



Newest Community Garden is a California First Guadalupe Gardens Contributes a Healthy Community and a Healthy Environment

By Nicole Morrison

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San José now has another reason to boast GREEN! The City of San José will celebrate the grand opening of the city's newest community garden, Guadalupe Gardens, tomorrow. The three-hour grand opening event will feature information on water shed use, cooking demonstrations, and expert gardening tips. Make no mistake; this is no ordinary vegetable patch. Guadalupe Gardens is the *first* community garden in California to use recycled water throughout the entire garden.

"This garden illustrates one of many uses for recycled water and highlights San José's leadership in water conservation efforts," says Leslie Hamilton, Executive Director of the Friends of the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens. "The project also helps meet Mayor Reed's Green Vision goals and is a tremendous asset to the San José community—there's already a waiting list for Phase II, which we hope gets built next year,"

However, there's more to community gardens growing vegetables. "It's an intergenerational, multicultural way to strengthen neighborhoods," says Community Gardens Program Coordinator, Manuel Perez. The program enriches the greater community through outdoor services provided by participants. Residents find this program offers relaxation and a deeper connection with their community. The program is so popular many of the gardens have waiting lists for plots. Once again San José shows there are many ways go GREEN.

Guadalupe Community Gardens Grand Opening, Friday, August 14, 3pm to 7pm, Guadalupe Gardens, Corner of Walnut and Asbury Streets, San José, 95110. For more information, visit www.grpg.org or call us at (408) 298-7657. RSVP to reservations@grpg.org.

About the Community Garden Program

The City of San José's community gardens program offers residents a plot of land to manage the growth of organically grown vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruit. With 19 community gardens conveniently located close to San José parks, residents are able to put their green thumb to use while contributing to the community. San José's Community Gardens is a volunteer program and require the submission of an application. Due to the high demand of this program, there may be a waiting list to use some of the more popular gardens. If interested in the community gardens program, please visit us online at www.sjcommunitygardens.org for more information on how to get involved.