



March 2022 News

The unusually warm January and February is making us eager to start gardening. In January and February, we had a couple of “pop-up” work parties to start some seeds and do some maintenance around the garden. We will be starting regular weekly work parties in April, meeting each Friday from 9:00 to 12:00 except for the third Friday when we meet on Saturday that week. We appreciate any time you might want to spend at Eden Garden. Contact garden@crosswindschurch.org if you need to be added to the Eden notification and reminder list.

We require all our volunteers to be fully vaccinated against Covid 19. Masking is not mandatory but out of respect for those volunteers who choose or need to wear a mask, we ask that you wear a mask around anyone who is wearing a mask. If you are off working by yourself or around others who are ok with not wearing a mask, then please feel free to do the same.

We had great harvests in 2021

We donated 3,022 pounds of produce in 2021. Our volunteers were very busy in 2021, logging in 1,055.25 volunteer hours.



Here are some of our volunteers weighing produce and preparing it for donation.

Donation sites

During the 2021 season our primary produce donation site was the new Goodness Village on the Crosswinds property. The residents used some of the produce for their meals. They also operated produce stands after church services to raise money for their programs.

Other donation locations included Hayward Outreach, a group home in San Ramon, and the Well Church in Livermore (they work with the Alameda County food bank).

Flowers, flowers, flowers

We added more flowering plants to the garden this last year to be able to provide flowers for the Goodness Village residents to sell at their produce stands after Sunday church services. A special thank you to Terri Muir and Lois Barber who came early every Sunday during harvest season to pick flowers and arrange them in vases.



One of the new beds that was finished last summer was immediately dedicated to flowering plants. This picture also shows even more of our pumpkins and squash.



Ellen Aquirre was cutting sunflowers to be arranged in vases.



Lois Barber arranged flowers on Sunday mornings.

The end result: Goodness Village residents sold vases of flowers at their Sunday morning produce stand to raise money for their programs.



Quick notes

You might recall that in the first half of 2021 a girl scout and her father built 7 raised beds in the section of the garden closest to the golf course. Bill Tallon and irrigation maven Graham Stott added two more beds. These nine beds were filled with herbs, flowers, and edibles.

All gardens require maintenance over time. Graham has been busy repairing and renovating the irrigation system in the old part of the garden, now about 12 years old.

A few years ago, a long-time volunteer took on the task of putting wood edging around the in-ground beds in the "old" garden. The weather has now taken its toll on that edging. Bill has started replacing the old edging with 2 " x 6' redwood edging around the beds.

A shout out to our volunteers

We want to thank all our Eden volunteers for their time and dedication. We had to continue to limit the number of volunteers this year due to covid. So, it has been a small but mighty group working in the garden compared to our pre-pandemic years.

Moving onto the 2022 season

It will be a busy spring and summer, as usual.

- The cover crop planted last fall to enrich the soil will be cut down and added to the compost bins.
- Seedlings, some already started in the greenhouse, will be planted out in the beds soon. Our prime focus will then be nurturing the plants and harvesting the veggies over the summer and fall.
- We hope to start our herb spiral soon, which is a unique way to grow herbs. Irrigation provided at the top trickles down to water herbs at the bottom. We'll use donated bricks and flagstone for the spiral. It will be located in the area where the old shade structure was.
- We plan to resume some of our educational components at Eden, which had to go on hold when Covid hit.

Blessing of the Garden: April 10

Please join us on the morning of April 10th while we celebrate the beauty and richness of Eden Garden. Following the 9:00 a.m. outdoor service on April 10, we will have a blessing of the garden and our 2022 bounty. Immediately following the blessing we will open the garden for tours and answer any questions you might have. We will be in the garden again after the 10:30 service for tours and questions.

We wish you all a healthy and happy 2022.

Barbara, Graham, and Bill