



Fall/Winter 2010

## What's New at the AgPark

### Education Program Getting Underway

The AgPark was established in 2006 to provide a model of a working, urban-edge farm that enriches surrounding communities not only with fresh produce, but also through farm visits and education. SAGE's vision includes an educational program that fosters understanding of the connection between good nutrition, local agricultural production, natural resource stewardship, and regional history.

With this goal in mind, SAGE is developing a curriculum to be used at the AgPark during school group visits, and in classrooms throughout the Bay Area.

Our new curriculum, called *Farming in the Watershed*, is based on the theme of stewardship. It includes lessons on the history and culture of the Sunol Valley, natural resource stewardship, food, and farming.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is currently planning to construct an environmental education center near the Water Temple to help facilitate youth and adult visitors to the site year round.



## School Groups Visit the Sunol AgPark

Last year 600 students visited the AgPark on field trips. The kids ranged in age from 9 to 18 years, and came from 15 different Bay Area schools, including Kennedy High School of Fremont, Harder Elementary and Ochoa Middle School of Hayward, Head-Royce of Oakland, and Sunol Glen Elementary of Sunol.



Activities included: creating a model watershed; interviewing the AgPark farmers; picking strawberries, tomatoes, and pumpkins; helping with hedgerow planting; sketching the Sunol Water Temple; cooking fresh produce; and identifying AgPark wildlife.

**To schedule a field trip to the AgPark this year, please contact Cynthia at [cynthia@sagecenter.org](mailto:cynthia@sagecenter.org) or 510-526-1793.**

## Farmers Putting Down Roots in Sunol



In 2010, Baia Nicchia expanded to nearly ten acres at the AgPark, growing primarily tomatoes, peppers, squash and herbs. Their tomato seeds are now distributed nationally through Seeds of Change.

Iu Mien Village Farms began selling strawberries to Whole Foods and the Oakland Unified School District this year. Terra Bella Family Farm has expanded to four acres, and is starting a winter CSA. And Fico's fig trees are entering their fourth year of maturity and producing delicious figs.

## Fun & Learning on the Farm: Kids & Teachers on Visiting the AgPark

“The food is great and you feel like a farmer afterwards.”

*-Bella, grade 6*

“We drove to a beautiful farm and had a blast cooking!”

*-Alejandro, grade 7*

“The sights! So green, beautiful, and peaceful! So many trees, the creeks, the rustles of the wind...”

*-Anh, grade 7, on what she liked best about the AgPark*



“The instructors were very good at making the history lessons actually fun and hands on!”

*-Leah grade 5*

“We had such a great time at the AgPark. It was a true success for both the teachers and the students. In student reflection I was happy to hear the students talk about the kind of learning that happened on the farm. It worked!”

*-Linda Hoopes, Teacher,  
Head-Royce School*



“The kids really got a chance to interact with the farm and do something that they never had before. During the strawberry picking I got a chance to work alongside the kids, and it turns out that none of them had ever been to an actual farm before, and seen food production on a large scale. I realized then that it was such an important experience for them.”

*-Katy Pierce, Teacher, Ochoa Middle School*

## Native Hedgerow Coming Along

SAGE, in partnership with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD,) has started to plant a native hedgerow and grass filter strip to protect the Arroyo de la Laguna creek and to provide habitat for birds and insects that benefit the farming operation.



## Many Thanks to Our Supporters

SAGE gratefully acknowledges the following partners and supporters:

Sunol AgPark Teacher Advisory Board and Education Committee

SFPUC

ACRCD

EBRPD

Columbia Foundation

NRCS EQIP

Banbury Fund

UC Berkeley Work Study

USDA Risk Management Agency



**The Sunol Water Temple AgPark is located at 505 Paloma Way, Sunol, CA . For more info, please see [www.sagecenter.org](http://www.sagecenter.org).**

