The Tijuana River Valley Community Garden
RCD of Greater San Diego County

- **Area served**
- **Our programs**
  - School garden support
  - Watershed education
  - Scholarships
  - Milkweed for Monarchs
  - Wildfire prevention & community education
  - Community garden
- **Other community gardens in SD**
Getting started

- History of the land & location
- Planning began in 1999; 10 year lease established in 2001, renewed in 2011
- Initial grant of $40k from NRCS to establish 90 plots – water meter, irrigation pipes, access roads
- 2002 – open to the public
- 2005 –$5,000 grant to expand
About the garden

- 136 plots, 30’ x 30’, 25 acre parcel
- Water included - every two plots share a water spigot
- Quiet, natural space
- Diversity
Garden management

- Annual contract and rent
- Monthly inspections
- Services at garden
- Volunteer requirement
- Community clean-up days
- Waiting list
- Newsletter
- Advisory committee
- Help organize events
Local partners

- Parks Department
- NRCS
- Our farming neighbors
- Community partners
  - I Love a Clean San Diego
  - Master Gardeners
  - Urban Corps
  - San Diego Community Garden Network
Garden events

- Clean-up days – Spring and Fall
Garden events

- Social events
Garden events

- Workshops – in collaboration with Master Gardeners, NRCS, and other community partners
Garden events

- Volunteering opportunities
Gardener input

- Volunteer requirement
- Clean-up days
- General upkeep
- Compost areas
- Organize social events, like pot lucks
- Welcome new gardeners
- Helping with volunteer days
- Day-to-day efforts of them helping each other
Funding

- Annual plot rent
- Seek grants to improve the site, increase staff time at garden, and hold activities

Hosted By:

Schedule of Events:

8:30 – 10:00, Soil testing demonstrations at the Community Garden (bring soil samples, no cost)
10:00 – 11:00, Static Compost Pile workshop at the Community Garden (open to all, no cost)
10:00 – 2:00, Suzie’s Farm Stand and U-Pick strawberries ($)
10:00 - 12:30, Farm Tour at Suzie’s Farm ($)
10:00 – 11:30, Kids Activities at Wild Willow and Equinox Procession to park for Picnic in the Park
11:00 – 4:00, Open Volunteering at Wild Willow
11:30 – 12:30, Picnic in the Park (ball fields on Sunset)
12:30 - 2:00, Farm Tour at Suzie’s Farm ($)
1:00 - 4:00 No-Till Farming Class at Wild Willow ($)
4:00 – 7:00, Wild Willow Farm Stand ($)
5:00, Wild Will Farm and Nature tours
6:00, Potluck, pizza, and music by The Big Decisions at Wild Willow (please bring a dish to share)
7:00, Symphony of the Soil Movie Screening at Wild Willow
Challenges

- Dumping / trash
- Theft
- Increasing participation
- Funding!
- Water
Goals for the future

- More community outreach
- More workshops
- Be there more often
- Expand
- Habitat restoration projects
- Improve irrigation system
- More gardener involvement and leadership
Thank you!

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