



Nurturing Community and Stewarding the Land at Wakamatsu Farm

Ongoing stewardship and restoration activities at Wakamatsu Farm aim to improve and maintain riparian, oak woodland, and wetland habitat while engaging citizens and partners in creating an economically vibrant community and a biologically diverse landscape. These efforts 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.

Stewardship funding is an ongoing need at Wakamatsu Farm. In the past, 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. Those grants were matched by additional funding from ARC, Intel, Sam's Club, 4H Fundraising 4 Farmland Project, as well as thousands of hours of volunteer support. Boy Scouts from local troops have also helped make Wakamatsu Farm successful. Projects like these have brought fresh new partnerships and provided many benefits for communities today and tomorrow.

Particularly exciting is 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 ARC. The Native Plant Demonstration Garden and plantings throughout the Farm feature drought-tolerant and pollinator-attracting native species. Habitat restoration activities include the Farm's seasonal wetlands, pond and riparian zones, installation and maintenance of hedgerows, and more. Through the years, many volunteers and groups have proposed and managed their own projects at the Farm. ARC remains open to new stewardship ideas that align with Wakamatsu Farm goals.

Many of ARC's Environmental Education programs happen at Wakamatsu Farm. These programs include experiential, standards-based lessons as part of field trips and other scheduled dates. Programs 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 ARC's Environmental Education vision at Wakamatsu Farm.

ARC needs your help and ongoing community support to help keep Wakamatsu Farm vibrant. With so many possibilities to get involved, there is no limit to the opportunities for individuals, groups, and partners who want to participate. Please donate, volunteer, share, and support Wakamatsu Farm today!

Please contact ARC to learn more about Wakamatsu Farm.

wakamatsu@ARConservancy.org - www.ARConservancy.org/wakamatsu