

Bay Point Garden

Bay Point, Calif.

The Bay Point Garden, started in 2001, is a year-round urban farm located in Bay Point Calif., in Contra Costa County. Over two acres in size, the garden serves as a living classroom for students from preschool to high school.

Students play an essential role in cultivating a space full of fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs, and California natives. The garden serves over 2,000 students per year, with the goals of increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables, increasing physical activity, and making healthy choices. At the Bay Point Garden, we are “Planting Seeds of Health!”

The majority of our students visit us through the Mt. Diablo Unified C.A.R.E.S.

<http://www.mtidiablocares.org>) After School Program. Students from 10 different schools attend fieldtrips at the Garden and learn to grow and enjoy garden produce. They help with all garden tasks, including planting, weeding, watering, composting, and harvesting, following the journey of food from seed to plate.



Garden classes take place in three-visit intervals during the spring, summer, and fall. In winter, garden classes are replaced with indoor cooking classes, using garden produce in our kitchen classroom. We see the success of the Garden each day, as students devour fresh garden produce with gusto!

The Bay Point Garden offers summer employment opportunities to 20 teens each year through the Teen Garden Corps. This six-week summer job focuses on leadership development, job skills, teacher training, and garden and nutrition education.

In addition to working in the garden, the teens serve as assistant teachers for summer fieldtrips. At the end of the six weeks, Corps members receive a \$500 stipend and further job opportunities within the C.A.R.E.S. After School Program. Highlights of the summer include daily teambuilding exercises, fieldtrips, weekly cooking, a mural, and lots of good garden food!

This incredibly successful program will celebrate its 10th anniversary in the summer of 2011 with just over 200 Teen Garden Corps alumni! This is an incredible experience for young people to get the “garden experience.”



The Garden also serves preschool-aged students in collaboration with the Contra Costa Child Care Council. Preschools and childcare centers visit the Garden in the fall and spring for age-appropriate play and exploration using the five senses. We are excited to serve this young population, as well as the parents and staff who accompany them, in this our newest program. We believe it is never too early to enjoy the garden and grow healthy kids.

