

Lazy Landing Community Garden

The Lazy Landing Mobile Home Park sits on the banks of the Sacramento River in south Redding. One day, a small group of park residents were talking about how fertile the soil was and that plants would do well in the sun on the river bank. They asked the manager if they could plant a few vegetables down by the river. The manager approved a site on the river bank for gardening.

Originally the residents made individual plots that were outlined by rocks. They added compost and other soil amendments and started planting their gardens. The first year was a struggle for many of the gardeners because they had to hand carry water to their garden plots each day and many of those days had temperatures well over 100 degrees. They managed to have fun and success with their gardens this first year. The next year they worked with the manager of the park to bring water closer to the garden plots, where a hose was made available. This year was more successful and the gardeners began socializing more, sharing garden tools, tips and information. Many of them would water and weed together.



A new owner took over the park and wanted to support gardening for the residents. They designated a site in the center of the park for a large garden area. First they built seven 4 ft. x 12 ft. raised garden beds. They brought in soil, compost, and manure and the owner placed a faucet and hose at each bed location. The garden became more fun and successful and provided a great opportunity for the residents and their families to get to know one another, share ideas, challenges, and the fruits of their labor.

Each year presentations are brought to the residents, providing Nutrition Education and Gardening Information. Topics include Fruits, Vegetables and Heart Health, My Pyramid Nutrition Education, Watering information, Fall/Winter Vegetables, Pest Information, Ladybugs and Preying Mantis, Healthy Recipes, and Healthy Families information. All garden activities and events are designed to include youth, families and seniors. Partnerships between Shasta County Public Health, *Network for a Healthy California*, Anderson Garden Club, Shasta College Master Gardeners, U.C. Cooperative Extension, Lazy Landing owners, and the residents, make the Lazy Landing Garden Project successful in building a healthier community.

In the last few years, the residents have transitioned to gardening in their own yards, either directly in the ground or in containers, as the growth of the mobile home park forced the owners to use the garden area for more mobile homes. As the availability of space changed, the gardeners learned how to utilize the sunny areas in their own yards. The container gardening seems to be very successful for most residents and easy to maintain. Current presentations continue to provide ongoing gardening information and nutrition education. The residents now look for opportunities to share their gardening ideas, tips, and stories with one another at social gatherings and use of the park's community bulletin board. They look forward to helping organize a Spring Kick-Off event that will start them on a new gardening journey each year.

