



Introduction

The Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens is a California non-profit organization that was established in 1997 to preserve and operate Fairview Gardens, the historic farm where our products are grown. Founded in 1895, Fairview Gardens is considered by some to be the oldest organic farm in southern California, and is now preserved in perpetuity through an agricultural conservation easement.

Fairview Gardens is situated in the midst of a growing suburban community in coastal southern California, surrounded on all sides by tract homes, shopping malls, and suburban thoroughfares. As a highly visible agricultural parcel in a dense suburban environment, Fairview Gardens plays a unique role in the community, providing its neighbors with food, educational and cultural events, open space and a connection to the land. The farm also demonstrates the economic viability of small farm operations, and the potential of small, regional farms to feed their communities.



"Fairview Gardens is a landmark, a source of comfort to all of us who love good farming and good food." --Wendell Berry

On our twelve and a half acres, we produce a hundred different fruits and vegetables, feed approximately five hundred families, and employ over twenty people. We also nourish the community in less tangible ways, through cooking and gardening classes, workshops, farm festivals, tours, lectures, apprenticeships, and outreach and consultation to schools and communities nationwide.

The Center's mission is to preserve the agricultural heritage of this 100-year-old farm; provide the local community with fresh, chemical-free fruits and vegetables; demonstrate the economic viability of sustainable agricultural methods for small farm operations; research and interpret the connections between food, land, and community well being; and nurture the human spirit through educational programs and public outreach both on and off the farm.



The Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens

Based on one of the oldest organic farms in California, The Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens has become an internationally respected model for small scale urban food production, agricultural land preservation, farm-based education, and the integration of farms and the communities that they serve. A grand experiment, spanning over 30 years, the farm and the non-profit Center have nourished and inspired thousands of people. We welcome you to journey with us through our fields and orchards, and into the foods, programs, publications and resources that we offer.



[IN SEASON](#)

[SLIDE SHOW](#)

[Who We Are](#)

[The Harvest](#)

[Programs, Classes
Events & Calendar](#)

[Visiting the Farm](#)

[Virtual Tour](#)

[Publications
& Resources](#)

[Donate](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Site Map](#)



[Home](#) | [Who We Are](#) | [Harvest](#) | [Programs, Classes & Events](#) | [Visiting the Farm](#)
[Virtual Tour](#) | [Publications & Resources](#) | [Donate](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)

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[Home](#)[Who We Are](#)[The Harvest](#)[Programs, Classes
& Events](#)[Visiting the Farm](#)[Virtual Tour](#)[Publications
& Resources](#)[Donate](#)[Links](#)[Contact Us](#)[Site Map](#)

Introduction

Hours

Our [produce stand](#) is open every day from 10 am until 6 pm.

The farm is open to the public for [self-guided tours](#) every day, from 10 am until sunset, except during rain and for three days after rain. We also offer [guided tours](#) of the farm, by arrangement.



Self-Guided Tours

For the adventurous farm tourist or the casual drop-in, we offer a self-guided tour with 23 different stations, each describing a particular aspect of the farm and our work. Our new tour features large, full-color interpretive panels with expanded text and color photos. The tour highlights the farm's crops and techniques, and includes information on larger agricultural and environmental issues such as biodiversity, soil erosion, and pesticide use, making it an excellent introduction to sustainable agriculture.

Self-guided tours may be taken daily, seven days a week, between 10am and sunset. Tours are not available during rain or for three days afterward to avoid soil compaction, or when a scheduled workshop or event is taking place. Please check with the produce stand, where the tour begins, and pick up a map before embarking.

[back to top](#)

Guided Tours

Throughout the year, thousands of individuals, from pre-schoolers and home schoolers to college level environmental studies students, gardeners and food lovers, tour the farm.

Tours last from forty-five minutes to an hour and a half, depending on the age and interests of the group. We ask groups to book tours one month in advance. Fees vary depending on the size of the group and the length of the tour.

We cater each tour to the particular group, depending on its background, interests, and age level. To make the tour experience more meaningful and more complete, we encourage groups to view the film about us, '[Beyond Organic,](#)' and to read the books [On Good Land](#) and [From the Good Earth](#), prior to their tour.



Programs

As a community farm with an educational mission, we seek to nourish not only the body but the mind and spirit as well. Fairview Gardens' community programs include workshops, tours, lectures, cooking and gardening classes, apprenticeships, and outreach and consultation to schools and communities nationwide.



[2006 Program Calendar](#)

ONGOING

[Guided Tours](#)
[Self-Guided Tours](#)
[Apprenticeships](#)
[Farm to School Programs](#)

[Downloadable Registration Form](#)

Printable files require Acrobat Reader to open. [Click here](#) to download software.

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[Home](#) | [Who We Are](#) | [Harvest](#) | [Programs, Classes & Events](#) | [Visiting the Farm](#)
[Virtual Tour](#) | [Publications & Resources](#) | [Donate](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)