

URBAN FARM TOURS RETURN!

Site Descriptions 2019

Saturday October 12, 2019 10am-4pm



SMALL

The Berkeley Basket CSA West Berkeley

Hosts: Moretta Browne, Rachel Lane & Marianne Olney-Hamel

Founders: Sophie Hahn & Willow Rosenthal

Owner: Jack Shepherd & Katharine Gale

Lot size: 10,890 sf Area farmed: 1200 sf Percentage used: 11%

<https://sites.google.com/view/berkeleybasket/>

Snapshot: *Urban CSA producing food for 15 families, creative economics, maximized food production in small space*

Berkeley Basket CSA began in 2009 as a collaboration between noted East

Bay Urban Farming expert, Willow Rosenthal and a North Berkeley homeowner, Sophie Hahn. Together they devised a plan to maximize growing capacity for a bounty of hyper-local, sustainably farmed produce to be shared through a small "CSA" type arrangement, spreading the costs of regular maintenance of the edible garden to the members. Over 10 years, this micro-farm has been managed by several professional urban farmers, and is currently run by Moretta Browne, Rachel Lane & Marianne Olney-Hamel. Olney-Hamel managed the project solo in 2018, when she expanded from Hahn's property into 936 Hearst and doubled CSA membership. 2019 is the first year the Berkeley Basket has seen multiple farmers, and the trio are building out a third garden space to increase CSA membership in 2020. The 936 Hearst garden and Sophie Hahn's garden in North Berkeley produce enough food for 13 families, 32 weeks of the year using only 1850 sq ft of actual growing space. These beautiful and productive edible gardens turn out an amazing quality and variety of local produce, which add to the health and enjoyment of those who share the bounty. Come hear more about the benefits of this model and learn how you can get involved.

SMALL

Flayrah Gardens, South Berkeley

Hosts: Kristy Madrigal

Lot size: 5000 sf In Agricultural Use: 1500 Percentage used: 30%

Snapshot: *Abundance packed tidily into a tiny space, fruit trees, chickens, drought tolerant*

Tidy, tiny and highly productive this well tended site showcases what can be done by a working family with small children. The garden features 8 well pruned petite fruit trees, raised beds, a flock of hens in a charming coop, worm compost, pollinator garden, drought tolerant succulents and drip irrigation. Jason and Kristy seek to balance of beauty and food production while maintaining a family friendly entertaining space. The name Flayrah comes from the classic novel Watership Down: it is the term the rabbit main characters have for the delicious eats they find when they raid gardens.



MEDIUM

MariLark Farm, Berkeley Hills

Host: Charlie Costello

Lot Size: 10,000 sf

In Agricultural Use: 2,000 sf

Percentage Used 20%

MariLark.com

Snapshot: *Heirloom tomatoes and giant pumpkins, seed saving and seed library in a forested hills landscape*

At the entrance to Tilden Park and flanked by seven California Redwoods, Marilark farm has great southern exposure enabling them to grow copious amounts of heirloom tomatoes and squash, including giant pumpkins which you will see in their full glory. MariLark Farms is dedicated to community building and seed saving. Farmer Charlie Costello combines these passions by hosting an annual heirloom tomato tasting and by saving seeds from the tastiest and most productive tomatoes which he propagates by the hundreds for giveaway each year. You will see his proto-type of a community seed bank modeled after the Little Free Library and learn how to save your own tomato seeds to plant next year!



MEDIUM

Soil Sister Garden North Berkeley

Host: Donna DeDiemar

Lot size: 6470 sf

In Agricultural Use: 2100 sq. ft.

Percentage Used: 33%

Snapshot: Attractive use of repurposed materials, innovative deer and critter proofing, zero net home, rainwater catchment for indoor use, year round gardening, chickens

Soil Sister Garden is a well-thought-out and well-tended gem in the heart of Berkeley's Northbrae neighborhood. The attractive front yard features a hand-built chicken coop made of upcycled vintage materials and raised vegetable beds ingeniously protected from deer and other wildlife that wander down the street. A curved gabion wall made from old building materials provides a seating area, neighborhood gathering site, butterfly garden and play area for kids, as well as being the supporting structure for a raised bed with year round edibles and ornamentals. The site features sustainability features in every nook and cranny, front, back and side of the house. Repurposed materials support a year round vegetable garden, vertical garden, rainwater catchment, graywater systems, compost and worm bins. Fifteen rooftop solar panels provide 100% of the needs of the household, making this a zero net home. Special attention is given to improving the tilth and texture of the yard's heavy clay soil, and innovative methods allow the native denizen (squirrels, deer, raccoons, skunks, possums, birds) to be welcome, but not too destructive. Host Donna De Diemar was a caterer before she retired, so she loves growing food and she has been gardening since she was a child. She thinks organic gardening is better than yoga — it challenges the body and clears the mind, and in the end she gets to eat the fruits of her labor!



LARGE

Earthly Arts Farm South Berkeley

Host: Sequoiah Wachenheim

www.earthlyarts.com

Lot size: 10,600 sf

In Agricultural Use: 4,000 sf

Percentage Used: 37%

Snapshot: Amazing example of function and aesthetics combined: fruit orchard, veggie garden, composting toilet (humanure), rainwater catchment, greywater re-use, creative re-use, drought tolerant landscaping

Earthly Arts Farm is an oasis of beauty and conservation in the heart of South Berkeley. Farmer Sequoiah began 16 years ago by sheet mulching every square inch of lawn in the back yard. Next, she shaped irregular beds for the annual and perennial vegetables and fruits in the interior of the yard and planted 26 varieties of fruit trees around the perimeter including: pears, persimmons, apples, cherries, mulberries, apricots, plums, lemons, limes, and oranges. Over the next 8 years, a small outbuilding out of salvaged wood and reclaimed windows was built, a 1500 gallon rainwater catchment tank set up, 2 greywater systems and drip irrigation were installed, a bunny was rescued and made resident, a greenhouse was built, bees were established and eventually relocated, compost bins were built out of reclaimed fences, and of course, countless pounds of delicious, organic, local produce were admired and consumed. The farm is permaculture and french intensive inspired and imbued with an aesthetic reflecting Sequoiah's years of experience in garden design and visual arts. Front and side yards boast drought tolerant ornamental gardens and pollinator habitat. This is the site to visit to learn about maximizing food production and beauty in landscaping while conserving water.



LARGE

Hoover Hawks' Victory Garden North Oakland

Hosts: Wanda Stewart/Common Vision & Lissette Averhoff/Hoover Elementary School

Lot size: Hoover Elementary School sits on a full city block, 4.6 acres

In use for Agriculture: 5600 sf

Percentage : n/a

Snapshot: School Garden modeling permaculture principles and design in action

Hoover Hawks' Victory Garden, now in its fifth year, is a model school garden, cultivated by students, parents and the surrounding community. It has been developed as a space to teach eco-literacy while enhancing nature-proficiency in young people who have otherwise minimal exposure to the natural environment. A true permaculture

garden, it features nearly 40 fruit trees, perennial crops like chayote, purple collard trees and medicinal herbs, water conserving swales and berms, grey water and rainwater catchment systems, a natural built adobe wall, chickens and coop, outdoor kitchen, solar-powered pond and pollinator & native plants and edible annuals. An urban sanctuary with many places to sit, reflect, play and learn, it serves as an outdoor classroom for academic learning, an observatory that inspires understanding and stewardship of the natural world, an open space for community activities and an actual farm that feeds people organic, healthy food! Hear how school gardens are essential to excellent, equitable education and see what the efforts of school children and committed community can accomplish! You will meet the fantastic kids and amazing permaculture artisans who made it all possible and witness how growing plants grows people too.



XLARGE

PLACE for Sustainable Living North Oakland

Host: Jonathan Youtt & Friends

Lot size: 10,000 sf In agricultural Use: 6,000 sf Percentage: 60%

<https://www.place.community/about>

Snapshot: *Sustainability adventure playground with rooftop gardens, fruit orchard, bees and many sustainability features*

Take a peek inside the magical world of PLACE, an experiential learning center that showcases and fosters regenerative design, sustainable living practices, urban homesteading, community resiliency & preparedness, social justice and artistic expression. Part warehouse living, part community center, part maker workshop, part urban farm, the mazelike space delivers a sustainability punch

which includes bees, graywater systems, rainwater catchment, passive solar heating, rocket stove & thermal mass heater, vertical gardens, wicking garden beds built on pallets, keyhole garden bed, herb spiral, 20+ fruit trees and a rooftop garden prototype created by Top Leaf Farms which has been replicated on a 10,000 sq ft of roof space in Berkeley. This hub allows people to see solutions in practice and helps educate and empower them to take action in their own homes, neighborhoods, towns, cities, and bio-regions.



XXLARGE

UC Gill Tract Community Farm Albany

Effie Rawlings and folks from Sogorea Te Land and Black Earth Farms

Lot Size: 10 acres In Use for Agriculture: 2 acres Percentage: 20%

GillTractFarm.org

Snapshot: *Collective governance, community engagement, giant medicinal garden, row crops producing 22000 pounds of food annually*

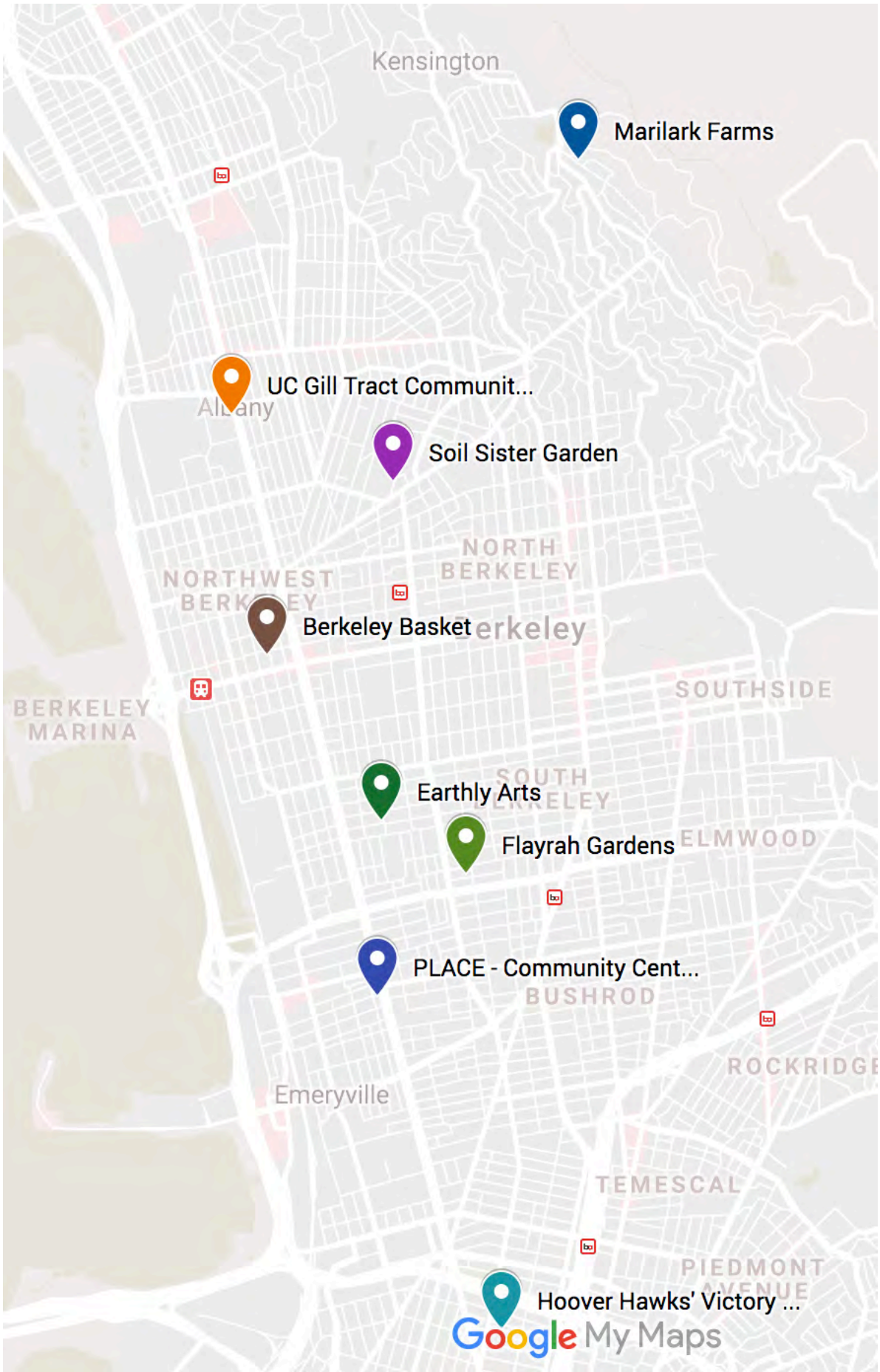
After a long struggle, concerned citizens forged a partnership with UC Berkeley to save this remaining piece of East Bay farmland from the pavement. Today the Gill

Tract is an urban farm, community classroom, research laboratory and healing space, offering volunteer and leadership opportunities to people of all ages. In a collaborative effort with community partners Sogorea Te Land Trust and Black Earth Farms the Gill Tract offers outdoor classes in food politics, wellness and technical skills. The multi-faceted community of volunteers manage themselves democratically, and work together to grow and donate 22,000 lbs of organic produce a year to local food banks, cultural centers, and clinics. The southern border of the land is a wild-tended riparian corridor, home to deer, hawk, owl, and wild turkey. Gill tract farmers are excited to speak to you about collective governance, agro-ecological farming practices, neighborhood composting system, biomass beds, hugelkultur, no-till soil management and the medicinal garden with 250 herbs of global medicine traditions. A wide variety of crops including annual vegetables, medicinal herbs and perennial food forest will be in their prime and ready for harvest. Don't have land of your own to grow on? Learn about this valuable piece of land and how you might get involved.

Occupy The Farm Film <https://www.occupythefarmfilm.com/>

SogoreaTe Land Trust ~ Indigenous women-led land trust <https://sogoreate-landtrust.com/>

Black Earth Farms ~ Pan-African Pan-Indigenous Agroecological Farming Collective <https://www.blackearthfarms.com/>



Kensington



Marilark Farms



UC Gill Tract Communit...

Albany



Soil Sister Garden

NORTHWEST BERKELEY

NORTH BERKELEY



Berkeley Basket Garden



SOUTHSIDE

BERKELEY MARINA



Earthly Arts



Flayrah Gardens

SOUTH BERKELEY

ELMWOOD



PLACE - Community Cent...

BUSHROD



Emeryville

ROCKRIDGE

TEMESCAL



Hoover Hawks' Victory ...

PIEDMONT AVENUE

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