



TOURO UNIVERSITY, SUSTAINABLE SOLANO BRING NEW GARDEN TO VALLEJO CAMPUS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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QUICK FACTS:

Sustainable Solano and Touro University California are partnering to create a food forest garden on campus.

Three public installation workshop days in March:

- SUNDAY, MARCH 10: BIOSWALES
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/touro-food-forest-installation-day-1-of-3-tickets-847398881867>
- SUNDAY, MARCH 17: MULCH & WEED MANAGEMENT
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/touro->

[food-forest-installation-day-2-of-3-tickets-847456494187](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/touro-food-forest-installation-day-2-of-3-tickets-847456494187)

- SUNDAY, MARCH 24: PLANTING AND IRRIGATION
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/touro-food-forest-installation-day-3-of-3-tickets-847474899237>

An edible, vibrant garden that will welcome in the university community and provide habitat for pollinators is going in at Touro University California, and the wider community is invited to be part of its creation.

Sustainable Solano and Touro University California (TUC) are partnering to create the "Healing Harvest" food forest garden on campus through a series of public Sunday installation workshops this month. The food forest garden will create a space that grows food and attracts pollinators while also offering a spot for rest and reflection on campus, with tables and benches installed by the school. The garden will also add beauty to the campus, dovetailing with the university's Beautiful U initiative.

"As we embark on the creation of the 'Healing Harvest' food forest garden, we embrace not

only the cultivation of sustenance but also the nurturing of community and environmental stewardship. This collaborative endeavor reflects our commitment to holistic wellness and sustainable practices, enriching the tapestry of our campus and inviting all to partake in its bounty," said Tami Hendriksz, TUC Interim Chief Academic Officer.

The process of planning for the food forest included surveying students, faculty and staff on everything from the types of food that will be grown in the 2000-square-foot space to the name for the garden.

Sustainable Solano is excited to install the garden through a series of educational workshops that will bring together the campus community and members of the public over the course of three Sundays (March 10, 17 and 24) to prepare the landscape, mulch, weed, install drip irrigation and plant the garden. These workshops provide an opportunity to connect with the space through the establishment of the garden and work alongside each other, building and strengthening community. TUC will provide lunch each day.

The workshops and garden installation are through Sustainable Solano's Solano Gardens program, which is funded by Solano Public Health and has a focus on increasing food yield and access in the county, while also creating green spaces within our communities.

Irrigation, conservation, and considerations for rain events are handled by creating bioswales, trenches that are filled with wood chip material. They absorb rainwater and runoff and provide water for plants when the weather is drier.

Once the garden is established, it is up to TUC to keep everything growing and thriving. This will create opportunities for using the Healing

Harvest food forest as a therapeutic space, offering opportunities for gardening sessions, working to help the space and plants thrive, and potential student club engagement. It's not just about farming crops; it's about cultivating well-being, sustainability, and a sense of belonging within the TUC community.

"We'll plant what we need, what we can hope to then share with our community," said Sarah Passage, Chief of Staff for the Dean's Office. "The produce will go out either to our own food pantry, other efforts like the Student Run Free Clinic, or other places where we go out in the public."

ABOUT SUSTAINABLE SOLANO

Sustainable Solano is a countywide nonprofit organization that brings together programs that support and sustain one another and the Solano County community to promote ecologically regenerative, economically and socially just communities in a world that works for everyone.

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