



The Foundation Connection

A monthly e-newsletter from the Master Gardener Foundation of King County

Bothell Children's Garden: Experiential Learning for All Ages

...by Master Gardener Sharon O'Grady



Welcome to the Bothell Children's Garden!

The Master Gardener/Bothell Children's Garden is a small Youth Outreach garden located on property owned by Bothell United Methodist Church. There are approximately 10 Master Gardeners who support the Bothell Children's Garden by providing garden lessons during the spring and fall for four pre-school groups. These very young children are eager to participate in garden "chores" as well as learn about mason bee pollination, composting with worms and germinating seeds. We encourage them to sample and harvest fresh produce and bring it back to the classroom for healthy snacks. Their teachers say the children really benefit from the experiential learning we provide.

We also serve the Bothell High School Culinary Arts program. Two garden beds are dedicated to aspiring chefs who learn how to select seeds, grow, harvest and prepare produce for fine dining. Students utilize produce grown



Beautifully plated entree

at the garden for developing knife skills and plating techniques. Last November, we planted microgreens for indoor growing that were harvested in December and used in dishes served at the holiday open house. Overwintered and spring planted crops are harvested in June and incorporated into their 3-course final exam. Master Gardener teachers are invited to participate as judges--a real tasty treat!



Children learning

This spring an infestation of leaf miners on Swiss chard gave us the opportunity to explore the life cycle of the insect. We were able to observe the egg and larval stages and even saw a wasp fly off with a larva! We decided to remove all the infested material, apply fish emulsion fertilizer and protect with a floating row cover with hopes that the plants will put out another flush of leaves by early June.

During the summer months, fewer children use the garden. The garden has provided a lovely space for two intimate occasions.

Master Gardener and previous Children's Garden Leader Jinny Tesik recalls a memorial service and a wedding held there.



Children 'at work'

The Master Gardener volunteers are busy during the season with weekly work parties held on Tuesday mornings. Summer produce is donated to the Hopelink food bank and/or to the church's Sunday community supper. Last year we proudly grew and harvested watermelon thanks to all the sunny, warm days! We do some fun things with flowers too: this year we'll be attempting to create a US flag with red zinnias, white alyssum and blue and white upright lobelia.



Playful giraffe in the Bothell Children's Garden



Culinary student inspecting the carrots



"Hobbit house near the Children's Garden beds

Note: The Giraffe shed and Hobbit house were built by the late Master Gardener Rod Carlisle. Charlotte Stuyvenberg is the master painter.

The Bothell Children's Garden is located at 18515 92nd Ave NE, Bothell. Locate the garden using the [Map to King County Clinics and Gardens](#). Contact Garden Leader Sharon O'Grady at oqrsh53@yahoo.com for information about work parties.