

BAA ORGANIC GARDENS PROJECT

Big things are in store for BAA's two community gardens, with Earth Day events and the planting season coming up.

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How our gardens grow!

BY DENISE LADWIG
& LELAND FRANCOIS

Do you remember your excitement as a child planting a seed? You anxiously awaited for it to burst through the soil. Once it emerged, you experienced the thrill of watching it grow taller and heartier each day. The East Palo Alto Community Garden, now in its fourth year, and the Midtown Garden, now in its second, are a lot like that little sprout.

Both gardens are blossoming as educational outreach centers for Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park schools. With the creative and enthusiastic efforts of Laura, Hannah, Charlotte, Marisha, and other BAA volunteers, more than 100 children have already enjoyed memorable educational experiences. Our team is offering in-class instruction followed by hands-on learning and exploration in the gardens. Interactive learning includes songs, role playing and games that help children understand the wondrous "Full Circle Food Cycle."

Due to the enormous amount of clean-up work at the site last year, the Children's Market Garden in E.P.A. is now a full half-acre. This expansion will allow us to begin on-site sales this year, providing much needed fresh, wholesome produce for the community. This is an incredible boon to families lacking any major grocery store or farmers' market in their area, something that other communities take for granted.

The Children's Market Garden sold the last of its winter crop to the Flea Street Café on February 24. Our 15 garden kids chose to spend the \$100 on a long-awaited afternoon of ice skating at Winter Lodge. Thanks to big-hearted volunteers like Glen, Charlotte, Peter P. and Rosa Maria, these youths are receiving invaluable mentorship and friendship. We have a whole series of fun and educational outings planned for the coming months, so

come out and join us!

This year the adjacent family garden site will expand from 14 to more than 20 families. Also, for the first time, bilingual bio-intensive gardening classes will be held at the garden, helping all of us become more self-sufficient while we learn to care for the Earth.

Projects slated for the garden sites this spring and summer include: erecting a greenhouse, digging a well, installing a drip irrigation system and moving and reassembling a wooden storage shed. So if you don't want to pick up a hoe, you can pick up a hammer! Volunteers can also help with: community outreach, teaching, marketing, and helping plan the summer and fall festivals. Come help plant the concept of sustainable agriculture and reap the harvest of beautiful friendships along the way!

Earth Day Festivals at the Gardens

East Palo Alto
Community Garden
Saturday, April 20, 9am to 4pm

Midtown Community Garden
Sunday, April 21, 9am to 4pm

Children will be invited to create their own mini-gardens to take home and plant themselves. Adult bilingual classes in bio-intensive gardening will be held and participants will receive free seeds to help start their own gardens. We'll enjoy story-telling, live music, dance performances, and farm animals. Seasonal produce will be provided by local farmers and gardeners and you may even find yourself savoring your first tofudog!

If you would like to volunteer at one of these events, please call 415-325-9184.

The Urban Agriculture Project would like to give special thanks to Mark Burnett, founder of An Organized Garden, and the folks at Hidden Villa for their inestimable support.



THE MIDTOWN GARDEN AND THE EAST PALO ALTO GARDEN PLAY HOST TO LOCAL YOUTHS FROM PALO ALTO AND EAST PALO ALTO.