



*In August 2002,
the Lighthouse
placed a notice with
the King
County Master
Gardeners asking
for volunteers.
Fortunately for us,
Helen Weber
responded. "It would
have been impossible
without her," says
The Lighthouse's
Dave Roberts.
"Helen and the rest
of the volunteers
have been a
gigantic help."*

Ethel L. Dupar's Fragrant Garden

The Seattle Lighthouse is a private, not-for-profit agency providing employment, support, and training opportunities for people who are blind, Deaf-Blind, and blind with other disabilities.

Ethel Dupar's Legacy

In the early 1970s, local businesswoman and philanthropist Ethel Dupar visited a fragrant garden in Aberdeen, Scotland, designed expressly for blind people. Inspired, she returned to Seattle to commission a fragrant garden that would engage the senses of touch and smell in people with visual disabilities. In July of 1973, the Seattle Lighthouse opened Ethel L. Dupar's Fragrant Garden in space donated by the City of Seattle.

Several decades after its initial opening, the garden became overgrown with weeds and bamboo. As the garden's thirtieth anniversary approached, the Lighthouse Employee Positive Action Committee initiated a renewal project. A team of volunteer gardeners, led by Master Gardener Helen Weber, began the process of restoring the garden by clearing weeds and planting fragrant flora throughout the garden. In 2003, the Seattle Lighthouse celebrated both the thirty-year anniversary and the grand reopening of Ethel L. Dupar's Fragrant Garden.

The Garden Today

We are now in the midst of the rejuvenation process. Today, volunteer master gardeners continue to cultivate the garden with hardy fragrant blossoms, herbs, and spices. The sunken garden design creates a quiet pocket of air where scent can linger, while the raised beds bring the sweet-smelling blossoms and herbs directly to the visitor.

Dupar's Fragrant Garden is completely accessible to people with disabilities, including those who need wheelchair accessibility. Here, blind and Deaf-Blind employees enjoy an aromatic collection of foliage labeled with Braille to identify each of over fifty fragrant plants. The garden is also available to the community at large through guided tours engaging the tactile and olfactory senses.

Herbs, flowers, and other plants found in the garden include:

- Agastaches – six species
- Artemisias – four species
- Costmary
- Curry Plant
- Lavender
- Salvias – four species
- Scented Geraniums – four varieties
- Mints – five varieties



The Lighthouse's Dave Roberts and Master Gardener Helen Weber take a break from pruning trees in the fragrant garden



- Thymes – four varieties
- Tarragon
- Monarda
- Scented Goldenrod
- Azara microphylla
- Clethra alnifolia
- Gardenias
- Hyacinths
- Lilies
- Mockoranges
- Viburnums

Volunteer Opportunities

Our volunteers provide the ongoing maintenance needed to sustain the Dupar Fragrant Garden. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kirk Adams.

Funding

Ethel L. Dupar's Fragrant Garden is funded through community support. Community support includes financial contributions from local corporations, foundations, service organizations, and individuals.

All community support for Seattle Lighthouse programs is channeled through the Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind Foundation, whose sole purpose is to gather community support for fulfillment of the Seattle Lighthouse mission.

Location

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