

LOCAL NEWS

Permaculture Design Certificate course coming to Benicia

By [VALLEJO TIMES-HERALD](#) | timesherald@dfmdev.com | Vacaville Reporter
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A Permaculture Design Certificate course is being offered in Benicia this fall.

Residents in Solano and neighboring counties have the opportunity to learn about the basic design principles that inform permaculture landscapes and to put those skills to use in a practical, hands-on program starting this September in Benicia.

Sustainable Solano is working with Vital Cycles and Benicia Adult Education to once again offer this Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) course — bringing the opportunity to earn an internationally recognized certification to Solano County for the second time. Sustainable Solano offered Solano County's first PDC in January 2021, overcoming the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions to shape a hybrid course of online weeknight lessons and hands-on in-person weekends of instruction held outdoors. This approach will be used again for the 2022-23 PDC, which will start Sept. 10 and go through Feb. 11 of 2023, with weeknight classes online and five in-person weekends in Benicia.

Participants in this course will also gain hands-on experience in designing and transforming a local landscape using design principles and incorporating the use of captured rainwater and greywater systems. A significant amount of time is spent out of class researching, studying and preparing a final design project with a team of peers. Classes will be conducted over Zoom and in five hands-on weekends in Benicia following the latest health and safety guidelines.

Last year's PDC enrolled a variety of participants, including landscaping professionals, educators, sustainability program managers, and community members wanting to bring permaculture practices to their property and permaculture principles to their communities. In the current environment when there is increased awareness of the need to conserve water and build resilience within our communities, the PDC course offers insight and practical techniques that can be used on local landscapes and within organizational and community settings.

To increase accessibility of the program, this year's PDC is being offered on a sliding scale of \$950-\$1,200. Scholarships or volunteer/trade agreements may be available.

To learn more visit <http://sustainablesolano.org/pdc/>.

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