

# Lawns-to-Food Demonstration Garden

*A Project of Common Ground Worldwide*

## Past, Present, and Future

The Lawns-to-Food Demonstration garden was established by community volunteers from Transitions Paso Robles Food Group in 2009, as an example of how local residents can replace their lawns with water-saving and food-producing gardens. In 2015, Common Ground Worldwide took over stewardship of the garden, committing to keep it open as a place where people can come together around shared interests of caring of our local ecosystem, aquifers, and each other.

We've discovered that the garden indeed provides a sense of *common ground*, both for ourselves and for other community members who visit and volunteer. When folks get their hands in the soil and begin pulling weeds, any differences in age, income, religion, and culture fade into the background, and new friendships are forged. We plan to continue developing the garden as a space to cultivate meaningful connections, meet neighbors, and enjoy nature while also learning to grow both edible and ornamental plants in ways that conserve our natural resources.

## How our Garden Grows

The Demonstration Garden incorporates drought-tolerant natives and Mediterranean climate perennials into an edible landscape that is both beautiful and water conserving. As northern San Luis Obispo County's only public space demonstrating permaculture design principles, it is tended without the use of any pesticides or synthetic chemicals. Garden produce is shared among volunteers and donated to local food pantries, providing a source of fresh fruits and vegetables to those in need.

## Want to Join Us?

We are currently seeking volunteers to help maintain the garden by watering, weeding, planting, serving as hosts to help expand our "open hours" for visitors, and more! A range of volunteer positions are available, and we can work with your current skill levels and interests to find the best way for you to get involved. Please contact us if you're interested in volunteering!

We also offer private workshops and tours free of charge to school groups, scouts, and other organizations, upon request.

The garden is a free gathering space for meetings and events, available by appointment to local community groups regardless of religious affiliation, gender identity, or cultural background.

**Centennial Park  
600 Nickerson Dr.  
Paso Robles, CA**

[www.commongroundworldwide.org](http://www.commongroundworldwide.org)

