

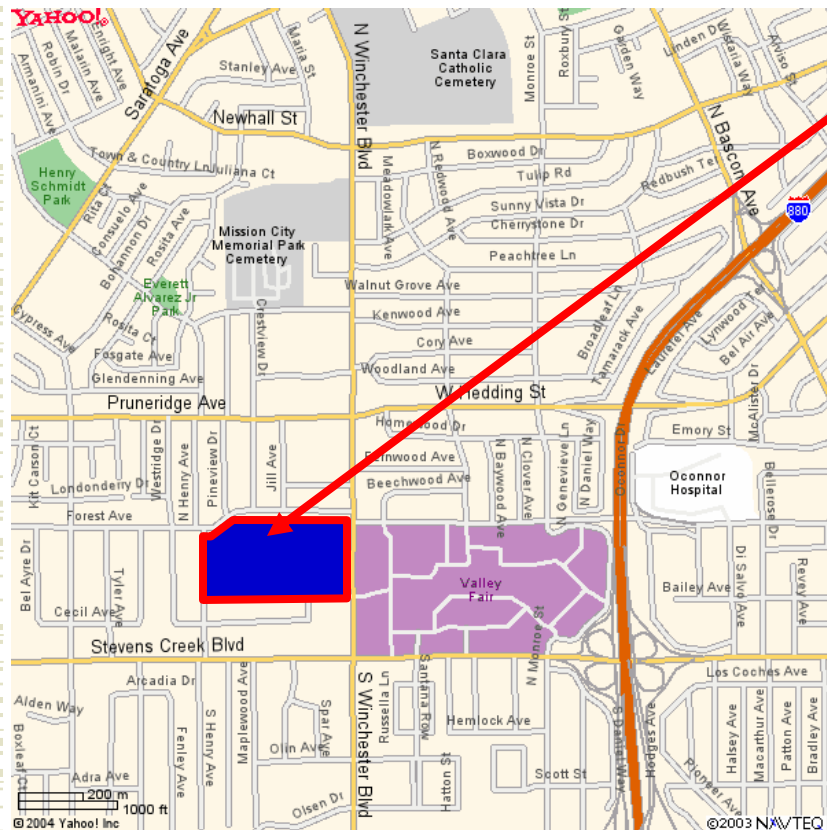


17 Acres of Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Land

presented by: Linda Perrine, Kathryn Mathewson
and Friends of BAREC

**Requesting Support from
Santa Clara County Board of Education
To Save Prime Valley Farmland for
Agricultural and Environmental
Education Purposes**

What is **BAREC**, and why should it be preserved?



Bay Area Research and Extension Center

90 N. Winchester Blvd.
Santa Clara, California

This 17 acre tract of land has belonged to The State of California since the 1960's and was used for both Horticultural and Agricultural research. It is the only remaining such property in a place once known as

“The Valley of Heart's Delight”.

Open space in a concrete jungle



Brief History



- ◆ UC-Cooperative Extension owned and used BAREC from 1920 until January 2003, and then turned it over to the State
- ◆ Unique historical property serving first the local community then the agricultural community since 1850's
 - Research done in strawberries, garlic, chili peppers, irrigation, crop production methods, crop varieties, crop disease control, and compost which led to San Jose's present Green Waste program
- ◆ Existing resources include: agricultural zoning, prime valley soil, offices, shops, greenhouses, irrigation, orchard, garden beds, two wells, and central location with easy public transit access
- ◆ BAREC supported local school groups for two decades; Santa Clara Valley schools stand to lose this property as a resource

Why Should the SCCOE Be Interested in BAREC?



- ◆ Santa Clara County, with its rich agricultural heritage, prime soil and climate, should be offering high quality gardening/agricultural education to all students (K-12 and college level)
 - This is a growing area of education nationally to reconnect students with the source of their food while teaching about healthy food/nutrition
- ◆ Santa Cruz County has made this type of education a high priority through Life Lab Garden Classrooms
- ◆ Berkeley has made Farm-to-School program present in elementary schools including farm fresh salad bars in cafeterias (in association with the Community Alliance with Family Farmers)
- ◆ Marin County's Environmental Education Council of Marin (EECOM) has a Food Systems Project:
 - The primary goal is an integrated strategy to promote family health, sustainable agriculture and environmental education. The Food Project accomplishes this goal through the integration of nutrition education, garden experiences, the food served in schools, and core academic content.

*Why should the SCCOE
Be Interested in BAREC?
(cont.)*



- ◆ **SCC schools are losing their open space!**
 - Lincoln H/S adding parking & temporary buildings on its open space; SJ USD sold FFA 8 acres for money to develop new admin bldg; housing was built on these 8 acres
 - Corey (near BAREC) and Hester Elementary schools closed shifting hundreds of students to Trace; Trace lost only basketball court for temporary buildings
 - City of San Jose misleadingly counts school grounds as open space; they are being subject to “sprawl” like the rest of valley
 - BAREC can offset these losses and become an asset for all county schools
- ◆ **USDA National Public School Wellness Policy – Deadline: SY 2006-07**
 - Not later than the first day of the school year beginning after June 30, 2006, each local education agency participating in a program authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 shall establish a local school wellness policy for schools under the local educational agency; goals for nutrition, physical education, healthy foods and reduction in obesity. (ref. www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Healthy/108-265.pdf)
- ◆ **Job training skills for those that are not office/computer oriented**
- ◆ **Connects children to the land, our community and its history**

Santa Clara County Needs an Educational Agriculture Project



- ◆ NO county parkland in SCC District 4 (BAREC's district)
- ◆ NO public botanical garden or arboretum in this county
- ◆ Urban San Jose is open space/parks deficit community
- ◆ Local colleges all have need for local agricultural land to do research and education on local natural history
- ◆ We are on the verge of an unprecedented energy crisis
 - Experts converging on Peak of World Oil Production occurring 2005-2007* ; thereafter, supply will not keep up with demand
 - BAREC could be first step towards educating public on the need to relocalize our food production back into the Santa Clara valley

**Ref. "The Party's Over", Richard Heinburg; "Twilight in the Desert", Matthew Simmons;
www.energybulletin.net*

BAREC Provides SCCOE Great Opportunities



- ◆ Vision for BAREC: Educational Garden/Agriculture Project to expand Environmental Education in Santa Clara County
- ◆ Independently funded and staffed through a non-profit similar to Walden West and UCSC Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems program
 - Packard Foundation funded Santa Cruz Life Lab; they should be very interested in similar program here in Santa Clara Valley
 - Income generated from: grants, produce sold through Farmer's Markets, CSA, and local school cafeterias, as well as educational programs
 - Provide hands-on gardening, agriculture, and nutrition education meeting State science requirements (see attached)
 - Provide awareness of need for sustainable food systems that use less energy without chemical inputs
 - Provide understanding of how human cultivated environment must respect the Earth's biological cycles (nitrogen, water, carbon, decomposition); i.e. Long-Term Sustainability!

Educational Agriculture Project Beneficiaries



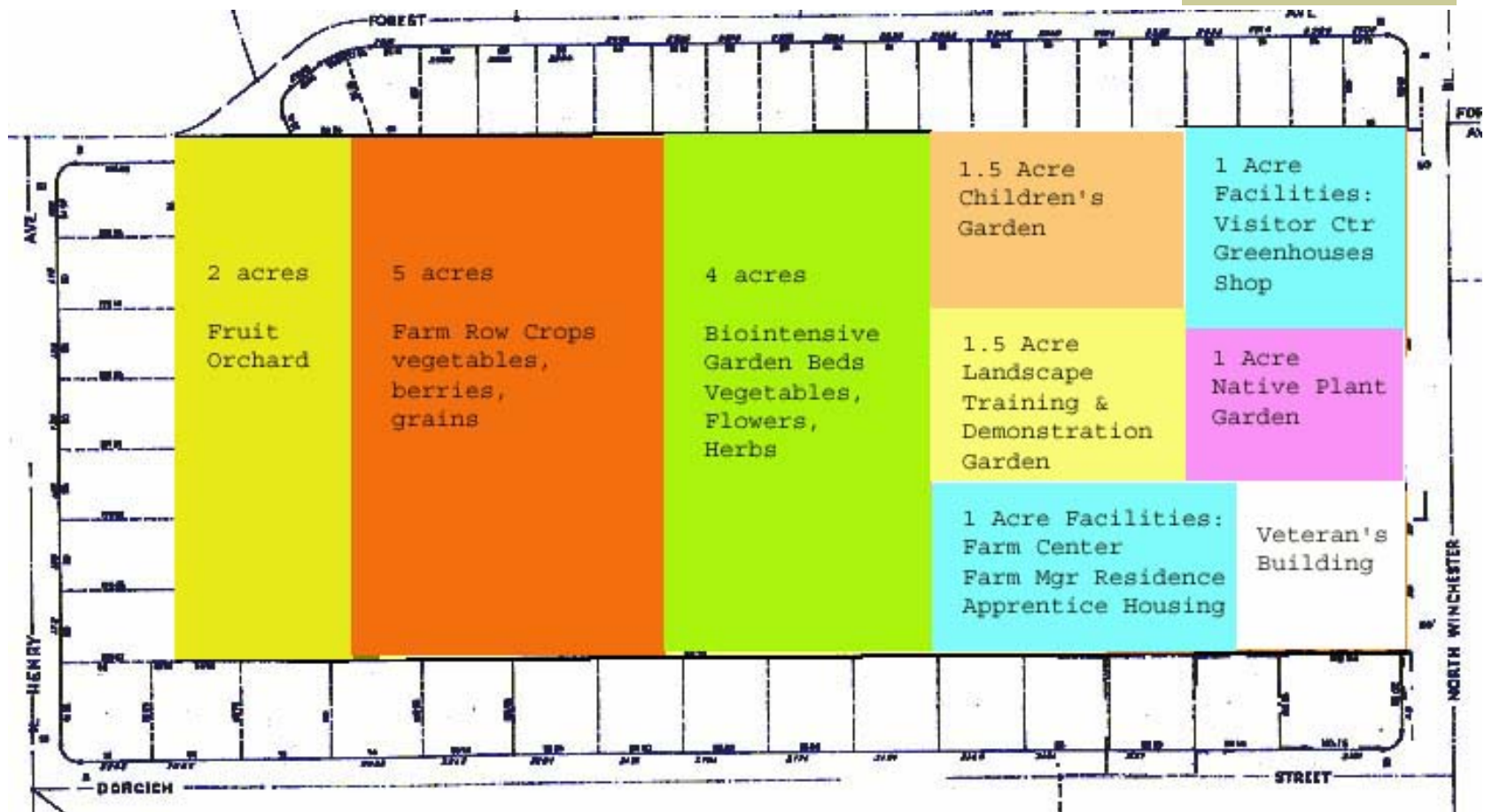
- ◆ Curriculum for all grade levels in local schools (K-12)
 - Currently SCC Environmental Ed. only offered at 5th or 6th grade level
 - Hands-on garden program helps students who learn through multiple intelligences: bodily/kinesthetic, spatial, interpersonal, intrapersonal; it also reduces stress in people of all ages!
- ◆ All local colleges – research & education
 - Environmental Studies, Horticulture, Natural History
- ◆ Teacher training in organic gardening
- ◆ Adult education (college credit)
- ◆ General Public via workshops (composting, bio-intensive methods)
- ◆ Apprenticeship program (~45/season) similar to UCSC CASFS
- ◆ Training for community gardens/gardeners
- ◆ Landscape professional training in organic methods as well as school grounds landscapers
- ◆ Restore home for Master Gardeners/Master Composters of SCC


*How Would The 17 Acres
Be Used? (see next page)*



- ◆ 5 acres of organic farmed row crops (vegetables, berries)
- ◆ 2 acres of organic fruit orchard including espalier methods
- ◆ 4 acres of organic biointensive garden beds (veggies, herbs, compost area)
- ◆ 1.5 acre Children's Garden with hands-on activities
- ◆ 1.5 acre Landscape Training and Demonstration Gardens
- ◆ 1 acre Native Plant Garden (drought tolerant, wildlife attractive)
- ◆ 2 acres of facilities (offices, greenhouses, visitor center, farm center w/ kitchen, outdoor amphitheater, farm manager house)
- ◆ Visitor center will emphasize rich history of property and valley
- ◆ Educational signage throughout
- ◆ Open to public during daylight hours and special events

One Possible Layout of SCC Educational Agriculture Project





*What Do We Need from the SCCOE
Board of Education to make this happen?*

- ◆ The Board is requested to deliver a letter to the State indicating a need and a potential use of this property to support education in SCC schools
- ◆ Your letter of support should dovetail with the Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District's request to the State for making BAREC available to GCRCDC for conservation
- ◆ The letter should outline SCCOE educational position on this land resource
- ◆ This letter needs to be delivered to the State within the next 1-2 months to have any effect on stopping the potential development of BAREC
- ◆ Refer to attached GCRCDC letter and SCCOE sample letter

References

- ◆ Santa Cruz Life Lab: <http://www.lifelab.org>
- ◆ Marin Food Systems Project:
http://www.eecom.net/projects_school.htm
- ◆ Farm to School Program in CA: <http://www.farmentoschool.org/ca/>
- ◆ Community Alliance with Family Farmers: www.caff.org
- ◆ Camp Arroyo Sustainable Living Center, Livermore:
http://www.ebparks.org/camp_arroyo/arroyo_main.htm
- ◆ USDA National Wellness Policy:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Healthy/108-265.pdf>
- ◆ Peak Oil current news: www.energybulletin.net, www.postcarbon.org,
www.globalpublicmedia.com, www.peakoil.net, www.peakoil.org