



Nurturing Community & Restoring the Land at Wakamatsu Farm

Ongoing restoration activities at Wakamatsu Farm aim to restore riparian, oak woodland and wetland habitat while engaging citizens and partners in creating an economically vibrant community and a biologically diverse landscape. These efforts serve to enhance the biodiversity and function of important wildlife habitat, support organic farming practices, and involve the community in land management and resource stewardship. Restoration activities also improve water storage capacity, nutrient cycling functions, water quality, and biological diversity of the natural areas of the South Fork American River Watershed, and by extension, the American River Watershed and lower Sacramento River Basin.

American River Conservancy (ARC) was awarded two grants from the California Natural Resources Agency through the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant Program to create a **Produce Garden, Native Plant Demonstration Garden and Nursery** and complete a **1.5-mile wheelchair accessible trail** around the small lake. The grant awards have been matched by additional funding from ARC, Intel, Sam's Club, 4H Fundraising 4 Farmland Project, as well as thousands of hours of support from volunteers. Boy Scouts from local troops have also helped make this project a success. These projects have brought fresh new partnerships and provided hundreds of pounds of fresh produce for local food banks, school garden fundraisers, and even ARC events.

Particularly exciting for ARC's Stewardship Program is the creation of the native plant nursery where staff and volunteers grow locally-sourced native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers. These native plants will be used for on-site restoration projects and habitat enhancement projects at other nearby sites managed by the ARC. The Native Plant Demonstration Garden and plantings throughout the Farm feature drought-tolerant and pollinator-attracting native species.

The Farm's 5-acre project area includes a produce garden and organic orchard where visitors can interact with the land, row crops, and orchards. The layout of the row crop area and the orchard utilize permaculture design techniques including capturing precious runoff, utilizing perennial crops and plants, cover-cropping, practicing no-till agriculture and utilizing compost and mulch. The produce garden has been used as a resource for local schools and members of the community who want to learn more about sustainable agriculture, native plant gardening, and simply want to connect with the land.

Habitat restoration activities include the Farm's seasonal wetlands, pond and riparian zones, installation and maintenance of hedgerows, and working with onsite *Free Hand Farm* to facilitate grazing rotations on the landscape to manage non-native invasive species. The **Wakamatsu Outdoor Education Program** offers experiential, standards-based lessons as part of field trips to the historic Farm. Lessons and trips for older students also integrate habitat restoration "service-learning" projects to apply lessons on the ground. ARC will continue to develop infrastructure and restore historic buildings that promote our vision for Wakamatsu Farm.

We need your help to keep Wakamatsu Farm growing. We have many opportunities for volunteers and the general public to get involved. Please donate or support the project today!

Please contact Dillon Brook, ARC's Stewardship Manager, to learn more about ongoing restoration, trail and other land management activities at the Farm: dillon@ARConservancy.org