

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
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 Willow 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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