



2003 - a bare dirt lot
And just several years later - a thriving community garden



OAK PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN. In 2003, a group called the Oak Park Gardeners got together with the purpose of establishing an organic community garden where individual members can grow vegetables or flowers of their choice. They brought life to a vacant dirt lot at the corner of Kanan Road and Sunnycrest Drive. Near this spot in the 1960s was a trailer where early Oak Park site manager Dan Lavetts (Mae Boyar's nephew) watched over the houses before they were sold. (Greg Tucker.)

Conejo Valley Examiner May 13, 2004



Photo by Beth Rose

From left, David Ross, Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks and master gardener Dean Burnett show the plots Oak Park residents may rent so they have a chance to work out their green thumbs.



Oak Park resident and master gardener Dean Burnett approached RSRPD to create a community garden in Oak Park.



May 1st, 2004 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Opening of the Garden

Community Garden dedicated

By Bette Rose

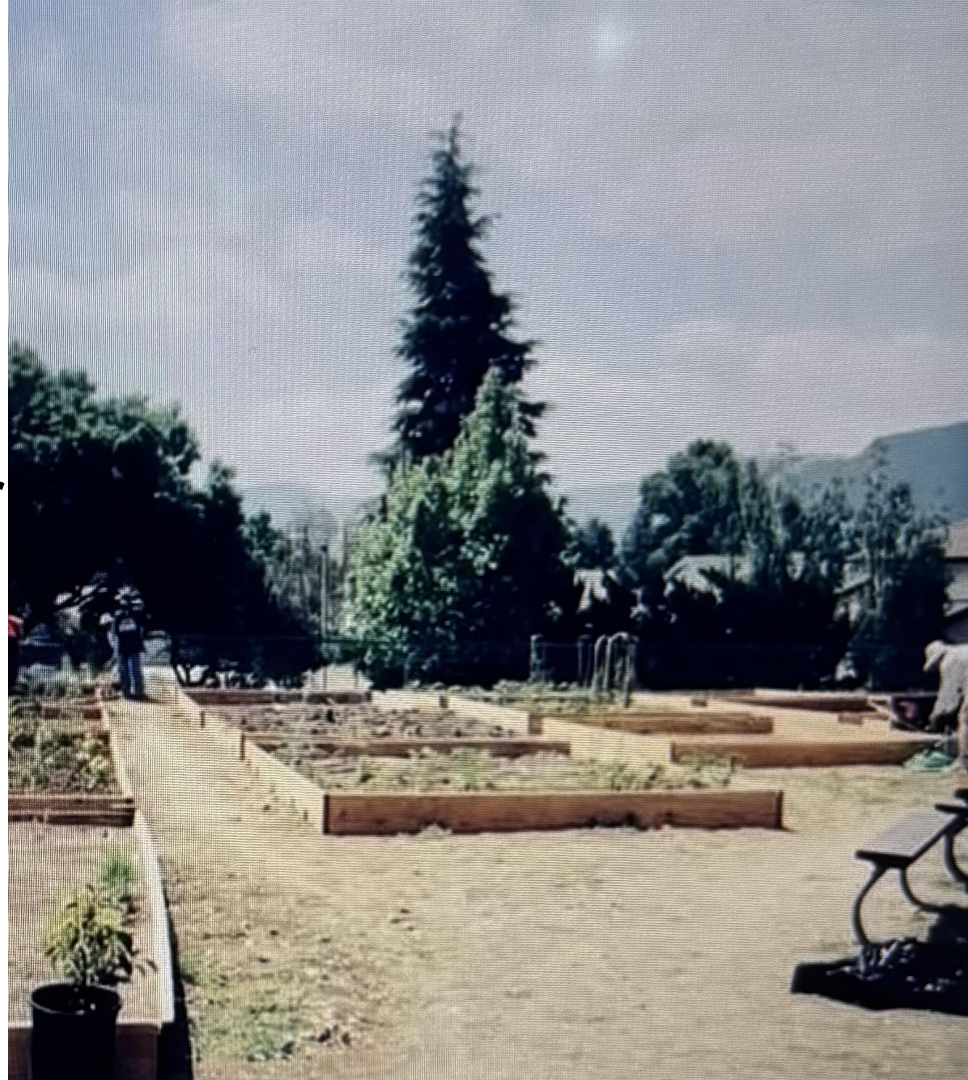
Oak Park blossomed Saturday, May 1, with the dedication of its new community garden. An estimated 125 visitors joined with members of Oak Park Gardeners Club, Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District President Mark Johnson, Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, RSRPD Boardmember Elaine Freeman and Oak Park Community Foundation President David Ross at the gardens, at the corner of Kanan Road and Sunnycrest Drive.



LISA ADAMS/The Acorn GREEN THUMBS GATHER-From left to right, Patricia Burnett, Oak Park Community Garden co-founder; Dean Burnett, president of the Oak Park Community Gardeners; David Ross, president of the Community Foundation for Oak Park; and Rancho Simi Recreation Park District Board Members Mark Johnson and Elaine Freeman cut a ribbon to officially open the Oak Park Community Garden. It's on a vacant piece of land that's been divided into individual parcels. Members can grow vegetables or flowers.

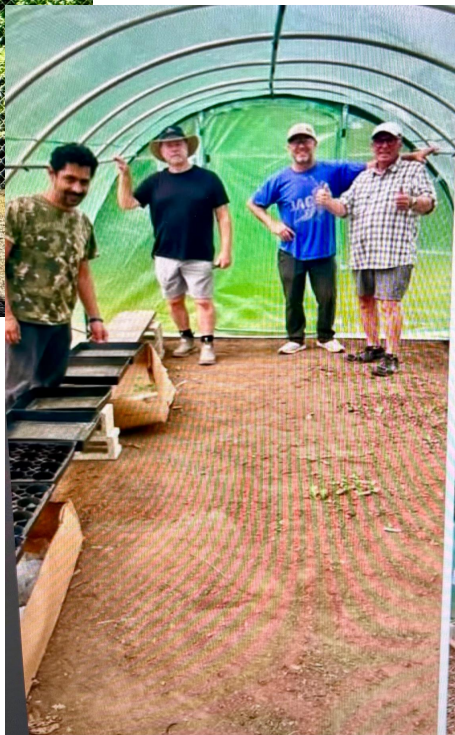
Our Initial Layout:

- 71 Parcels, 10'x20'
- Fenced In Property
- Potable Water
- Landscaped Perimeter Hedge
- 3 Picnic Tables
- Metal Shipping Container for Tool Storage



OPCG Improvements Through the Years

- ❖ Information kiosk built by a local Eagle Scout
- ❖ Pollinator garden created in one of the available parcels
- ❖ Seed library created by a local OPHS student
- ❖ RSRPD granted permission for gardeners to cover parcels
- ❖ Parcel chats initiated for gardeners - educational talks led by experts
- ❖ Lowes donated materials for garden bed to be built under the sign on the corner of Sunnycrest
- ❖ Raptor perch installed
- ❖ Monarch Waystation planted and certified in back corner of the garden
- ❖ Member created cookbook published
- ❖ Monarch Waystation expanded and rebuilt
- ❖ Greenhouse erected next to the Kanan side of the garden for seed starting
- ❖ \$10,000 grant received from Harbor Freight's "Smidt Foundation" to build shade structures/pavilions at the garden





With elbow grease and teamwork, the Monarch Waystation became an oasis in the Garden





Our Partnerships:

Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District

- Water bills are shared, our largest expense
- New gates and other maintenance requests fulfilled annually
- Shade structures being erected with their guidance and assistance
 - Ongoing advertisement in their Recreation Guide

The Foundation for Oak Park

- Becoming an “activity committee” of the Foundation allowed us to utilize their tax exempt status and function as a 501c3 nonprofit

Ventura County Farm to School

- Guidance provided to the garden regarding curriculum development for field trips
- Inclusion of OPCG in various OPUSD events and garden work days

RSRPD Contributions: Activity Guide announcements, and building assistance on capital improvement projects

OAK PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN
401 Kanan Road
(Corner of Kanan Rd. and Sunnycrest Dr.)

Parcels now available for enthusiasts who want to grow their own organic fruits, vegetables, and flowers in a friendly, local setting. All levels of experience welcome. Water and tools are provided as part of a nominal rental fee for each sunny, spacious parcel. Come join like-minded neighbors in this family friendly refuge from the stress of everyday life.



Visit oakparkcommunitygarden.org or contact oakparkcommunitygarden@gmail.com



New gates at the Kanan entrance thanks to Robert,
Eugene, and their team from RSRPD!





We rely on the kindness of our community, and local businesses, for donations large and small



Lowes donations - tools and hoses



Ventura County Farm to School Educator Jenna Salim







Ventura County Resource Conservation District







Harbor Freight and The Smidt Foundation

Established by Eric Smidt, the foundation builds upon the Smidt family's deep commitment to supporting vital nonprofit organizations working to create opportunity, safety and wellbeing in Los Angeles and other communities.

The foundation's focused support aims to uplift skilled trades education, veterans and other first responders. The foundation also supports courageous nonprofits addressing anti-Semitism and bigotry in all its forms, and front-line organizations bringing care to so many in need.



**Harbor Freight tools
purchased with
donated giftcards**



**Two Pergolas
purchased with \$10,000
donation from The
Smidt Foundation
(Harbor Freight)**



Sharing our love of gardening with the Oak Park community...



oakparkcommunitygardenca Today's rain did not "dampen" shoppers' enthusiasm for the community garden's impromptu Pop-Up Tomato Plant Sale. All of the organic grown-from-seed plants were almost completely sold out. If you missed this sale, there will be a variety of vegetable and flower plants sold on Saturday May 17th 10:00-1:00 at the garden's open house. See you then!



Annual Open House





MONARCH WAYSTATION TOURS

④ OAK PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN



From an egg to a butterfly, come to see the different stages of a Monarch Butterfly's life cycle in its natural habitat!

FREE FOR ALL!

Dates and Times:

August 2nd - 9:00 AM

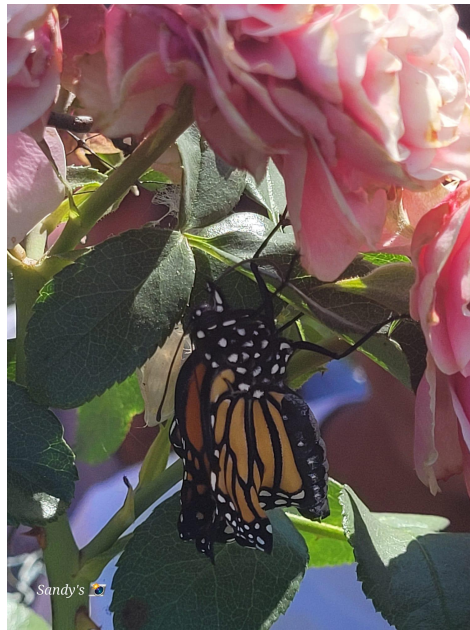
August 3rd - 9:00 AM

Location:

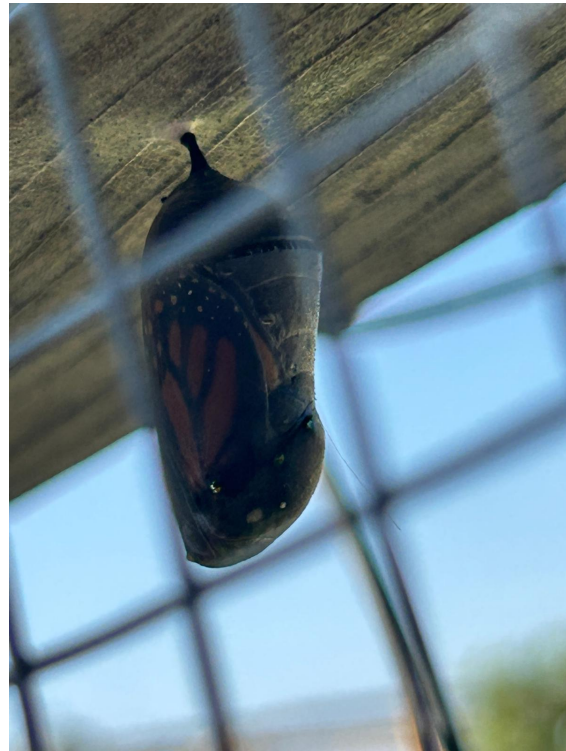
Oak Park Community Garden

401 Kanan Rd, Oak Park, 91377





**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



A History of field trips, and educating the surrounding community on organic gardening practices....

Brookside Elementary School Pumpkin Patch and Tour





**Oak Hills Elementary School Field
Trips: serving 270 students in
2024/2025**







Hosting the Medea Creek Middle School's Garden Club





Our hard working
field trip
volunteer team,
and the kids from
MCMS and
OHES



Educational sessions on edible flowers and
“parts of the plant”

Education doesn't only happen in the garden.
Thank you to VC Farm to School and MCMS for
including us in your garden rehabilitation efforts at
OPUSD School sites!



Upcoming projects and events:

- **Field Trips: serving all grades at Oak Hills Elementary School this year - almost 400 students! Hopefully bringing Brookside Elementary and Mariposa School of Global Education to the garden for field trips and tours.**
- **Continuing our educational efforts alongside the MCMS garden club and OHES on campus in their gardens and classrooms**
- **Consulting with local schools and garden clubs**
- **Hosting educational events at the garden, open to the community - featuring both local experts and our own gardeners**
- **Annual open house event and fundraiser - May 2026**
- **Monarch Waystation and pollinator garden tours - Spring/Summer**
- **Collaborations with Las Flores Community Garden in Thousand Oaks for sustainability fairs and other local events**
- **Hopefully taking part in Earth Day festivities on OPUSD school campuses through our connection with the EEAC**
- **Give back by raising money at events for donations to local gardening/educational initiatives**



401 Kanan Road
Oak Park, California 91377
(at the corner of Kanan Road and Sunnycrest Drive)



Curious about joining?

Visit our website: www.oakparkcommunitygarden.org

Fill out an Application on our Forms page and schedule a tour to get a spot on our waitlist!

Parcels available throughout the year.

**Follow us! Facebook: Oak Park Community Garden, California
Instagram: Oakparkcommunitygardenca**

All other inquiries please email: oakparkcommunitygarden@gmail.com

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

JOIN US!

WE HAVE PARCELS AVAILABLE

**Flyers on the table in the back of
the room tonight :-)**

WANT TO BRING YOUR
CLUB/CLASS FOR A VISIT?

WE LOVE GIVING TOURS OF
THE GARDEN AND ARE HAPPY
TO SHARE OUR PASSION AND
JOY OF GROWING!





**Mahatma Gandhi: “To forget how to dig
the earth and to tend the soil is to forget
ourselves.”**

HOW TO CONNECT:

★ WWW.OAKPARKCOMMUNITYGARDEN.ORG

★ FACEBOOK: OAK PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN, CALIFORNIA

★ INSTAGRAM: OAKPARKCOMMUNITYGARDENCA

★ OAKPARKCOMMUNITYGARDEN@GMAIL.COM

★ DONATE THROUGH ZELLE:

OAKPARKCOMMUNITYGARDEN@GMAIL.COM

(OAK PARK GARDENERS)

★ DONATE THROUGH VENMO:

@ALISON-BATTEN-2 (LAST FOUR DIGITS 8455), REFERENCE OPCG IN COMMENTS

