
**“Collective Roots: Tackling Poverty and Structural Racism in the Food System”
SAMPLE ITINERARY**

8:30: Leave Oakland, drive to East Palo Alto

9:30: Visit Romic Site—this is a brownfield and home of now-closed factory of chemical company Romic. A chemical spill several years ago resulted in contamination of land. Discuss Environmental Justice in East Palo Alto.

10:00: Drive through Weeks St. neighborhood and talk about the Weeks Poultry Colony and “One Acre and Independence.”

10:30: Visit **Runnymede Gardens**, a senior housing complex and home to a community garden. The residents are developing the garden to raise produce for sale at the **East Palo Alto Community Farmers’ Market**. Revenues from the produce will go to support community initiatives, including transportation for less mobile seniors to the market. We will talk to some of the seniors who have lived in East Palo Alto for many years about the changes in the food system in the community.

11:15: Visit **Free at Last**, a recovery and rehabilitation program for formerly incarcerated and recovering narcotics addicts in East Palo Alto. We will talk about the role of incarceration and violence in the community, and how the gardens are working to provide valuable skills to help individuals overcome these barriers and successfully re-enter into society.

12:00 Lunch at the **Don Edwards National Baylands Preserve**, home to migratory birds and many indigenous plant species. Lunch will be prepared by graduates of our **Cooking Matters** program, a six-week series of cooking and nutrition courses designed to teach individuals how to cook healthy meals, on a budget. Produce for the meal will be sourced, when possible, from local backyard gardeners in the community.

1:00: Visit the **East Palo Alto Charter School garden** and talk about the role of education and school gardens in the current food justice movement. We’ll learn about innovative garden based education.

2:00: Drive by Whiskey Gulch (a former residential and retail neighborhood redeveloped into high-end offices and a Four Seasons Hotel) and discuss the history of incorporation and prohibition on the division between East Palo Alto and Palo Alto, and the great racial and economic disparities that still exist between the two communities.

2:30: Visit the **Collective Roots demonstration garden** and talk about the work of Collective Roots in fostering and supporting the growing food justice movement in the community. We’ll also do some garden work (TBD) to help maintain and expand the demonstration garden.

4:00: As we leave East Palo Alto, we’ll pass by abandoned greenhouses of the Japanese floral industry and stop by homes of one or two **backyard gardeners** who grow for personal consumption and sale at East Palo Alto Community Farmers Market.

4:45: Return to Oakland, arriving by 6:30 at the latest