



About 25 volunteers came out to help prepare the ground for the new community garden at City Church in Fairfield, Saturday, March 4, 2023. (Susan Hiland/Daily Republic)

City Church food garden comes together to help with healthy living

By [Susan Hiland](#)

FAIRFIELD — A dedicated group of about 25 volunteers came out Saturday to continue preparing the ground for the new community garden at City Church.

Sustainable Solano's Solano Gardens program is partnering with City Church of Fairfield to create a community food forest and garden on the church grounds that will supply food for underserved communities in Fairfield.

They began clearing the plot of land for the garden last week, the Rev. Scott Mulvey said.

"We are planting fruiting trees along the fence so people walking by can just grab some if they want," Mulvey said. "This area is declared a health desert by the Department of Health."



The area has no grocery stores that provide healthy choices for customers within an easy walking distance.

"If you don't have a vehicle or can't walk it is almost impossible to get healthy food," he said. "The only choice for groceries is the liquor store down the street and they don't have fresh produce."

City Church will provide healthy cooking classes for those staying at the church.

"It will show people how to use foods that are good for you in recipes so they taste good," Mulvey said.

Rakes, shovels and wheelbarrows are used to help form the new healthy food garden at City Church in Fairfield, Saturday, March 4, 2023. The garden will be finished and ready for planting in a few weeks. (Susan Hiland/Daily Republic)

The program is funded by the Solano Public Health Division to create and support gardens that provide access to fresh produce in communities that have historically experienced limited access to healthy food.

Scott Dodson is a landscape designer working with Sustainable Solano to create the design for the garden.

“The garden is going to be a place for meditation, beautification and food production,” Dobson said.

The design is done to have central fruiting trees that will have pollinating perennial plants below them.

“That will help increase the trees’ production,” Dobson said.

They will dig trenches to place vegetables and wood chips to help collect rainwater and retain it in the ground. This will provide food year round.



Fruiting trees will be placed in the garden with perennial plants beneath them at City Church in Fairfield. (Susan Hiland/Daily Republic)

Loretta Martin came from the Macedonia Church of God in Christ after she heard what they were doing on the City Church property. She grabbed a rake and has been helping get the ground ready for planting last weekend and Saturday.

“I wanted to get information on the program for our church,” she said. “This is part of the way we can heal the earth.”

Sarah Jones, a family physician, suggested the idea to Mulvey when she came out to assist with the onsite medical clinic.

“I saw the grass and how there were no trees here,” she said. “I thought it would be nice to have trees to sit beneath and meditate. It is an important part of the healing process from addiction.”

but to utilize the space for providing fresh fruits and vegetables would take it one step further.

Jones said she thought everyone needs beauty in their lives,

“I like to take a holistic approach to healing,” she said. “And looking at this garden and tending the garden as a community is one way to share part of something positive and beautiful.”

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