

Other Helpful Resources

The City of San Diego provides information and resources on urban farming.
www.sandiego.gov/urbanfarming/gardens

Seed Libraries, like regular libraries, depend on borrowing to provide free seeds to the community. By “borrowing” seeds and returning some of the newly grown ones, individuals are provided with a free crop or plant, and seed libraries remain stocked. There are locations across San Diego offering a variety of different seasonal seed options.
www.sandiego.gov/sdplseedlibraries

City Farmers Nursery has been serving San Diego with free advice on sustainability practices since 1972. Visit at 3110 Euclid Ave., San Diego, CA 92105. Open Wed-Sun 9am-5pm.
www.CityFarmersNursery.com

Free Food Distribution:

Feeding San Diego:
9477 Waples St., Ste. 100
San Diego, CA 92121
858.452.3663
info@feedingsandiego.org

CSA Programs - Eating Local San Diego: A list of organizations that provide Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes.
<https://www.eatinglocalsandiego.com/csa-programs>

Another option:



Local, sustainable, farm fresh produce
Sign up for home delivery or pick up
Wed-Fri 12pm-6 pm.

3340 Fairmont Ave, San Diego, CA 92105
Saturday Market 9 am - 12 pm
Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
Sign up at (619) 717-7079 or
www.foodshedcooperative.com.

Upcoming Events

Alan Ridley’s “Houses that Don’t Burn”

- Wednesday, Feb. 19th, 2025 at 10:30 am
- Community Congregational Church at Bradley Hall, 276 F St. Chula Vista, CA 91910
- Attendance is free

Fairhope, Alabama, a Henry George Utopia

- Lunch, Presentation, and Discussion by Alan Ridley & Carol Huntsman
- Sunday, Feb. 23rd, 2025 at 12:15 pm
- Peace Resource Center (Indoors Next to Friends Center)
- Attendance is free, but please RSVP to Alan at (858) 883-7314 or Joanna (925) 699-4338

City Heights Village Aging Better:

- Fall Prevention for Older Adults
Presentation by Kristine Schindler
- Tuesday, Feb. 25th, 2025 at 3:00 pm
- Church of the Brethren, 3850 Westgate Pl, San Diego CA 92105
- For more information, email Agnes at alconradt@gmail.com

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◆ LOCAL FRESH FOOD ISSUE ◆

“He’s gone, but he ain’t gone far.”

Rev. Andrew Young at the Memorial Service for Jimmy Carter



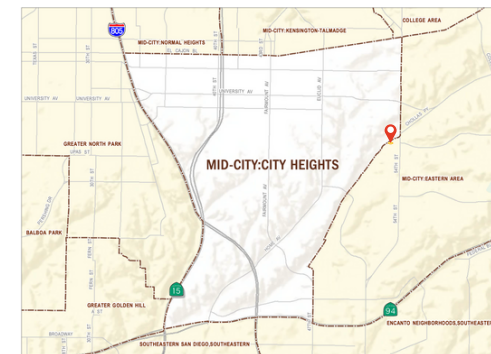
San Diego Friends Meeting Center, City Heights, San Diego, California

Benefits and Examples of San Diego Urban Agriculture

By: Joanna Floyd

Urban agriculture, including goats which can be used to reduce risk of fire, has uncontested benefits for communities. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes that urban agriculture is good for soil health, connects people and cultures, and encourages time spent outdoors doing physical activity. Most importantly, it can help alleviate food insecurity by increasing access to fresh produce. Through the Urban Agriculture Incentive Program, eligible properties can receive a property tax reduction if the vacant property is used for agriculture production. The EPA has resources such as grants and technical aid for communities who want to make an organized effort toward repurposing land for a farm or garden. There are also urban farming non-profits and organizations throughout San Diego already making an impact. Their impact is seen throughout the county as they provide our communities with beautiful, fresh produce and help to alleviate food insecurity in their communities by giving farmers access to land to grow crops. Additionally, many of these organizations offer their knowledge and support to anyone who wants to get involved.

New Roots Community Farm in City Heights provides farmers with access to plots of land where they can grow food to eat at home, or sell at a farmers market. Founded by Somali Bantu refugees, their farmers consist of San Diego locals, and as well as refugees and immigrants from around the world. Through New Roots people can find instant community, an avenue for generating income, and a space to continue growing their own food. If you would like to support the garden you can donate through the City Height’s Community Development Corporation’s website <https://www.cityheightscdc.org/new-roots-garden>.



Mt. Hope Garden, by Project New Village, is another community green space that, with the help of their People’s Produce Mobile Farmer’s Market, provides SouthEast San Diego

communities with access to fresh produce, and healthy food options. Instead of renting their land, as of December 2019, Project New Village acquired the funding to buy their land, securing the Mt. Hope Community Garden's presence in Mt. Hope, and their continued mission to create food sovereignty across SouthEast San Diego.

If you'd like to support Project New Village, you can donate through their website, where they've launched a "Community Chest." The charitable fund provides coupons to locals in need, which can be redeemed for fresh food at the People's Produce Mobile Farmers Market. The mobile market serves locations across San Diego, including "National City, Barrio Logan, and Lemon Grove." To donate your time, join Community Work Days, which take place monthly on every 3rd Saturday from 9 am - 11 am at the Mt. Hope Community Garden. For information about upcoming events, The People's Produce Mobile Farmer's Market, donating, volunteering, and more, visit Project New Village's website <https://projectnewvillage.org/>.

San Diego Co-Harvest is a non-profit founded in 2019 concerned with bringing food sovereignty to communities that lack access to healthy food options. They maintain over 35 micro-farms across San Diego County, which have produced over 10,000 pounds of food, contributing to reduced greenhouse gas emissions on top of alleviating food insecurity. They offer memberships that allow people options to receive free fresh produce, and donate respectively. Food insecure people can donate minimal space from their backyards in exchange for the free installation of a garden system to be maintained solely by San Diego Co-Harvest. In return, the membership provides a bi-monthly bag of free fresh produce. To learn about their other membership options, volunteer opportunities, or making a donation, visit the San Diego Co-Harvest's website <https://www.sdcoharvest.com/>.

A New Take on Property Taxation

By: Ted Gwartney, Alan Ridley, Ryan Curtice

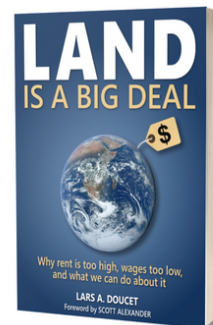
Property tax consists of two parts: a tax on buildings (also known as "improvements") and a tax on land. Most jurisdictions tax both at the same rate, but some believe that this contributes to negative economic consequences. Taxing buildings raises housing costs by increasing the expense of construction, maintenance, and improvements. This leads to fewer and lower-quality homes and commercial spaces, higher rents, and reduced job opportunities.

In contrast, taxing land yields more positive outcomes. Land value is independent of what landowners do, reflecting community-funded benefits like streets, utilities, transit, and schools. These public investments increase land values, often becoming immensely and disproportionately profitable for landowners. California's current property tax system exacerbates these issues. It penalizes property owners who construct or maintain buildings with higher taxes while rewarding neglect. For example, one may avoid taxation by disallowing construction on a vacant lot or by allowing a building to deteriorate while also avoiding the costs of improvement. Essentially, this discourages development and maintenance, even though public infrastructure costs are similar regardless of a lot's condition. Shifting property taxes off of buildings and onto land would incentivize construction, reduce housing costs, and discourage land speculation. This approach, known as Land Value Return, makes both buildings and land more affordable without new spending or revenue loss.

Though Prop 13 complicates this shift in California, successful examples abound—in Pennsylvania, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Singapore, Denmark, and even the Port of San Diego. Historically, California used land value taxation to fund irrigation districts and rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake, demonstrating its potential to foster equitable growth and affordability.

Solutions for Housing and Local Food Production

By: Emily Schmidt



In Lars Doucet's thought-provoking book *Land is a Big Deal*, the critical role of land in shaping economic systems and perpetuating inequality is brought into sharp focus. Doucet explores the often-overlooked but foundational impact of land ownership and speculation on everything from housing affordability to economic stagnation, all while presenting practical solutions rooted in Georgist economic principles of shared land value and equitable taxation.

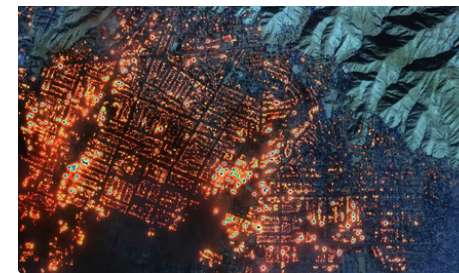
Doucet makes the case that land monopolization drives up costs for everyone, whether through rising rents, reduced wages, or restricted access to essential resources. For communities grappling with food insecurity, the implications are profound. When land prices soar, so do the costs of farming and food production, which then ripple through the supply chain, making fresh and nutritious food unaffordable for low-income families. Doucet's analysis connects this dynamic to broader structural inequalities, showing how land speculation compounds the challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

What sets *Land is a Big Deal* apart is its actionable framework for reform. Doucet advocates for a land value tax, a policy designed to curb speculation by taxing the unimproved value of land while encouraging productive use. In the context of food security, a land value tax could lower barriers for small-scale farmers, reduce urban food

deserts, and create pathways for community-driven agricultural initiatives. For San Diego, where skyrocketing land values exacerbate economic inequality, such policies could have transformative effects. Implementing a land value tax could make it easier to access affordable land, support urban agriculture in underserved neighborhoods, and improve access to fresh produce in food-insecure areas. *Land is a Big Deal* is a call for rethinking the economic policies that govern land use. For those working to address food insecurity, it highlights an essential, often-neglected root cause and offers hope for sustainable solutions. Doucet's insights have the ability to inspire advocates, policymakers, and anyone committed to creating a more equitable future.

Los Angeles Wildfires

By: Isabel Guitteau



At Appreciating San Diego, we are deeply saddened by the devastating Wildfires in Los Angeles. As of January 12 these fires have tragically claimed 16 lives, burned over 38,000 acres, and destroyed more than 12,000 structures. With 150,000 people evacuated, the full extent of the damage remains uncertain as the fires continue.

Our hearts go out to those affected, and we extend our deepest sympathies to the impacted communities. As we read of these tragedies we encourage support for local organizations providing relief and aid — Consider visiting the website of Mutual Aid Los Angeles Network (MALAN) They have compiled an extensive list of organizations actively providing aid.