

From Our Garden to You: A Free Community Produce Stand

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The Oak Park Sol Free Community Produce Stand is a small but useful resource that is open Tuesdays from 3-6pm and Saturdays from 9-12pm. The purpose of the stand is to help create an opportunity for those in the Oak Park community to have access to fresh produce the garden offers throughout the seasons. By providing a visible and accessible space in Oak Park, the stand helps to connect the community with healthy fresh foods and more information on how to use them.

One of the main features of the stand are the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes, which provide the seasonal produce in a quick-to-grab box. These boxes are free to anyone that needs them and provide a low effort way to get fresh produce. Along with the CSA boxes, infographics are provided inside to help give more information on the produce, how the program works, and the role that the garden plays in the community. This style requires no payment, is low effort, and helps make it quick and easy to get the produce.

By organizing the stand around CSA boxes and providing clear information it helps to create not only opportunities for people to have fresh produce but it also helps bring awareness of local resources that many people might not be aware are available for them. Though this stand may seem small the outcomes and impacts it will have on the community will be large. Overall, the Oak Park Community Stand is a practical and reliable resource, making it easier for the members of the community to stay connected with fresh food and local resources.