



Red Okra

Many of us are growing red okra this year. Fast maturing with high yields. fry it or use in soups and stew. The flower is edible and can be stuffed like zucchini flowers.



OAK PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Growing together since 2004

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members when you see them at the garden . Jennifer A8, Natalia D3, Roza A1, Ron D9 and Susan F7.

2026 Open House

Our open house on May 16th was a great success on so many levels! We had 80-100 visitors, many of whom were repeat from last year. We raised \$1086 from:

- Raffle
- Plant and book sale
- Lemonade Stand

This year our vendors were: Athens Waste, Las Virgenes Water District, U.C. Master Gardeners of Ventura County, Ventura County Resource Conservation District, Friends of Oak Park Open Space Good Box Organics, Ubatuba Acai .They all added a dynamic and educational element that was enjoyed by all.

Our Monarch Waystation was another busy hub of activity.

We want to thank everyone who came out to help, worked in their parcels and chatted with visitors.



How does our garden work?



Organic Gardening Principles

Our garden operates as an organic garden... it's in our mission statement. So, what does this mean?

As we practice the art of gardening we use Rodale's principles. When we amend our soil, we add materials that do not contain synthetic fertilizers, sewerage, or have been irradiated or contain items that are genetically modified We want anything we add to the parcels to be as natural as possible. This includes wood mulch we might add to our pathways. Any herbicides or pesticides should be certified safe for organic gardening. Look on packaging for "safe for organic gardening and the "OMRI" logo. This logo certifies the materials meet organic materials rating index. It is important when you join the garden to educate yourself on best methods.

The board is always available to answer questions and give guidance.

<https://rodaleinstitute.org/>





MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Community Outreach Committee

Our team was recognized by Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorrell's office with an award for Environmentalism at his leadership award event in May. A well-deserved recognition of the great work the team does with the elementary school tours.



A garden is a delight to the eye and solace for the soul.
- Saadi



Bind weed

Bindweed is a highly invasive vining weed that is appearing in both ends of the garden. It is in both members' gardens and in the pathways. Once it takes hold it is very hard to eliminate. It spreads via roots and seeds. Consistent removal of both the foliage and the roots, which can go deep, is the best way to deal with it. Please bag any part of the plant you remove and place in the trash. The roots can survive composting! Information has been posted in the shed; we are trying the organic herbicide pictured below, also available in the shed. We are evaluating the effectiveness particularly around boundary boards. This has also been discussed at general meetings and a monitoring program is in place. We need to all work together to control its spread. If you have questions, please contact a member of the board.



Board Members:

President: Bill Colangelo
Vice President: Lekshmi Nair
Treasurer: Alison Batten
Secretary: Amanda Martin
Garden Manager: Bob Kieling

Important Links:

oakparkcommunitygarden@gmail.com
www.instagram.com/oakparkcommunitygardenca
www.facebook.com/oakparkcommunitygarden.org

Important Dates

July General Meeting at the Mae Boyer
Meeting Room – 07/16/2025
Workdays – TBD