

Seattle, December 27, 2023 This morning, Seattle Parks and Recreation, alongside Seattle Police and private security guards, violently removed the Black Lives Memorial Garden from the Sun Bowl area of Cal Anderson Park by order of the Seattle Mayor's Office. Black Star Farmers and fellow community members supporting the garden are mourning the destruction of the physical embodiment of years of collaboration, connecting with plant life, and convening to share life, knowledge, produce, food, and medicine.

The Black Lives Memorial Garden is a manifestation of working-class people's right to have access to natural spaces and the need for radical conversations around race and land sovereignty - it was built to be a nexus point for rest, reflection, and the commemoration of the poor, working-class, Black, and queer lives that continue to be murdered by the police here in Seattle and all over the world.

The conditions of the garden expose the reality of the people who actively care for and use the space. The state has claimed that they were removing the garden because of public health and safety, but the garden did not create the conditions for the unhoused crisis and drug epidemic. Removing the garden is a theatrical and reactionary response to systemic issues designed to placate the landlords, bosses, and politicians intent on extracting labor from poor and working-class people.

Today, the City demonstrated its willingness to utilize violence to maintain its false solution to systemic issues. This pattern of violence only continues to show that we as people need to stand up together to resist the oppression we all face. We ask that all of you reading this pay critical attention to the policies and practices of the City and join us in organizing for resolutions that truly address the needs of our communities.

Black Star Farmers