and relevant element. Many, many thanks go to O’Keefe Properties for so graciously allowing us to display the artwork on their fence.

The art project and installment has been in the works for almost 18 months and the former Lawton 5th graders, who now have nearly completed their 6th grade year, made it all possible. Volunteers from Friends of Magnolia Manor Park and Don Rockwell, a local mural artist, presented the artwork idea to the Lawton 5th grade teachers, who enthusiastically welcomed the mission as part of their community service project. Shortly thereafter, the creative vibes were flowing and some very inspired and remarkable artwork was created.

Not only did the children create the artwork, the students and parent volunteers gave up their weekends during the frigid, blustery month of February, to fundraise at the Village Starbucks, QFC and Thriftway, (now Metropolitan Market). Thanks to our exceptionally supportive and generous Magnolia community, the students were able to collect over \$3500 dollars to fund the project. In addition, the hard-working and artistic kids also had the opportunity to attend a public meeting regarding the development of Magnolia Manor Park – a chance to see how their community and local government work together to get things done.

The art project is just one of three projects that Friends of Magnolia Manor Park and Lawton Elementary have worked on together over the last three years. The 2011 class was invited to work closely with SiteWorkshop, the park’s landscape architects, to give a kid’s perspective on what a neighborhood park needs in order to be an

awesome park. It was a tremendous, real-life learning experience for the students.

This year’s 5th grade class teamed up with volunteers from the P-Patch and planted the first crop in Magnolia’s very first P-Patch. To help celebrate Earth Day 2013, the students made their way to the park in some very inclement weather and planted peas, radishes, lettuce and nasturtiums.

The Lawton 5th graders and Friends of Magnolia Manor Park have a fruitful and successful partnership, and only time will tell what other exciting endeavors they will bring to their community. Stay tuned!



Interview with Erik Gunderson

Erik has been a practicing architect for over 15 years. His focus has been working on large corporate commercial and civic projects. We first met Erik and his wife Barbara Lee at a meeting in 2012. One of the topics of conversation was the Shed. What should it look like?

Barbara Lee said, "My husband is an architect and he can do it. And in Erik's words "When the opportunity arose to get involved with the Shed project, I thought it would be a great way to meet new people, get involved with the community, and practice architecture in a somewhat new, for me, area of construction."

When asked the question "what did you learn on this Project?" Erik responded, "There's no such thing as a board-stretcher! I also learned that it's amazing what a group of gardeners can do in a few hours over the weekend."

"I had a fun time working with Mark and Dean on the project—two people that have many years of carpentry and contractor experience. I remember the jousting and joking between 'architects' and 'contractors' whenever we had to 'problem solve' during construction."

Now our architect is moving on: "I had so much fun working on the shed, and working with such a great group of people, I'm going to miss it. I've never planted anything in a garden, so I hope to learn a lot about soil and growing vegetables in the coming seasons."

If you would like to contribute articles or news items for future editions of the newsletter, please send an email to Karen Andersen at KareEAnde@gmail.com. The next deadline is June 25th for the July-Aug edition. Include the words "FMMP News" in the subject line of your email. We will continue to feature news about the OLA. Thank you!

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The P-Path Trust is the fiscal sponsor for Magnolia Manor P-Patch. Through advocacy, leadership and partnerships, the P-Patch Trust expands access to community gardening across economic, racial, ethnic, ability and gender lines. We promote organic gardening and build friendships, laughter, partnership, play, and community through gardening. We seek to break urban isolation by providing opportunities for people to garden together, learn from each other, and develop a greater sense of neighborhood leading to a more enjoyable livable urban environment.

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