



## About the program

The original Homeless Garden Project farm was founded in 1990 across the street from Lighthouse Field. Since then, that location has closed and they moved to a larger three and a half acre farm near Natural Bridges. They have also opened an office and a store downtown that sells goods made on the farm. Their trainee program offers conditional employment to men and women who are homeless or at high risk of becoming homeless. Trainees are employed for a year, working 20 hours a week and attending weekly workshops about farming, personal growth, and how to seek further employment. Volunteers from multiple groups, interns, trainees, and employees work together to run this community-driven farm.

## How interns fit in

Interns work side by side with the Homeless Garden Project trainees, staff, and volunteers to maintain the farm. This internship is an opportunity to interact with many people with different backgrounds, skills, and capabilities and develop interpersonal skills. The Garden Project community hopes to foster a give-and-take relationship where everyone can learn from and teach each other. It is also an opportunity to learn how homelessness affects people and how it is an issue in Santa Cruz.



**Fall:** harvest, hang and dry flowers, make products for the store

**Winter:** cover crop management, weed control, winter garden

**Spring:** prep beds, plant, harvest late in quarter

## Quotes

“They [interns] are just another piece of a larger community”

“People are coming from everywhere. They may have no money or a bunch of money... Here you don't necessarily know who is who and I think that is a valuable experience for a lot of people.”