

THE SOIL COMMUNITY of Morgan Hill

The Planet Earth is a wonderful place. It consists of water and land. On land live above ground and subterranean communities.

The subterranean community in soils mirrors our open air community with cooperative nations and neighborhood squabbles.

The group of soil activists working day and night to make our soil.

What Is Soil?

Soil is the thin layer or skin of organic matter that covers the Earth – both above and under water



Acorns of the California live oak and other native plants are important contributors to soils.

Eggs laid underground by insects and reptiles replenish soil minerals and our soil health. The casings or shells of eggs laid by worms, turtles are full of minerals.



Peppers grown in home gardens and commercial agriculture thrive in this soil. Our produce is priceless!

Roots of trees, grasses and gardens deliver minerals, fight soil compression and deposit gas in the carbon sink.



Orchards are clusters of large plant specimens planted and prized for human food.

Water comes to the soil from above and below. Good water is important to soil health. Rain delivers moisture, minerals and gases in tiny packets.



Fungi are vital to soil health. The button mushrooms and chanterelles we eat are the fruiting bodies of complex plants. They rely on soils rich in organic decaying matter rather than sunlight for nourishment. They are a major crop in Morgan Hill.

Nematodes help makes the decaying matters. These non-segmented worms thrive in the tiny spaces between soil particles.



Leaf litter, dropped leaves and branches, dead grass stems, butterfly wings and fungi spores are like a salad bar for the underground community.

Unicellular organisms are the prime inhabitants of our soil.

Amoeba, paramecia and bacteria all have their jobs and activities. They work for neighborhood improvements.



What do you add to the soil?

Acorns & Eggs?

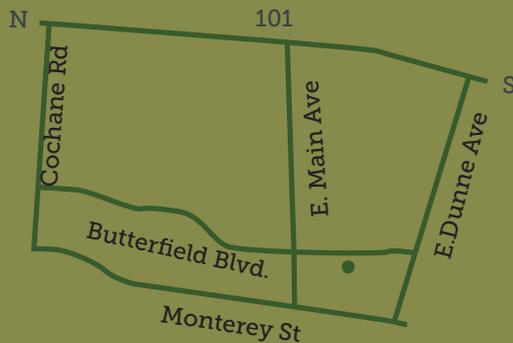
Acorn- and egg-shaped painted signs show the products of and contributors to Santa Clara County soils at the Morgan Hill Community Garden. They are public art works by Helen Lessick in partnership with the gardeners.

Soil Sample Morgan Hill

Soil Sample Morgan Hill is community art for Morgan Hill Community Garden and gardeners. Artist Helen Lessick designed and installed a series of 10 enamel on steel art signs for the garden which explore what grows in this ground, and what lies beneath. This guide will help you see our soils!

Soil, like community art, is local and created over time by the cycle of rocks, plants, and microbes. Soil is influenced by what grows in it, what flows on it, and what is built or paved above it.

This artwork was influenced by Morgan Hill Community Garden's mission: to serve area citizens as a valuable educational resource for sustainable gardening; to teach Morgan Hill and surrounding communities the health and nutrition of locally grown fresh food, and the current best practices for sustainable gardening; to share the bounty of our harvest with neighbors and low income families who may have limited access to fresh produce. Gardeners make for healthy communities!



The Morgan Hill Community Garden is located on Butterfield Boulevard, Morgan Hill between E. Main Avenue and Diana Avenue.

Where in the World?

Morgan Hill lies in south Santa Clara County in central California. Here lie soils good for irrigated crops including figs, almonds, oranges, and grapes, and for gardens and urban development. Morgan Hill soils formed of limestone and oceanic crusts. Large groups of rocks, called terranes, act as frames. Rocks and soils are jumbled by earthquake faults and tremors. Santa Clara soils are varied, ranging from pebbly sandy clay loam to pebbly clay loam with cobbles of granite and hints of limestone.



Morgan Hill Community Garden is a non-profit volunteer organization run by a six member board. This 0.3 acre parcel next to the South Santa Clara County Courthouse in Morgan Hill is owned by the City of Morgan Hill.

This artwork supports the connection between healthy soils and healthy cities. It is made possible by the City of Morgan Hill, Sakata Seeds and the MHCG Gardeners.

Special thanks to Terry McGlone, artist and designer at cuecreativeservices.com

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