COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

This summer, the Urban Agriculture team at SLUG has been concentrating its efforts on making fresh, local and organic produce readily available to the Bayview Hunters Point communities. We looked beyond our own farms, St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm and the Double Rock Community Garden, for new sources of organic, local and affordable produce for the community.

To this end, we have established a connection with Winter Creek Gardens, an organic farm based in Rumsey, CA. Winter Creek runs a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, which can best be described as a direct marketing program between the farmer and the consumer. The principle of a CSA is to link food producers to their consumers through weekly deliveries of fresh produce. This program gives the consumer the opportunity to know exactly how their food is grown and who is growing it. Many small, organic farms operate CSA programs, giving them a niche market when competing with large-scale industrial farms.

Members of the Winter Creek CSA pay one month upfront for four weekly installments of fruits and vegetables. The farmers at Winter Creek drop off a box of produce every Wednesday to the SLUG office where members can pick up their box the same day. The farmers have worked with us to make their weekly boxes of produce as affordable as possible - just $10 to $13 dollars a week for a big, beautiful box of organically grown vegetables and fruits. (If you are interested in joining the CSA, contact Paula Jones at SLUG.)

The experience of the CSA at SLUG has led us to explore other options for providing fresh organic fruits and vegetables to the community, such as the creation of a local Farmer's Market in the Bayview Hunters Point area. As part of our outreach efforts to expand the CSA, we have donated boxes of Winter Creek Gardens' produce to many local community and senior centers. Most of the produce grown at St. Mary's and Double Rock is also donated to senior centers, centers for the disabled, or distributed to the local community.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Many people contribute to the success of St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm and Double Rock Community Garden. The folks in Urban Agriculture would like to recognize the efforts of these hard workers for the contributions they have made to the success of our farms. Students from Lick Wilmerding and Oceana High Schools worked hard at St. Mary's Farm planting collards and cucumbers while fulfilling the community service component of their curriculum. A group of AmeriCorps volunteers recently planted potatoes, and

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