



Community Composting Demonstration Site
UCCE Compost Education Program
Martial Cottle Park
5283 Snell Avenue, San Jose, CA 95136

Interest survey: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=39530>

The UCCE Compost Education Program of Santa Clara County is starting a community composting site at its demonstration site at Martial Cottle Park in South San Jose. The goals of the site are to divert organic waste from entering landfills, reduce the “food miles” (mileage between location where plant/crop is grown and location of consumption) of local organic waste, engage the community in the composting process, and educate the public on the benefits of composting.

The program will invite Master Composter volunteers and other community members to participate in the community composting process. Due to California waste hauling laws, participants of the composting program will need to bring their food scraps to the composting site themselves. “Members” of the program will also be expected to volunteer 2 hours of their time per month at the site, either on Wednesday or third Saturday mornings, or pay \$10 per month. This volunteer time will include helping with the labor of the composting process and can be made accessible to all abilities. Work can include but is not limited to building and turning compost piles, harvesting compost, sorting and breaking up organic materials, feeding the worm bin, and sifting finished compost. In return, all members will be able to take home compost each month – either two 5-gallon buckets of backyard bulk compost or two coffee bags of vermicompost (or one of each).

How the process will work:

1. Participants will attend a workshop on site to learn about composting: what is compostable, how organic waste is broken down, compost application, and the benefits of community composting. Participants will then receive a 5-gallon bucket in which they will collect their food scraps.
2. Participants bring their full bucket to the composting site while the site is open (days and times to be determined), once per week or once per two weeks. Participants swap out their full bucket for a labeled clean, empty bucket.
3. Participants volunteer at the site for at least 2 hours per month. One individual per household is okay, but composting is so much more fun with family and friends! If, for

whatever reason, the member cannot volunteer their time, they can opt into paying \$10 per month instead.

- a. The site will be open for activity on Wednesdays from 9am to 1pm and the third Saturday of the month from 10am to 1pm.
- b. The work the participant will be doing on the given day will be determined by what needs to be done. However, there will always be something for all abilities to do. For example, if someone is unable to do the manual labor required of turning a large compost pile, they can shred newspaper for the worms or clean food scrap buckets.

To access the site:

