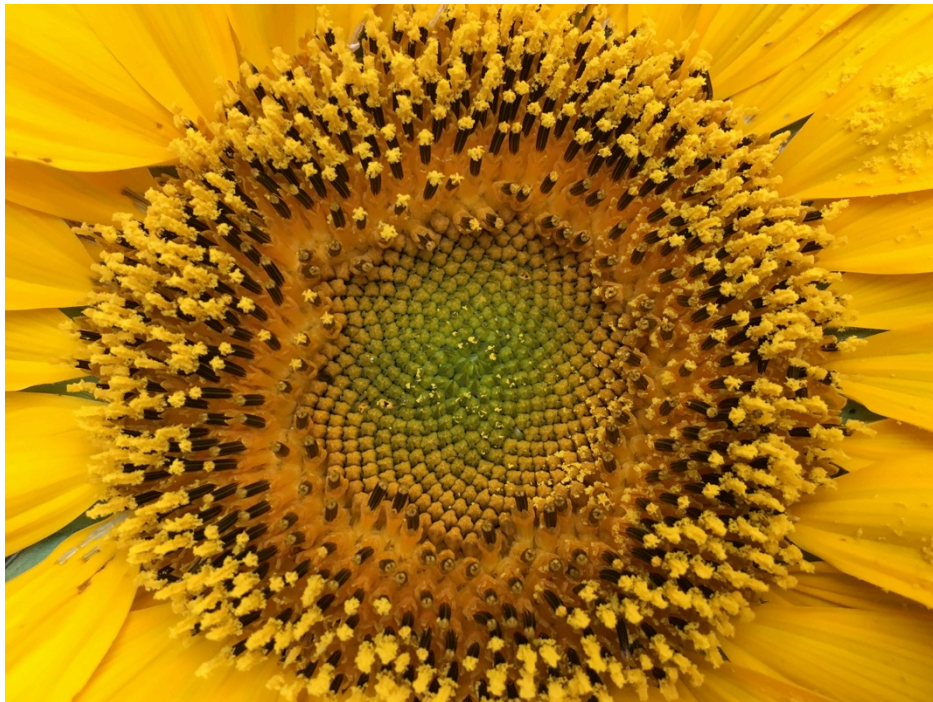




## **2016 Summary Report**



**January 31, 2017**

**Lynn Monica  
Director of Sunflower Hill Gardens**



## Overview

Sunflower Hill Gardens at Hagemann Ranch is a one-acre farm designed to provide educational/vocational horticulture opportunities to special needs individuals in the Tri-Valley. We broke ground on the Garden in April 2015. In 2016 we served ~100 special needs individuals and several family/community members in our garden through our weekly special needs programs and our bi-monthly family workdays. We were recertified as a Community Food Producer, which allows us to continue to distribute to local food banks and sell our produce to the local community and restaurants. In 2016 we have produced over 9500 lbs of a wide variety of more than 45 varieties of produce and donated ~70% or 6700 lbs of this to local food pantries, with the remainder went our volunteers, restaurants, and the community. The total harvest since April 2015 to date is 17K lbs, with 12.2K lbs donated to low -income individuals.

With regards to our special needs programs, we continued to expand our reach to new groups with developmentally disabled individuals of varying levels of functionality, servicing seven local school groups and one adult program from the Tri-Valley area, including groups from Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, and Danville.

The food banks include Open Heart Kitchen, Shepherd's Gate, Tri-Valley Haven and Marylin Avenue School, Carmen Ave Apartments Abode Services, which are helping to feed low-income and disadvantaged families/individuals.

The quality of our produce enabled us to sell to restaurants including Wente Vineyard Restaurant, Double Barrel, Casse Croute Bakery, Handles, and Sideboard. We sold produce to the local community at the garden and through our CSA (*Community Supported Agriculture*) program.

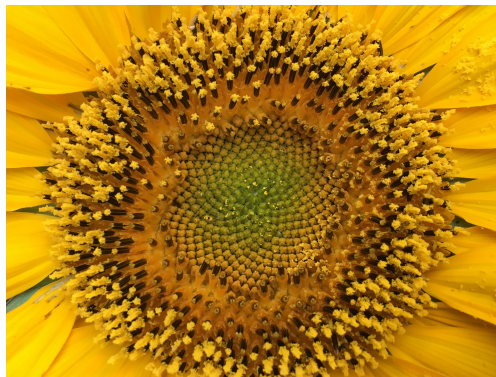
The current garden team staff consists of 3 volunteer Sunflower Hill Board members, Lynn Monica (Director of the SFH Gardens), Chris Bogert (Special Needs Program Director), and Tanya Ludden (Events Coordinator), Lina Valenzuela (part time paid Farmer), and the Interns.





## Sunflower Hill Gardens Accomplishments

The second year of our garden was extremely successful. We continued the development of our internship program, adding 2 more interns bringing our total to five interns. We met and/or exceeded all of our goals, providing services to several special needs individuals and providing food for many low-income individuals/families. This report provides details on the various activities and accomplishments of the SFH Gardens in 2016.



## SFH Gardens Overall Goals in Contract

1. Provide education/vocational training garden programs for special needs individuals of all ages
2. Grow nutritional produce to share with local food pantries for distribution to low income families





### **SFH Gardens Phasing in Contract:**

**Phase 1 (*Spring/Summer 2015*):** Design/Planning/Prep, Initial Vegetables/Sunflowers, Restore Historic Roses & Develop Special Needs Curriculum

- ✓ Design, Planning, and Preparation of Garden
- ✓ Initial Vegetables/Sunflowers & Restore Historic Roses
- ✓ Build Training Circle and paint/fix planter boxes
- ✓ Special Needs Workday Programs & Develop Garden Curriculum

**Phase 2 (*Fall 2015 & Early 2016*):** Initial Orchard Trees & Perennials, Chickens, Outdoor Classroom & Begin Special Needs Programs

- ✓ Plant Initial Orchard Trees & Perennials
- Update Chicken Coop and add Chickens (TBD)
- ✓ Begin Special Needs Programs

**Phase 3 (*Late 2016 & 2017*):** Expand Gardens, Grains/Corn/Vines, Green House, Expand Special Needs Programs & Develop Kitchen/Nutrition Programs

- ✓ Expand Gardens & Plant Grains, Corn, & Vines
- Green House (2017) & Develop Kitchen (2018)
- Expand Special Needs Programs (2017) & Nutrition Programs (2018)





## KEY METRICS:

- Amount of food produced and distributed to low income families
  - > 9500 lbs harvested
  - > 6700 lbs donated to low-income families (70%)
- Special needs individuals working/learning at HF
  - ~100 Special Needs Individuals Served
  - ~5600 Hours Served in the SFH Gardens
- Volunteers and participants at HF
  - ~300 Total Volunteers (~200 Non-Special Needs Volunteers)
  - ~10,000 Volunteer Hours (All Volunteers, including Staff)
- Lessons for special needs individuals
  - Weekly Programs, 3 days a week
  - Weekend Special Needs Family Workdays, 1 every 2 months
- Amount of land put into productive use
  - We planted  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre, which is ~70% of area designated for use by Sunflower Hill
  - Remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre is for Training Area and future Shed, Greenhouse & Kitchen
  - 3590 linear feet of planting beds

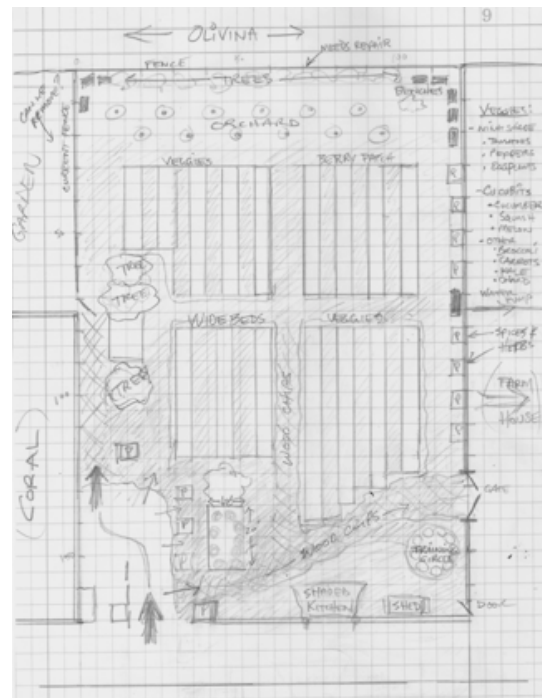
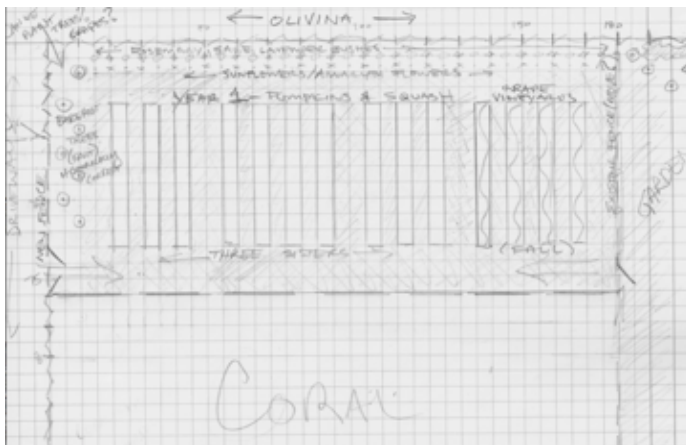


## The Garden/Farm:

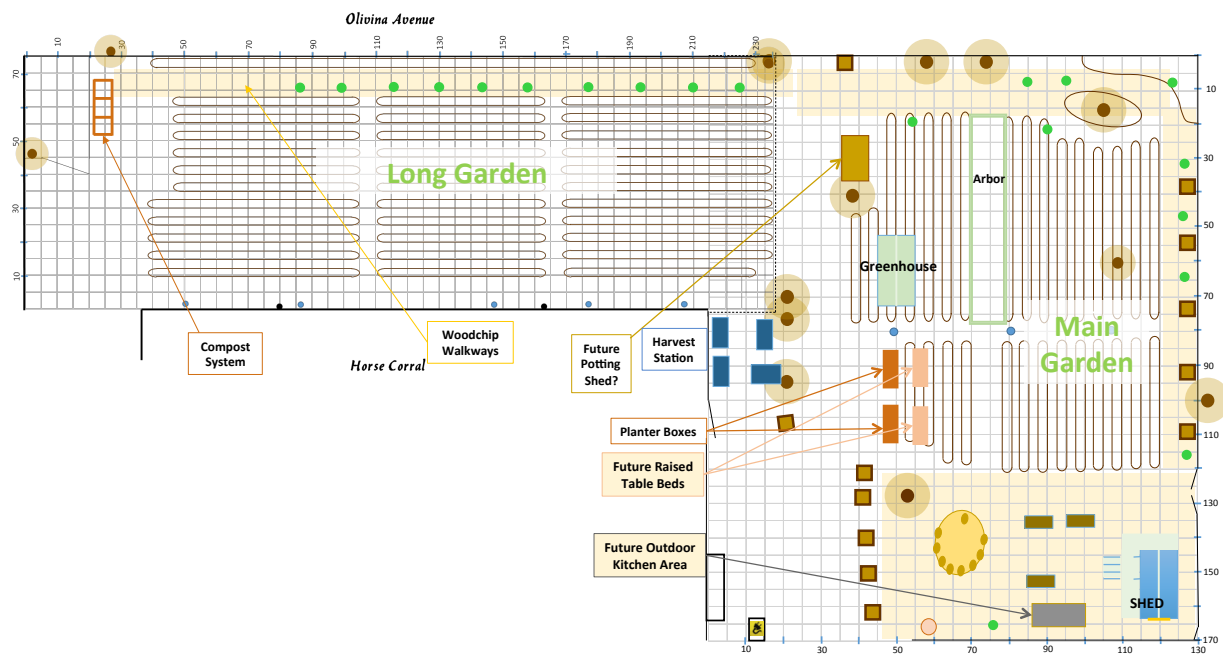
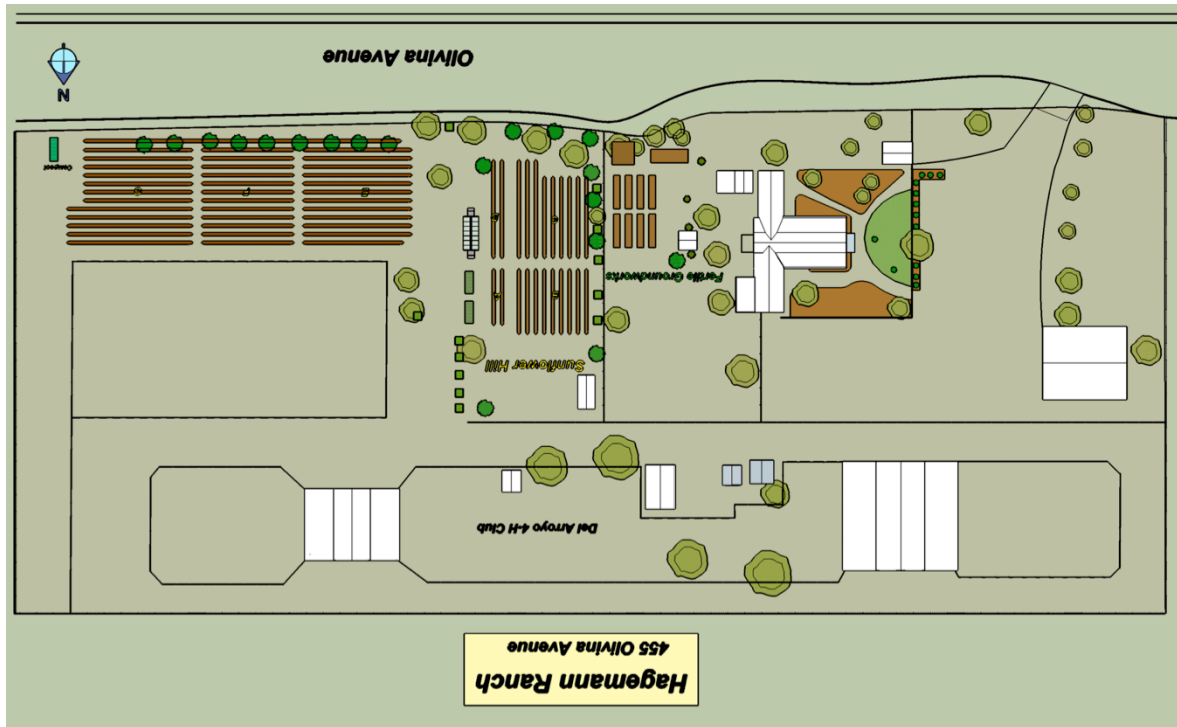
Original Proposed SFH Gardens in Contract:



## SFH Gardens Original Design



## SFH Gardens Current





**SFH Gardens Before and Now:**







## Special Needs Adult and High School Transition Programs

Seven local schools transition classes now visit the garden on a weekly basis as part of their 'work program' and/or general class – providing needed 'on-the job' and vocational training in the horticulture field. High Schools that have participated include Livermore, Granada, Pleasanton Foothill, Dublin (2 classes), and Amador Valley. We also have one adult special needs day program from Danville working in our garden weekly. We had a ceremony at the end of the school year and gave certificates to each of the individuals who attended the weekly programs.











## Special Needs Internship(s)

We now have five interns working at the gardens.. We hope to expand this opportunity to a paid internship and to include additional individuals in the future.







## Food Production

From May through December we planted and harvested a wide variety of produce, totaling ~ 9500 pounds, of which approximately ~6700 pounds was donated to local food banks.

The produce included heirloom tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, red lettuce, green lettuce, basil, zucchini, patty pan squash, butternut squash, delicata squash, melons, cantaloupe, pumpkins, corn, carrots, beets, onions, leeks, radish, celery, turnips, kale, cabbage, cauliflower, swiss chard, spinach, stir fry, broccoli, broccoli rabe, string beans, snow peas, fava beans, sunchoke, chives, oregano, sage, thyme, micro greens, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, grapes, lemons, and we planted an orchard. We also grew artichokes, gourds, loofas, and a wide variety of beautiful sunflowers, which we planted along the fence in the Long field and throughout the garden.







## Produce Donations to Low-Income Individuals/Families

We donated over 6700 pounds of produce to local food banks, which included Open Heart Kitchen, Shepherd's Gate, Tri-Valley Haven, Carmen Ave Apartments Adobe Services, and Marilyn Avenue School. These food banks distribute food to help feed many low-income and underserved families/individuals/children in Livermore and the Tri-Valley.



## Produce Sales

While the majority of our produce was donated, the remainder of the food was sold to local restaurants, individuals through our CSA (*Community Supported Agriculture*) program, or direct sales to community members in our garden. All profits went back into the operations of the garden.



### Locally Grown Produce

Hagemann Ranch, 455 Olivina Ave, Livermore CA 94550

Come to Sunflower Hill Gardens at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore for Locally Grown Produce!! Sunflower Hill is a 501c3 non-profit organization focused on building a community and programs for special needs adults. The Sunflower Hill Gardens is a program designed to provide special needs individuals with educational and vocational training in horticulture. We donate a majority of our produce to local food pantries, but we also sell some produce to help support our garden and these programs. You can come to the SFH Gardens to purchase produce directly, we accept larger pre-orders of produce and we are signing up a limited number of CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Subscriptions.\*



**Produce Purchase in Garden:**  
10a-11:30a on Tuesdays, Fridays, & Saturdays

**CSA Subscriptions (Boxes of Seasonal Produce):**

- Weekly - \$100 for 4 CSA boxes per 4 wks
- \$10 Discount off for 3 months (\$290)
- Bi-Monthly - \$50 for 2 CSA boxes per 4 wks

**CSAs Pick up:** SFH Gardens on Fridays 10:30a-12p



**Email for CSA Sign-up or Pre-Orders:**  
gardens@sunflowerhill.org

**Sunflower Hill Gardens Address:**  
Hagemann Ranch, 455 Olivina Ave  
Livermore CA 94550  
[www.sunflowerhill.org](http://www.sunflowerhill.org)

\* We have a Local Food Producer's certification the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency.



## Sunflower Hill Events

In 2016, we had several events at the Gardens. Assemblywomen Catherine Baker visited SFH Gardens early in the year. We had 6 Family Workdays, with seasonal garden themes and special gardening activities for the special needs individuals and their family members. We held an Orchard Tree Sponsor Dedication Ceremony. And we had two fabulous fundraisers in the garden, a Sunflower Sip and Paint and a Long Table Dinner prepared by former Wente Chef Matt Greco.







# Sunflower Hill Gardens

AT HAGEMANN RANCH











## Volunteer Groups

We have had several community volunteers assist at the garden. They have helped paint planter boxes, build wheel chair accessible garden boxes, and maintain the garden. The North Pleasanton Rotary Club recently built our Tool Shed.

Pleasanton North Rotary

Local Boy Scout troops

Pleasanton Downtown Rotary

Eagle Scout Projects

Livermore Valley Rotary

Community Church

Pleasanton Boys Team Charity

Sandia National Laboratories

Pleasanton Girls National Charity League

Salesforce











### **Garden Shed 2016:**

In 2016 we added a 10' x 20' Shed to our SFH Gardens for storage of our garden tools and equipment. We worked with the Heritage Guild and the Historic Preservation Commission to review our plans and get approval of this, to ensure it is consistent with the Hagemann property requirements. The Shed has been extremely helpful to us to have.



### **2017 Plans for Sunflower Hill Gardens**

In the spring 2016 we plan to build our Greenhouse. This is a necessity for our starter plants, micro greens, and to use as an indoor working space.

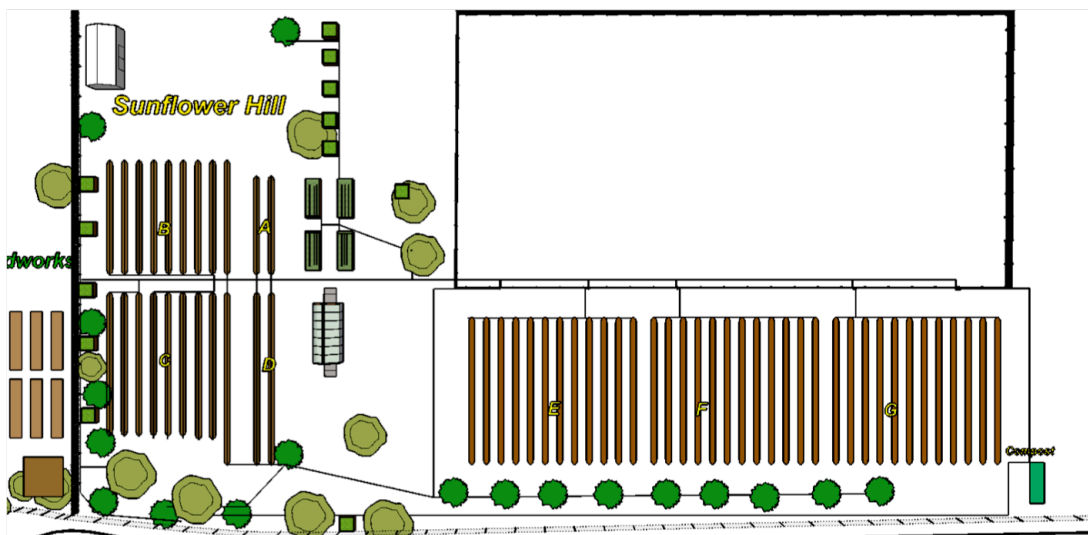
Weekly programs for special needs individuals from adult and transition programs in the Tri-Valley area will continue. We hope to expand our internship program to be a paid opportunity and to include additional individuals. We will also continue to hold Family Workdays for individuals and families with special needs and have plans for a few Community garden events and in the summer.

We will also be working with special needs educational and horticultural experts to further develop our special needs program curriculum, and we have taken progressive steps with Las Positas College about adapting their existing horticulture program in the future to develop a modified college-level program and engaging their horticultural students in our SFH Gardens.



## Key Objectives:

- Increase Garden Self-Sustainability
  - New farmer will work to optimize and improve the self-sustainability of the gardens
- Expand Special Needs Programs
  - Raise funds to pay for 1-2 professional educators to lead the special needs programs and develop core program curriculum, to enable expansion of days/groups
- Expand and Fund Paid Internships
  - Further develop/expand internship program to include additional individuals, align with core job skill requirements and career opportunities, and access funding
- Infrastructure Improvements
  - New Greenhouse
  - Improved Irrigation, Bed Layout, & Watering
  - Improved Compost Station
  - Build Harvest Stand & Raised Table Beds
  - Brick deck around Shed
  - Weed Suppression in Walkways



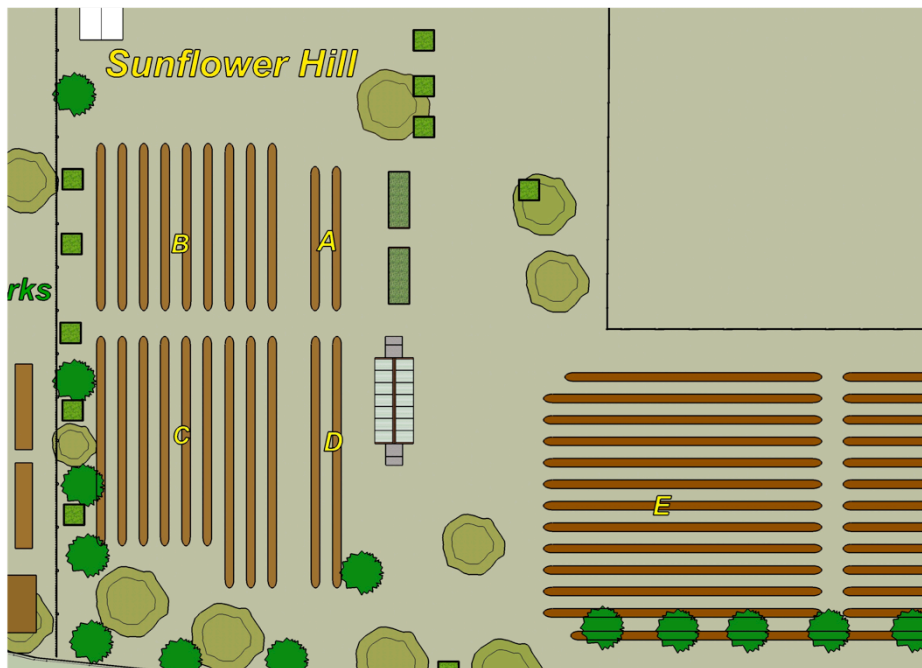


## Greenhouse:

Our next big infrastructure project is the addition of a greenhouse. We are planning to add this to the SFH Gardens in Spring 2017. We are currently in the process of reviewing our plans with the Historical Preservation Commission.



Greenhouse location option "b", top view





## In Conclusion

We believe Sunflower Hill Gardens and the horticulture programs for special needs individuals has been a great addition to Hagemann Ranch. We truly appreciate this wonderful opportunity given to Sunflower Hill by the city of Livermore to create and run a garden to provide educational and vocational services to individuals with special needs, and to support low-income individuals and families through donations of produce to local food banks.



We look forward to a continued partnership with the City of Livermore, the Heritage Guild and the other on-site non-profits in 2017.

