



ADOPTING A GARDEN BED A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

The OLG Peace Garden has 10 self-irrigating, 8 x 10 garden beds that are adopted each growing season by individuals, families, and friends to grow fresh produce for the West Seattle and White Center Food Banks. Share the adoption with another person or family to make things even easier. Adopting a garden is an easy and fun way to support OLG's commitment to our local community.

Step 1: Prepare

Time: 15 minutes

We supply a bag of soil amendment with each garden bed. You are welcome to add another bag or two of compost or other soil amendment to bring the soil level up if necessary.

Step 2: Plant

Time: 1 hour or less

Plant whatever produce you'd like to grow. If you want suggestions on easy-to-grow vegetables, we can provide you with ideas and resources. Ideas include green beans, peas, peppers (mild and hot), carrots, beets, greens, and some varieties of tomatoes (cherry and other small varieties are not accepted by the food bank as they are too delicate and spoil quickly). To make things really easy, just buy some plant starts from your local nursery, farmers' market or produce stand.

Step 3: Tend

Time: 1 hour a month or less

The beds are self-irrigating so all you need to manage is occasional weeds until it's time to harvest. There are a variety of garden tools in the shed for your use.

Step 4: Harvest

Time: 1/2 hr or less per week during harvest time.

When plants are ready to harvest, just bring paper bags and pick whatever's ripe, and then drop off at the *Lettuce Pray* bins in the back of church before any of the masses. *Lettuce Pray* typically picks up weekly sometime during the 11 a.m. Mass. Our agreement among all garden bed caretakers is, if you are harvesting your produce and you see ripe produce in other beds, feel free to harvest whatever you have time for. This way, we all help each other out and make sure nothing goes to waste. If you're interested, you can do a second round of plantings with late-season items.

Step 5: Put the Bed to Bed

Time: 1 hour or less

At the end of the growing season, each person is responsible for tidying up their garden bed. All this entails is weeding and removing leftover bits of plant matter after harvest.

Finally, feel free to enjoy the picnic table, labyrinth and St. Francis patio area when you come to tend your garden. Bring a lunch or dinner and make your time there extra special. *And if you see a few weeds in other parts of the garden, go ahead and pull it!*