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Early this month my husband Pat and I were guests of the Scotts Company at the Philadelphia Green Brunch at the Philadelphia Flower Show. It was my honor to be representing the Kitsap Master Gardener volunteers from Raab Park. The Kitsap Master Gardeners won the Scotts 2002 Give Back to Grow Community Beautification Gardeners Award and received a \$5000 first place. The award was presented to the Kitsap Community Garden Foundation (KCGF).

KCGF was officially formed on January 23 of this year. Members on the committee are: Ann Pyles, Linda Waltie, Dave Peters, Dr. Roger Meyers, Erin Herndon, Deb Howard, Gloria Devery, Kathleen Hallman, Mary McCluskey, Moira McDonough and me. We've been planning the Raab Park Community Garden P-Patches.

We want gardeners all over the county to attend the grand opening celebration (and work party) on Saturday April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mark your calendars now and plan to bring your families and your energy to help us lay out paths and shovel compost onto the gardening beds. If you're looking for a 10 by 10 or 10 by 20 foot space to grow organic produce or flowers the Raab Park Community Garden P-Patch is the place for you. You don't have to live in North Kitsap to rent a P-Patch.

North Kitsap Parks and Recreation at 779-9898 has applications and will gladly take your payment of \$25 or \$35 to lease a space. This very reasonable fee covers the rent on a P-Patch for the whole year. It's a very good deal. For more information you can also call the County Extension Office at 337-7224.

We're hoping every single patch will be leased by the end of April. If every space is leased we'll be expanding to other areas of the county in the future. The City of Bremerton currently has P-Patches at Blueberry Park on Sylvan Way and at Anderson Park/Matan's Children's Garden at Bloomington and Anderson Street. These plots can be leased by calling City of Bremerton Parks and Rec 478-5305.

The Raab Park P-Patch is designed with a resting area in the center. 4-H Club members from Creative Creatures will create a "Word Walk" in this area. Leader Lori Ward explained this wonderful idea. After September 11 the 4-H kids decided to do something to counteract the "fearful, scared, angry and worried" feelings in our world. They felt these words expressed feelings that "diminished our sense of personal energy or power." Their way to counteract the negativity was to begin filling our world with positive words (on tiles) and "make a difference in our community for positive change."

The kids will be selling tiles for ten dollars each. Each stoneware tile will be imprinted with positive words such as: share, joy, experience, believe, gather, amaze and hug. Families and individuals can choose their own word. The 4-H group will make and install the tiles. Tiles will be in varying shades of earthtones. Leader, Lari Ward is a potter and her fellow potters have already donated their own clay supplies to help with the project. Creative Creatures 4-H'ers will gladly accept donations to help pay for additional supplies.

Come out and join us at Raab Park on Saturday April 13 whether you're leasing a P-patch or not. Master Gardeners, Master Composters and Weed Advisors will be on hand to answer your gardening needs. You'll receive informational brochures to get you rolling on another gardening season. The Poulsbo Tree Board will have information for you too. Remember you don't have to live in Poulsbo to participate in this worthwhile event.

Call 337-7224 for more information or email Peg at ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us