

St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm: A Changing Landscape

Funding from the Mayor's Office of Community Development has enabled the SLUG crew to start working on implementing designs for improving public access to the Farm site. Stairways and plantings will guide the Alemany Housing community straight up to the row crop area. Access from the Highway 280 pedestrian crossway, stairs and landscaping down from upper St. Mary's Park, and distinct pathways throughout the Farm site are all being installed.

Experienced organic farmer Daniel Green has joined SLUG as the new Farm Manager. Planning crop rotations for the row-crop area, maintaining the orchard and windbreak areas, installation of an office trailer and overseeing the construction of the Brush Chipper asphalt pad were some of Daniel's first duties. Many thanks to dedicated Farm volun-

teers Pat Coon and Ben Gustin for helping out this winter.

Much of our work for the coming summer centers on the pond area, defining the hillside watercourses, constructing the permanent banks and lining for the pond, as well as making a second upper pond to increase the total water-storage capacity of the system. Other upcoming projects include large-scale composting in windrows and the construction of a smaller and a hand-worked composting area near the crop field.

School groups from around the City will soon begin visiting the Farm once a week for hands-on environmental education in native plant and creek restoration, composting and organic urban agriculture. Many thanks to the Education Foundation of America and the National Wildlife Foundation for making this new school field trip program possible.

Summer promises to be an exciting and rewarding time at the Farm, so come on out and don't forget your work gloves! Curious Members and volunteers are encouraged to come out Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. And don't forget that the Farm is now open for brush drop-off Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. ☀

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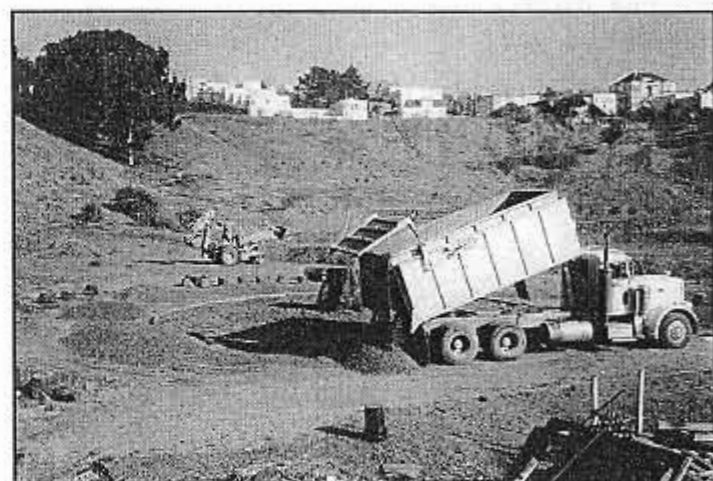
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Preparing the roadway for the Farm's new brush drop-off program.

VOLUNTEER WITH SLUG!

You can support more actively SLUG's greening and gardening vision by

- Joining SLUG's coordination committee for Festival at the Farm (June 2).
- Becoming a member of our On-Call Garden Workday list.
- Being a SLUG photographer or photo librarian.
- Helping out as one of our On-Call Office Workdays/Mailparty volunteers.
- Interning as a Public Relations & Membership assistant.
- Managing care for the Garden for the Environment's urban orchard.

...And more! There's an almost endless array of opportunities at SLUG. Contact Sabrina at 285-7584 for more info.