



VALLEJO GARDEN TOUR

**Sunday May 17, 2026
10am-4pm**

**VallejoMuseum.org
734 Marin Street
Vallejo**



Special Thanks

Please shop local and support Vallejo area businesses!

The Vallejo Garden Tour is a community-wide event that could not succeed without the hard work and generous contributions of numerous individuals and local businesses.

The Vallejo Museum and Garden Tour Committee would like to thank and acknowledge the following:

- Ward Stewart • Darrell Schramm
- Woody Shiflett • Kimberly Nunez-Brandao
- The Master Gardeners of Solano County
- Georgia House Graphics – Carol Larson
 - Minuteman Press of Vallejo
 - Vallejo Chamber of Commerce
 - VisitVallejo!
 - The Vallejo Garden Club
- All of our program advertisers and sponsors
- Museum staff, Mary Kuykendall and Paul Goodrum
 - The Museum's Volunteers and our wonderful Board of Directors
- The generous Vallejoans who opened their beautiful gardens for your enjoyment.



Welcome to the 23rd Annual Vallejo Garden Tour 2026

Happy Vallejo Garden Tour! For over two decades, this annual spring tradition has been a labor of love supporting your Vallejo Museum! Always on the Sunday after Mother's Day and always with beautiful new gardens each year! This year's tour features an incredibly diverse group of lush gardens, reflecting our wonderfully diverse community. There are public and private gardens on this year's tour! From the Vallejo Project's Unity Garden, Banana Leaf Farms "start up" (with real banana trees), and even an Admiral's Mansion! These are eight very different gardens! The flora includes local plants and exotic tropical transplants. Drought tolerant blooms as well as shaded shrubs with water features. For the flower folks out there, this tour is for you! There are intimate, hidden, and secret gardens as well as the return of one of our favorite expansive green spaces. As always, Master Gardeners from the Solano County Master Gardeners' Program will be on hand at each garden to answer your questions. We hope these gardens will excite, inspire, and amaze you. There really is something for everyone. We truly appreciate your continued support. Enjoy!

-Trevor Allen, Executive Director

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Tour Details & Etiquette

1. The Tour times are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
2. Feel free to visit the gardens in any order; you do not have to follow the numbers on the map. Each garden will be well marked and have water available.
3. Please bring your ticket with you to each stop on the Tour as the greeters will need to see your ticket each time you enter a garden. Bring your ticket stub with you to the Museum or drop it off at any of the Gardens to enter in our special drawing.
4. Don't forget your hat, sunscreen and camera, and wear comfortable shoes. **Open toe shoes or sandals are not recommended.**
5. Please do not pick anything from the gardens, but please do take pictures and feel free to ask questions of the homeowners and Master Gardeners.
6. Some of the gardens on the Tour include fountains and other water features. Please do not wade or splash in the water, or throw stones, coins, etc. into the water.
7. Restrooms are located at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin Street.
8. Please do not block driveways or double-park. Be considerate of our gardeners' neighbors.
9. Strollers and pets are not permitted in the gardens for safety reasons. Ticket holders assume all risks associated with the Tour, including but not limited to stairways, uneven sidewalks, paths, slippery areas, and other hazards. **Please be careful!**
10. Please share your comments about the Tour with us, and please come back next year!
11. **FILM RELEASE:** By participating in the Vallejo Garden Tour, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for news, web casts, promotional purposes, telecasts, advertising, inclusion on websites, social media, or any other purpose by the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum.





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Master Gardeners of Solano County

The docents at the gardens on today's tour are all volunteers through the University of California Master Gardener Program of Solano County. These gardeners go through a comprehensive 16 weeks of training prior to becoming Master Gardeners. Then they must volunteer to serve the community for 50 hours during their first year of service, and 25 hours for each additional year of service. They must also continue to re-educate themselves on current trends, laws, and regulations of gardening. These gardeners are your point of source for information at local farmers' markets, nurseries, and the Master Gardener Hotline; a phone service there for you to leave questions and get an answer in return.



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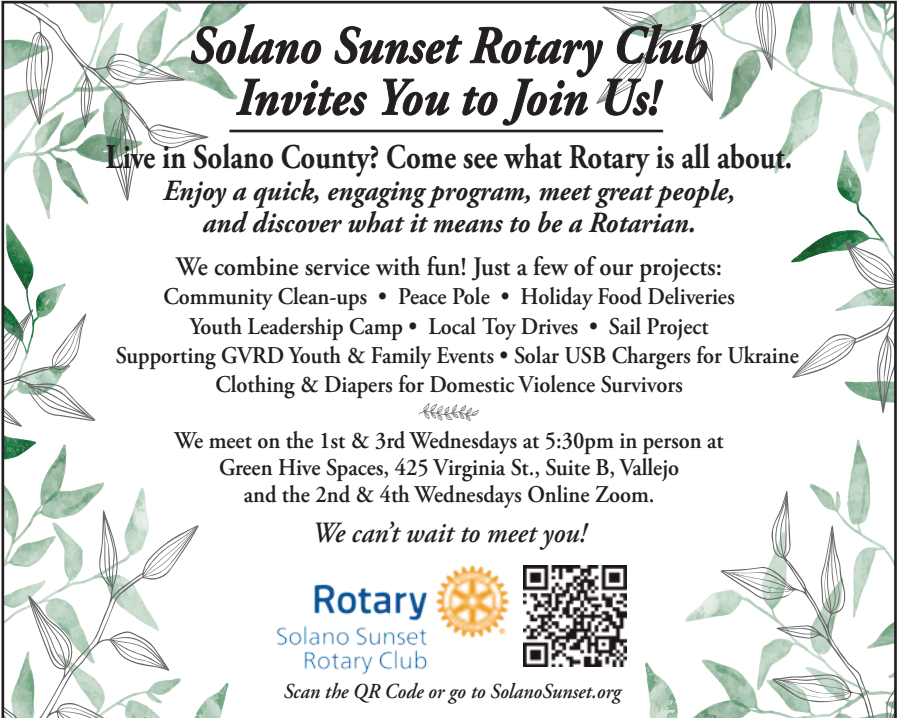
We meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 5:30pm in person at
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2026 Vallejo Garden Tour

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Become A Member: Support the Museum!

Please consider becoming a member of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum.

Membership dues help us create new exhibits, care for thousands of historical photographs and artifacts, maintain a hundred-year-old building, and keep the lights, heat and A.C. on. It also allows us to have free community events, music, art shows, live theater, dance performances, and our Living History speakers series. Membership benefits include free admission to our museum, a 10% discount in the Museum Giftshop, invitations to special events, and access to members only benefits. Our NEW National Association of Reciprocal Museums (NARM) membership level also gives you free admission to hundreds of other museums.

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The Garden Tour is a Benefit for the Vallejo Museum

All proceeds from the Vallejo Garden Tour benefit the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Vallejo Museum preserves and exhibits the diverse and exciting history of the City of Vallejo and the U.S. Navy at Mare Island. The Museum is located in Vallejo's historic Old City Hall and features five galleries devoted to community and U.S. Navy history.

Additionally, the Museum sponsors educational and cultural programs that include tours, concerts and recitals in our Heritage Chamber, lectures, multi-media presentations, school field trips, and other special events for the benefit of the community. The Museum building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A working submarine peri-scope is installed through the roof and gives a panoramic view of the City and Mare Island.

The Vallejo Garden Tour is the Museum's most important annual fundraiser. The event showcases both the treasures found within the Museum, as well as the treasures to be found throughout our community.

In addition to attending the Garden Tour, there are many other ways you can support the Museum:

- Become a Member! Membership dues help us carry out important cultural and educational programs for the community.
- Volunteer to help with one of our many events, programs or fundraisers. Visit the Museum's Volunteer Match page for more information. Follow the Museum on Facebook and Instagram.
- Remember that the Museum is available for luncheons, receptions, concerts, and other special events. Rental income from these community events is a significant source of revenue for the Museum.
- Serve on the Museum's Board of Directors.
- Purchase a book or a unique gift at the Museum Giftshop.
- Become a member of the General Vallejo Legacy Society by remembering the Museum in your estate planning.

*For more information on how you can help call 707-643-0077
or write us at Vallejo.Museum@gmail.com*

1. Tehraleigh Martin



(with a young mango getting established).

We keep the garden productive, with a raised bed for seasonal vegetables (a main 4-foot bed) and an “apothecary” side garden for medicinal herbs as it comes online for the season. Along the way you may meet our free-ranging chickens and see our backyard beehives, which support pollination and connect us to the wider ecosystem.



Soil health is a constant work in progress. We compost what we can using a simple three-bin wooden system and a small worm casting setup to turn scraps and garden clippings back into usable soil.

Visitors will see active drip irrigation, composting, propagation starts when in season, and a working layout designed for harvest, preservation, tranquility, and community education.



The space continues to evolve as we test planting methods, expand soil health practices,

and refine bed organization through the year.

Feel free to check out our events calendar at



www.bananaleafarms.org

2. Vallejo Unity Garden



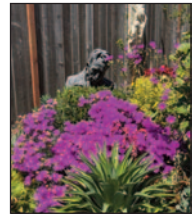
The Unity Garden is a community-based undertaking of the Vallejo Project designed to promote healing, food access, and intergenerational learning in Vallejo. Rooted in environmental justice and public health, the garden serves as both a growing space and a teaching space. We engage transitional-age youth, families, and neighbors in hands-on experiences that connect food, culture, and wellness.

Through sustainable gardening practices, youth learn leadership, teamwork, and workforce skills while cultivating fresh produce for local distribution. The garden also serves as a gathering place where elders share knowledge, cultural traditions are honored, and community members reconnect with the land. Our work centers those most impacted by food insecurity and environmental inequity, transforming underutilized space into a vibrant hub of nourishment and belonging.

The Unity Garden reflects our belief that growing food grows community. By planting together, we strengthen relationships, build resilience, and create opportunities for healing and collective empowerment.



3. Murray Friedman



When we arrived in 2022 the back yard was a disaster of weeds and invasive bamboo all of which was removed and replaced with rock. There are little islands with flowering trees such as a redbud and flowering peach. Over the last few years nasturtiums have self-seeded an increasingly large area giving the garden the look of a multicolored carpet each spring. This year California poppies have also joined in. A purple trumpet vine has decided it will cover the fence on one side of the yard and a pink jasmine vine explodes with fragrant blossoms each spring. Impatiens sodenii grow several feet tall each year having been cut back to about 10 inches in the fall.



A stately California pepper tree with a magnificent trunk is the centerpiece at the back of the yard. Additionally there is a flowering dogwood, Japanese maple, and a large apple tree. A lemon tree and a Meyer lemon tree give plenty of fruit. Camellias bring color to the shaded area each winter. Acanthus fills another shaded area.

Succulents have taken a liking to the sunniest part of the yard. Pride of Madeira echium displays its blue 15 inch tall flowers each spring. Butterfly bushes give additional color.

There are multiple sculptures and a fountain in the garden and all have solar illumination at night.

All in all, the garden provides a peaceful retreat in which to relax.

4. K. Young



My family home was built in 1959 and sits on 1/3rd acre with most of the property in the front. The front yard was large enough for our neighborhood to play games together. The backyard was reserved for relaxation with a built-in waterfall and pond on a terraced hill. I grew up in this home, moved away to raise my family, then moved back in 1995 and purchased it from my family's estate.

I cherish all the memories, and have been making new ones while taking on the tasks to revitalize and redevelop many aspects of the yard/garden. I've incorporated a theme of nautical memorabilia, carrying on from my father's Navy travels, and an exotic flora which was my mom's favorite.

Come on over, wear your flip-flops, embrace a new state of mind, and meander through my garden. Here you'll find Birds of Paradise, Orchids, Monstera,



Alocasias, Gardenias, and Palms. There's also a few rare Aeoniums, Graptoveria's and Echeveria's. Last but not least, you'll find Watsonias that my mother planted, and several that I have since propagated into the front yard. Oh, and an artichoke plant that my father planted. I may even have some organic vegetables mixed in with my companion plantings.

5. Tina Arriola



I have rented this property since 2016 and am fortunate to have a landlord who allowed me to transform his large landscape into my very own “park.”

Before me was a daunting task. There were existing palm trees, messy privets, citrus and pear trees and a very ancient pepper tree, but mostly an abundance of juniper and wild looking box hedges and oh, the lava rocks, lots and lots of lava rocks! I removed all of the aforementioned greenery, but the lava rocks play hide and seek with me when I plant something new. Inspired by gardening books, past garden tours, my father and older daughter, I have nurtured this space with my loved ones’ guidance.

My beautiful wisteria is home to the hardest working insect, the humble bumble bee. I’m on a fixed income so I plant and grow what I can either from purchases of starts and seeds, or mainly from cuttings given to me. At summer’s end, I give away tons of tomatoes, Anjou and Bartlett pears and this year maybe some table grapes. You will find many areas of my “park” to enjoy, whether in the coolness under the canopy sitting by the water feature, the boat near the succulents, the deck area where the kitchen garden resides, or, of course, you may enjoy the many birds who visit.

6. Hup & Lisa Cheng



My garden is an eclectic expression of my love of nature, made up of a handcrafted collection of plants and materials gathered from garage sales,



garden center clearance sales, and cuttings from other gardens. The design connects multiple outdoor spaces using living plants as the primary structure, allowing each plant to grow and define itself within the space. Seasonal growth patterns play an important role in how the garden functions, with plants emerging, filling in, or going dormant at different times of the year. These changes guide maintenance decisions and occasional adjustments to layout or placement. Stone pavers were layered into existing paths, with additional sections added over time to improve access and circulation so each plant can be reached for care. All areas of the garden are hand watered, allowing close observation of plant health and growth. The garden continues to evolve as plants mature, are divided, relocated, or replaced, ensuring the space remains functional, manageable, and responsive to seasonal conditions.



7. Teri Smets



Tucked in beautiful Glen Cove is my home, a personal sanctuary where nature provides a play yard for my two border collies, Luna and Apollo, and me. My backyard is a reflection of both patience and passion—a space designed to offer a variety of colors, textures, and nature’s pleasures.



The centerpiece is a lush patchwork of flowering plants that bloom in succession, ensuring the garden never rests idle. I enjoy (to list a few); seven mature southern magnolia trees, a yellow candelabra plant which the flowers smell like buttered popcorn (for real), orange bush trumpet plant, multiple colors of lilies and irises, and passion flowers line the stone pathway to the backyard.

The stone path leads to an opening, where you’ll enjoy carefully chosen pots and other garden structures that add to, without disturbing, the natural feel of the space. Hope you enjoy your visit to my garden,



8. Admiral's Mansion



Built in 1901 after the 1898 earthquake destroyed the original home, the Admiral's Mansion served as the residence of the shipyard commander. The two-acre property features lawns, flower beds, mature trees, and a historic patio that

honors over a century of history and community care.



After the shipyard closed in 1996, volunteers restored and maintained the grounds. Donor plaques on the patio commemorate their support, while its plantings—alstroemeria, weeping mulberry, New Zealand tea tree, bottle-brush, and Chinese fringe flower—create a vibrant, welcoming space.



Majestic magnolias, olive trees, avocados, and redwoods anchor the landscape, joined by rose gardens on both the north

and south sides with over 80 rose bushes. Recent improvements include new beds along the semicircular driveway and walkways featuring native plants such as monkey flower, California fuchsia, columbine, verbena, salvia, coast buckwheat, and morning glory.

This spring, more than 100 bulbs daffodils, irises, gladiolas, alliums, tulips, and anemones—were planted, adding color to a garden already brightened by poppies, nasturtiums, and hydrangeas. The Admiral's Mansion gardens today stand as a living tribute to history, renewal, and community dedication.



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Fairfield Coin Club

Fourth Wednesday of each month, No Meeting in December

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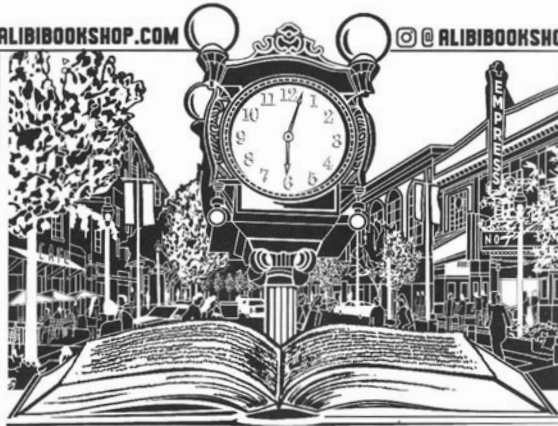


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