

Seattle Children's On-Site Gardens

Seattle Children's has promoted food producing vegetable gardens on our large site for a few reasons. First, we want to connect our patients and families to healthy foods and let the children experience harvesting, cooking and eating local/organic produce. Second, we want to test our capacity for supplying produce to our kitchen operations as part of our business plan.



Teaching Garden



We have two on-site gardens.

The first is our teaching garden, where nutritionists hold classes on growing your own vegetables and harvesting them. The classes are a series so the children and families can see the progress of the garden over the summer. We partnered with a local market that provides stipends for travel and a full bag of groceries for attendance at the classes. The obesity and hypertension clinics send patients to these classes.

Our second garden is the production garden. This raised garden was built for 2015 on our old helipad site. We used a wheel or concentric design with raised beds circling around a center table and chairs with a strawberry and potato platform. This allowed staff to relax in the garden space during off time and easy access for watering and weeding.



Production Garden

For summer 2015, our Sustainability Fellow built a business plan for planting and harvesting the vegetables from the production garden for use in our cafe and patient menu. We almost broke even on the effort, and will easily do so as we scale the operation. We harvested 690 lbs of tomatoes, 109 lbs of cherry tomatoes, 311 lbs of zucchini and 40 lbs of yellow and acorn squash. At a value of over \$1000 for equivalent organic produce.

