

Sustainable Solano
Vacaville Sustainable Backyard
2018 Demonstration “Seed Plot” Food Forest Application

Your name:

Name of your Sustainable Backyard:

(Please choose a name that reflects your hopes, aspiration and vision for the future; all applications will be publically displayed under their “chosen” names to protect the privacy of the applicants. Examples might be “New Leaf”, “Rosemary”, “Healing Earth”)

Yes, I would like to install a demonstration “Seed Plot” Food Forest on my backyard located at: *(full address)*

Your phone number(s):

Your email:

Your vision statement: (Why did you chose to apply? What is your hope, aspiration and vision for the future – for your household, your community and the world in general?)

Vacaville Sustainable Backyard – a model for the entire community!

One of the main goals of the Sustainable Solano's Backyard program is to install permaculture food forests throughout Solano County. Now we will be installing 3 demonstration food forests in Vacaville two on private land and the other on public land. We are inviting Vacaville homeowners to install a demonstration food forest we call a "Seed Plot" in their front- or backyards.

Based on the standard "Seed Plot" definition, we will design a site-specific food forest for your home, provide all plants and planting material at no charge to you, design and install a laundry-to-landscape greywater system and help you install a food forest.

You provide a team of volunteers for the installation (friends and family make the best team: you learn and work together, and then you party to celebrate). Each installation will be open to the public – you might have people digging in your yard that you've never met before! There will be hands-on workshops during installation for the entire community: "How to install a greywater system" and "How to install a food forest".

Your job after the installation is to take care of your growing food forest. We'll provide maintenance instructions and future development suggestions (your "Seed Plot" garden can be expanded both vertically and horizontally; we'll teach you how)

Members of Sustainable Solano will be coming over from time to time to check on your "Seed Plot" and to take pictures and videos of your growing food forest. We'll be using these images to document the progress of all food forests in Solano County on our website and other online and printed material. We might also divide established plants in your garden to provide planting material for the community.

Once or twice a year your food forest will be part of an annual garden tour. For a whole day your garden will be open to the general public. We might install informational posters and small signs in your garden for the tour.

As you can see, a demonstration food forest requires a strong commitment to learning, some technical skills, interest of sharing your knowledge with others and a sense of belonging to a greater community.

We highly recommend that you attend our public workshops and speaker events in Vacaville. This will make you a more informed candidate of our program. You can register for these workshops online at sustainablesolano.org.

Part I. Please tell us about yourself and your household

1. Names and total number of people residing at your house (please include the first names and ages of children still living in the house):

2. Are you or other family members serving as volunteers for Sustainable Solano or any garden organization within Solano County? If yes, please list name(s).

3. How long have you been in this house? (if selected, you will be asked for a proof of homeownership and home insurance)

4. Do you plan to thrive in this residence for the next 5 years?

5. Do you have pets that enjoy your outdoor space?

6. Does your house belong to a Home Owner Association?

Part II. Potential site

Food Forest is a permaculture term describing a cultivated ecosystem mimicking nature that has diversity, stability and resilience. It harmoniously integrates people, food and land in a way that enhances the soil productivity, creates a yield and offers aesthetic beauty.

In offering this opportunity to help you create a “Seed Plot” we envision an elegant synthesis of carefully chosen and mindfully crafted symbiotic components. Our goal is to create up to a 2000 sq. ft. oasis of productivity and beauty to nourish you and inspire others. Its design includes recycled water, efficient use of available space, layering of elements, creating a yield and the evolution of our sustainable community.

Every application is valued. The overall concept of Permaculture is founded upon designs being “site specific”. Please be as accurate as possible in completing the following site survey. In permaculture we say: “the problem is the solution.” Keep in mind that one perceived disadvantage might not necessarily be a deal breaker. For example “it’s very windy”, or “I have thin soil” may give us an opportunity to demonstrate how we work with these features.

Please tell us about the location of your future “Seed Plot” Food Forest, answer to the best of your ability:

7. Site Measurements: _____ feet long by _____ feet wide
total size _____ square feet

8. Sun Exposure: Does your site receive 6-8 hours of sunlight a day?

9. Wind Exposure: Is your site windy? Does the wind change with the season?
Please describe your observation

10. Soil (as much information as you can provide: clay, sand, pH)

11. Current Vegetation:

12. Past Vegetation:

13. Is there irrigation in place? Please describe the current irrigation:

14. Does it flood during rainy season? Have you noticed any runoffs?

15. Site Topography (is it flat or slope, gradual or steep?):

16. Estimated Area of Roof (sq.ft. of your house):

17. Property Sketch:

Please include the house, potential food forest site, laundry location, driveways, existing trees and bushes, North/South. NOTE: it does not have to be to scale, but please try to be as accurate as possible.

Part III. Laundry

18. Distance from the washer (laundry) to the potential food forest site _____
feet

19. Type of washer: front or top loader, brand, and year

20. Average number of laundry loads the household does in a week? _____

Part IV. Your Complete Sustainable Backyard

Sustainable Backyard is more than just a food forest. Different elements of a sustainable backyard are listed below. Please carefully consider each of them. The elements of the “Seed Plot” are pre-selected for you!

Vallejo Sustainable Backyard	Yes, I have it already	Yes, I'd like to have it	No, it's not for me
Rainwater harvesting in ground			
Rainwater harvesting storage tanks			
Greywater: laundry to landscape		Yes	
Greywater: shower to landscape			
Drip irrigation system		Yes	
Sheet mulch my lawn		Yes	
Fruit tree(s)		Yes	
Nut tree(s)			
Shade tree(s)			
Berries		Yes	
Grapes			
Mushrooms			
Plants to attract beneficial insects		Yes	
Native pollinator houses			
Composting			
Vermicomposting			
Chicken			
Bees			
Rabbits			
Ducks			
Aquaponics			
Join CSA			
Clothesline			
Dehydrator			
Solar cooking			
Passive solar			
Other:			

Other (please describe):

Part V: Skills Assessment for the Entire Household

Please reflect on your current skill level. Our skills and expertise are one of the most precious assets of a resilient community!

Organic Gardening:

Woodworking/Carpentry:

Natural Building:

Other:

Part VI: Pictures of your proposed location for the “Seed Plot” Food Forest

Please include 3-4 pictures of the proposed site from different angles.

Thank you for your interest in Vacaville Sustainable Backyard program, your commitment to more sustainable, resilient community and your wiliness to share your knowledge and your achievements with the entire community.

How to submit your application:

1. Scan the entire application (do not forget to attach photos) and email it to info@sustainablesolano.org
Please put "VCSB Application" in the subject line.

2. Mail complete application to:

Sustainable Solano
P.O. Box 1215
Benicia, CA 94510

Vacaville homeowners can submit their application August 11-September 21, 2018. Application closing date is September 21, 2018. If you would like to be considered for a yard conversion in October-November 2018, please make sure your application arrives by 6:PM on September 21, 2018.

We are looking forward to hear from you!