

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 agricul-
ture 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.

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