

A DREAM REALIZED

In July 2007, we broke ground for the demonstration garden, on land leased from the Palo Alto Christian Reformed Church. With the help of amazing volunteers who have donated time, expertise and materials, the garden has grown from a vacant lot to a thriving garden of over 1,800 square feet.



A total of 17 GROWBIOINTENSIVE® beds are planted with unique crops including grains and root crops: tomatoes, potatoes, amaranth, wheat, parsnips, oats, corn, Jerusalem artichokes, alfalfa, millet, and bush beans. A Permaculture food forest is in progress with two old apricot trees that are a legacy of the former orchard.

A GARDEN'S PURPOSE

The demo garden provides a living example of how food can be grown in a sustainable and abundant manner. Our goal is to help people within the Mid-Peninsula community acquire the skills needed to successfully grow their own food.



Drew Harwell, Garden Manager, is in charge of soil fertility, crop production, volunteer days, and private classes. He also offers activities for preschool through high school students to bring greater awareness about healthy food and how to grow it. Courses offered by Drew include: Starting Your Spring Garden, Introduction to Permaculture Design, and The Edible Garden: from Design to Harvest, a five class series. Our other expert teachers now have a garden for hands on classes. Gardening with Children will be taught by Judy Main, Double-Digging and Bed Preparation by John Jeavons. See the newsletter for upcoming classes and events. Topics we plan to offer include: Growing Edible Mushrooms, Natural Building, Herb Gardening, Seasonal Cooking, and Harvest Festivals with family activities. The Garden has been included on the popular Edible Landscaping Tours presented in partnership with Green Fork, a project of Conexions.

HELP US GROW

We invite you to be a part of deepening and expanding our educational offerings. Gardens, like all valuable relationships, require commitment to thrive.

We are working in collaboration with the Palo Alto Christian Reform Church, the California Native Plant Society local chapter, Acterra, Frank Niccoli, Lyngso Garden Materials, high schools, garden clubs and other non-profits in the area to inspire and support the development of a sustainable, organic, local food web. There is plenty of room for everyone to take root in this exciting project, whether it is as a student, a volunteer, an intern, a community advocate, or a financial partner. Please join us in empowering the residents of this wonderful region we call home to be responsive to the times with "tasteful" and needed solutions.



Thursdays are Volunteer Days in the Garden. There is a splendid core group of volunteers who enjoy welcoming new volunteers. If interested please inquire with Patricia Beeker by calling (650)493-6072.

A GARDEN

A garden is a place where we come into contact with nature—a part of our world that is alive and ever changing. This stimulates us to come alive in new ways—to appreciate things we may take for granted: air, water, soil, light, food, birds, butterflies, and much more.

A garden also helps us recognize our connection to each other and all living things. Planting and watering seeds and paying attention to how edibles and native plants best grow is a beautiful, enjoyable practice. Active observation and participation with the garden nourishes the soil, our hearts and minds.

The Common Ground Demonstration Garden is a way to share this knowledge and magic with the community. By showing people how to bring the earth into bloom, and how to grow healthy food, we will learn how to love the Earth. When this happens, we will learn to respect, appreciate, and live as companions of the Earth.



The Common Ground Demonstration Garden is located at 687 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, CA (across from Gunn High School)



Contributions are tax-deductible; we greatly appreciate your donations and participation!

Common Ground Garden Supply
and Education Center
559 College Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94306
650 493-6072

www.commongroundinpalto.org

Open 7 days a week
Monday-Friday: 10:00am-5:30pm
Saturday-Sunday: 10:00am-5:00pm



Common Ground is a project of Ecology Action, A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting the GROWBIOINTENSIVE® method of sustainable agriculture. Under the direction of John Jeavons, author of *How to Grow More Vegetables*, Ecology Action has researched and promoted Biointensive agricultural methods world-wide since 1972.



Common Ground Demonstration Garden In Palo Alto

