Originally built in 1973, Palo Alto Gardens was acquired by MidPen Housing in 1999 when residents organized and lobbied their elected officials to help save the development from turning into market rate rental housing in pricey Palo Alto.

With assistance from funders, MidPen took over Palo Alto Gardens and began rehabilitation. Palo Alto Gardens received structural improvements to the buildings and updated interiors. More parking and a maintenance shop were added for resident use. In addition, the community room was expanded. The community also includes landscaped areas for residents to enjoy.