



Oak Park Crop Swap

Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

2010 Oak Park Crop Swap Season in Review

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NeighborWorks® Sacramento,
Weed & Seed &
The Sacramento Natural Food
Coop provided valuable support
for the 2010 trading season.
Thank you!



Summer 2010 marked the Oak Park Crop Swaps 3rd year of operation! The summer trading season was a little shorter than the past two years but it was jam packed with gardening related activities appealing to a wide range of community members.

The Oak Park Crop Swap Kick Off at the Brickhouse was a huge success. Even though it was a hot July day around 20

families joined us for a Crop Swap, Solar Oven Demo and a viewing of the documentary HomeGrown, *The 21st Century Family Farm*. After viewing Homegrown and listening to Dale's workshop on solar ovens, many attendees were inspired to try to do more with their urban gardens.

Following the Kick-Off we held 8 Crop Swaps at McClatchy Park and had presentations on important gardening related topics including: composting, soil health, water conservation and garden planning techniques.

This proved to be one of our most successful seasons, many community members new to the Crop Swap joined the fun!



Oak Park Crop Swap Garden Tour

On a bright and sunny morning in August, members of the Crop Swap embarked on our most successful event to date – **The Crop Swap Garden Tour**. At least 50 households from Oak Park and the surrounding area participated in our signature event of 2010.

Eight members of the Crop Swap generously opened their gardens to the community to tour and answer questions about their gardening and homesteading best practices. We had demonstrations on Cooking with the Season, Planning your Garden Space, Growing Hops, Grey Water in Action, Rabbits are good for your Garden, Chickens in the Garden, The Secret Garden and the Great Chicken Release.

It was a rare treat to be able to visit everyone's garden and see how our neighbors grow their produce. It's striking to see how talented members of the Oak Park Community are in their growing, cooking, garden design, fermenting and food preservation endeavors!



What did members of the Oak Park Crop Swap trade in 2010?



Gardeners tend to pay very close attention to the weather. This dictates what we plant, when we plant it and what pests we will have to fight. Summer 2010 had some unusual weather, alternating between hot and cold in the spring. Many had to launch an all out battle against slugs devouring seedlings more aggressively than in past years. Oak Park also had to deal with a “mystery” bug we haven’t seen before attacking our tomato plants! Despite the adversity members of the Crop Swap persevered and we traded over **300 pounds of produce and 70 bunches of herbs** during the summer!

Where will the Crop Swap be held in 2011?

The Oak Park Crop Swap was started because residents wanted to develop a gardening community in Oak Park and hoped that eventually a community garden would be part of that vision. Two years ago the City Council approved a community garden for Oak Park, and SHRA earmarked a lot on 12th Street and MLK Blvd. Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of designing the space and construction should begin in February 2011. This is great news for the Oak Park Crop Swap. Once the garden is open we will hold swaps and presentations at the community garden. The new community garden will include 35 plots. If you are interested in a gardening space contact Bill Maynard at (916) 808-4943 for sign up information.

Get Involved in 2011



Garden Art on display for the Oak Park Crop Swap
Garden Tour

Are you interested in volunteering for the Oak Park Crop Swap? There are many ways to get involved. Contact Kara for information on volunteering for the Crop Swap at: (916) 452-5356 ext. 225 or kara@nwsac.org

1. Attend a planning meeting in the spring
2. Writers are needed for our Blog to write about Crop Swap activities or about your own garden.
3. Host one of the weekly Crop Swap during the summer
4. Join the planning committee for the 2011 Oak Park Crop Swap Garden Tour
5. Keep track of the produce traded
6. Volunteer to be a speaker or lead a project at a swap
7. Help us get out the word to other neighbors!

Visit the Oak Park Crop Swap website at oakparkcropswap.org for more information.

Visit the NeighborWorks® Sacramento website at nwsac.org for information on first time homebuyer programs, foreclosure prevention counseling, reality services and community development projects.