

URBAN FARM TOURS 2015
HAYWARD, CASTRO VALLEY, CHERRYLAND
September 12, 2015 9am-3pm

Staging Area

Hazel Community Garden

Hosts: Viviane DeLeon Bias & Sandy Frost

Lot: ¾ acre lot Agricultural use: 50%

Though not a homestead site, the Hazel Garden will serve as the Hayward tour staging and mid-day lunch area. Here is where you will pick up your itinerary at will call, purchase day passes at the door and gather community information. In the morning we will have coffee, tea and a meet and greet as well as arranging carpools for those who are willing. A simple prepared lunch will be offered for purchase or bring a picnic. Herbal tinctures, creams, and blends for sample and sale. Welcoming all musicians, singers and dancers.

The Hazel Garden is open public space. It was originally started by the Prospect Street Association in 2001 and has developed under the care of Viviane DeLeon Bias and friends. There are wood and stacked stone planting boxes of medicinal and culinary herbs, flowers and vegetables. In the center is a medicine wheel garden bed. In the lower half there is a small orchard with a dozen trees of mixed fruit, plum, peaches, cherry, apricot, Asian pear, loquat, apple, nectarine. Wildlife habitat. Redwood and acacia trees. Hazel garden hosts are looking to partner with the historical society, parks district, and the City of Hayward to develop the corner house as an interpretive center, and to further utilize the entire space for mixed use, seating area, planters, a play area for small children, continued wildlife and pollinator habitat. A tour of the garden will be given during lunch.

Vital Sow Farms

Hosts: Kiyoko Guillory-Gonzalez, Rodrigo Gonzalez

Lot: 6,000 sf Agricultural Use: 1500 sf

Snapshot: Vibrant polyculture of annual vegetables, fruit trees, flowers and herbs

Vital Sow Farms is an edible playland of color and aliveness that encourages people of all ages to connect with food plants for both their sustenance and beauty. One of the oldest properties on the block the house was used as a Buddhist temple for 30 years. Vital Sow Farmers seek to reflect and honor this spiritual history in their design. Some of the original layout and features of the garden have been maintained, while also using the space effectively to grow an amazing abundance of organic food and herbs for natural remedies. Bio-intensive and vertical gardening techniques are used to obtain food year round, and inter-plantings of food, flowers and herbs create polycultures and diversity. There are six chickens and many mature fruit trees surround the property, including include feijoas, Asian pears, jujubes, and hachiya persimmons. At the time of the tour mid September you will see the property overgrown and lushly full with the present and imminent harvest.

Eden Urban Farms - Hatcher Farm

Host: Rick Hatcher

Size of Lot 5600 Agricultural Use 2500 estimated

Snapshot: Animal husbandry, tiered composting, vermiculture

The Hatcher Farm overlooks a concrete urban stream bed and is surrounded by native trees. The Hatchers have set their focus on raising critters and composting for a rich and vital eco-system. The hatchers are dedicated composters. Their motto is "just let it rot!" They will teach you about soil improvement and how good soil is key for a more drought tolerant garden. Their three tiered system provides more than enough for their own gardening efforts and extra to share. They have a large flock

of chickens, multiple beehives and a massive worm farming operation. Rescued rabbits also do their part to donate fertility. As well as growing healthy organic food and herbs for themselves in several raised beds, the Hatchers grow community through inspiration and education. Hatcher Farm provides a place for other urban farmers to congregate, help separate collected scrap greens from the farmers market, (for critter and compost) and take a little compost away with them as well as a gathering point to share ideas and gain useful information.

Green Grrrl Gardens

Host: Mimi Dean

Lot: .67 acres/29185 sqft Agricultural Use: .2 acres/8712 sqft-vegetable garden

Snapshot: vegetable gardens, chickens, rabbits & bees set into a wildly creative landscape.

Green Grrl Gardens is a glittering garden oasis and wildly artistic junk museum smack dab in the middle of suburbia. Wander through vegetable gardens and animal areas dotted with reuse elements, such as junk store chairs used as squash trellises. This property has a long history of farming, having been farmed in the late 1880s and again in the 1940s. It is now being lovingly restored to its former glory as a working farm. There are many different aspects -a vegetable and flower garden, fruit trees, a native and drought resistant bee, butterfly and hummingbird garden, bees, chickens, rabbits, and a relaxing bamboo grove that also serves as a source of materials and food. Well water is used to keep this urban oasis growing strong. Host Mimi Dean is an educator and artist whose creativity and passion burst forth from every corner. She teaches art right next door at Bohannon middle school where her curriculum focuses on community, cultural events and the environment. She and a group of friends known as the Trash Sistas turn junk into funk and trash into cash with a focus on reduce, reuse and recycle. Green Grrl Gardens is a fantastical oasis that reflects all of these values.

Sunnyslope Family Farm

Hosts: Darryl and Renee Ray

Lot size: 9 acres Agricultural use: approx 4 acres, which includes pasture. Percentage: 44%

Snapshot: Hobby farm with goats, chickens, garden, composting and more!

This 9 acre hobby farm is located in rural Castro Valley, just a stones throw from the city. Half of the property is used for agricultural purposes, with the rest in riparian habitat and oak woodlands. The property has multiple plots for garden use, several chicken coops housing about 50 free range hens, six goats, including one doe in milk, multiple compost systems, several small orchards including an heirloom apple orchard with president Thomas Jefferson and George Washington's favorite apples, an edible and medicinal herb garden and one excellent rat terrier to stand guard against rodents and intruders! Hosts Darryl and Renee love to experiment and try new things. Renee is a Master Composter and Master Gardener, and has tried many different composting methods as well as sheet mulching. Darryl is a biologist and enjoys working with herbs, making medicinal salves, raising goats, and making goat cheese. His Skin Soothe Herbal Salve and Sore Muscle Herbal Salves will be available for purchase at the tour.