



# College Area Community Garden

A Project of the College Neighborhoods Foundation

Please consider helping fund this well planned community based project

## Background

Remember the taste of a perfectly ripe and luscious tomato, crisp carrot or sweet and tender corn on the cob? Sadly, in today's agri-business world, we are routinely denied this pleasure in the name of convenience and profits for corporate owners. Enter the nationwide community gardens movement. Private, non-profit and other community garden groups are springing up with one main goal: grow and consume quality food in their own neighborhoods.

In 2009, a few interested people in the College Area of San Diego began discussing the concept. By December 2011 a formal group consisting of College Area residents and San Diego State University affiliates (staff, faculty, and students) had formed to research issues and determine feasibility. Known as the **College Area Community Garden**, the group has 8 elected Board Members consisting of community members and SDSU affiliates. Our own email interest list currently totals over 420 addresses. News flashes are sent to 3000 more local email addresses via **Nextdoor.com**, and the **College Area Business Improvement District** (BID) and the **College Area Community Council** (CACC) "rebroadcast" our messages to another estimated 1000 email addresses.

Sections of four adjacent privately owned land parcels in the College area were identified as having the most desirable attributes. Lease negotiations with all four landowners lasted about a year. The undeveloped land areas we sought were leased, each for one-year (automatically renewable) written leases. We obtained written City of San Diego Planning Department administrative approval to build and operate the Garden. The Garden is under the Fiscal Sponsorship of a local and well established non-profit association called the College Neighborhoods Foundation, a registered *IRS 501(c)(3)*. To date, the Garden has received letters of support from the College View Estates Association, San Diego City Councilmember Marti Emerald, and San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob. The Garden successfully raised over 60% of first fiscal year (ending June, 2014) start-up costs totaling over \$80K. Three of the first four grants applied for were awarded and more have been awarded since. The Garden is thriving thanks to funding from numerous sources including an anonymous \$10,000.00 private donation, \$10,000.00 from SDSU President Hirshman, annual memberships, raised bed leases, business and private donors and from other SDSU affiliates including in-kind assistance from the Associated Students. We have a very active and ongoing fundraising effort.

## Garden Goals and Objectives

- Create a community garden/urban farm with an attractive network of plots and informal meeting areas to foster a greater sense of community among local area residents, K-12 students, and all SDSU affiliates.
- Invite residents within the College Area Community Council's boundaries and SDSU affiliates to become sustaining members by contributing a minimum of \$50.00 annually.
- Create at least 100 garden plots of varying sizes and lease them at a modest monthly rate of 50 cents per square foot.
- Teach and follow organic farming practices to improve garden health. Hold workshops about organic gardening and sustainability issues.
- Compost to reduce waste and enrich the soil. Use water-wise irrigation. Create rainwater collection areas, greywater reuse systems and install solar energy systems where feasible.
- Engage with area youth and the neighboring SDSU Children's Center to facilitate cultural and family gardening. Invite area K-12 students to attend onsite classes and workshops.
- Become incorporated into SDSU class curricula through plots dedicated to classes or groups. Students will learn about gardening, urban farming and water conservation methods.

## How to Help

To make a donation or sign up for membership, please visit our website [www.collegeareagarden.org](http://www.collegeareagarden.org) where you can securely remit by credit card using **Pay Pal** by clicking on the "Donate" page. We do not give away gifts, so donations may be as much as 100% tax deductible. Always consult your tax professional before claiming such a deduction.

For further information about the **College Area Community Garden**, please contact Henry Bertram, Board President, [president@collegeareagarden.org](mailto:president@collegeareagarden.org) or Board Secretary, [secretary@collegeareagarden.org](mailto:secretary@collegeareagarden.org) Thank You.

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