This past November marked the 2nd annual Fall Festival in Gemeinskap Park, complete with a people and pet costume parade, pumpkin patch, pumpkin decorating, story telling, a Dia de Muertos altar, crafts, lawn games, and lots of neighbors spending the day together. A community park, true to its name.

This lively park, which used to be a parking median and street right-of-way, has been transformed in just one year of construction, into a daily congregation space for neighbors and their pets to play. The small hills are covered with kids rolling down in the summer and sledding in the winter. It’s become a place where Girls Scouts paint colorful canvases on the lawn to earn their art badge, where games of bocce ball and corn hole are casually played, and blankets are laid out for picnics, reading, and napping in the summer sun.

We’ve come a long way from that cold winter’s night January 24, 2012 when the East Ballard community came together in St. Alphonsus School Cafeteria with Seattle Parks, Mithun, and Fehr & Peers to give feedback on 3 design concepts for a 2 block linear park along 14th Ave NW. We were already 7 years into this process and 6 years from completion of our park. At the end of this meeting, we were each handed a blank post...
With each event, we see new neighbors pitching in to lend a hand and our online community has grown to include nearly 300 monthly newsletter subscribers and more than 100 followers each on both our Instagram and Facebook accounts. Thanks to GNW’s initial micro-grant and ongoing mentorship, SPBS has been able to not only get off the ground, but continuously improve and expand our work in partnership with a generous and active community.

**BALLARD P-PATCH OPEN SPACE**

by Renee Dagseth

The land on which the Ballard P-Patch has existed for over forty years (Northwest 85th Street and 25th Avenue Northwest) is at risk of being sold and developed into an alternate use in the near future. The Ballard P-Patch provides many benefits to our neighbors and Groundswell NW supports the Ballard P-Patch as important open space:

- Green space for community gardens, community gatherings and educational programs.
- 1,500 pounds of organic produce donated each year to the Ballard Food Bank.
- Access to 90+ families, including low income, seniors, renters, differently-abled.
- An Emergency Preparedness Hub.

Yet there is still potential for the P-Patch to be so much more. For more information about helping visit [www.ballardppatch.org](http://www.ballardppatch.org) and come to the Groundswell NW community meeting in January 2020 to learn more about this effort.

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**SEEGING GROUNDSWELL NW BOARD MEMBERS**

Do you want to help make a difference in NW Seattle green spaces? Join the GNW board! We are a positive, committed group seeking ways to make NW Seattle a greener, more livable community. Contact us at: groundswellnw@gmail.com.

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**GEMENSKAP PARK**

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**GEMENSKAP PARK**

[Photo by Jan Satterthwaite]