

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour
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Bayside gardens will be open from 10:00 – 5:00 Saturday, May 2, 2026
Inland gardens (incl. Lamorinda) will be open 10:00 – 5:00, Sunday, May 3, 2026

Overview of Tour Expectations

It is our goal to have a well-organized tour that will be enjoyed by both the host gardener and garden guests. This list of expectations was developed to clarify the host gardener's responsibilities for participating in the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, and what the tour coordinator will provide and do.

The Host Gardener will:

- Ensure that the garden is in “showcase condition” and that your natural gardening techniques are exemplary. Based upon the information provided in the host garden applications, gardens are expected to be maintained with natural gardening techniques.
- Be at home during the event (10:00-5:00) and available to answer questions about your garden. (Volunteers will be on-hand to assist.)
- Solicit volunteers to be your Greeters or Garden Assistants. Hosts are asked to inquire whether friends, neighbors, or colleagues would be willing to help at their garden. Note: Greeters don't need to know anything about native plants (though Garden Assistants do). Hosts are asked to find their own Greeters.
- Schedule a pre-tour garden orientation with your volunteers. This orientation will allow your volunteers to be a more valuable resource during the tour; volunteers can pick up their t-shirts from you at this time.
- Agree that a description of your garden can be posted on the website, and that visitors can photograph your garden on the day of the tour.
- Identify hazards such as loose path stones, hoses, garden tools, etc and resolve potential problems in advance of the tour. Store hazardous items in an area that is off-limits to tour guests or plan the tour to avoid these areas. Identify any natural or other hazards such as yellow jacket nests, or fragile structures, etc. Prepare and post signage for guest “off limits” or caution areas if needed.
- Confine pets for both pet and guest safety. Dogs cannot be loose on the day of the Tour.
- Secure valuable property. Tour guests will not be permitted in your home.
- Identify parking issues.
- Provide a basket or similar item in which garden tickets will be placed, and a vase or jar for donations.
- Provide a Greeting table on which to place the ticket basket and hand-outs, and 1-2 chairs for the greeter(s). On Tour day place the large garden tour sign in the front yard so that it is easily visible to those driving by. (Please don't put it out ahead of time; they fade in the sunlight, and can be stolen.) Place next to it the large Keystone Species introduction sign.
- Wear your host Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour t- shirt on the day of the tour. Label your native plants. Labels need to be numerous, and have a font large enough to read. Labeling your plants will provide guests with the information they are seeking (“What is that plant?”) without having to ask; labeling plants will also make the day easier for you, the host, and more interesting, as you will be able to talk about other aspects of your garden besides plant identification.
- Provide an electronic copy of your native plant list to the tour coordinator for inclusion on the website.

- Optional: provide visitors with additional information specific to your garden. Examples of the types of information tour participants will find useful include: before and after photos of your garden; placing photos of plants in bloom next to the plants that flowered earlier in the spring; a laminated plan of the garden that visitors can carry around to identify specific plants; or a written description of how the garden was created. The more of this information you prepare in advance, the more visitors will get out of visiting your garden. This preparation will also make the day go more smoothly for you.
- If you have green home features to share, such as solar panels, heat pumps, induction ranges, reflective roofs, gray water systems, rain water retention, or others, please note this below.
- If you should have a vegetarian recipe to share, please send it to the coordinator for placement on your garden tour page.

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour coordinator will provide the following for each host garden:

- T-shirts for hosts and volunteers to wear on the day of the tour.
- A garden tour sign for the front garden, and a “Your Donations Support the Tour” sign for the registration table.
- Keystone species signs for the most ecologically valuable Bay Area plants. (This list was created by Doug Tallamy.) These signs were expensive: please take care of them, and return them for use in the next year’s Tour. The files can be downloaded [here](#), free of charge, if you’d like your own copies.
- Handouts for visitors. Please return leftovers when you bring back your materials.
- Volunteers to help staff the garden. (As it will be difficult to find as many volunteers as we would like to help staff the host gardens, we will ask for your help in finding volunteers for your garden. Please let us know if you have family, friends, or neighbors that would be willing to assist on the day of the tour.)

And now, a few brief t-shirt questions:

I (or we) will need:

One t-shirt only.

Small Medium Large X-tra large

Need a second shirt for spouse/partner. Here is her/his size.

Small Medium Large X-tra large

I/we already have Host t-shirts, and won’t need another one this year.

Our garden is is not at least partially wheelchair accessible.

Lawn conversion rebate, green home features, and recipe:

- We received a rebate from our water district. Amount? _____
- We have a vegetarian recipe to share. I will e-mail it.
- We have green home features to share. These are:
 - Heat pump for heating and cooling
 - Heat pump for heating water
 - Induction range
 - Whole house fan
 - Electric vehicle
 - Solar panel
 - Smart panel, or similar load shifting system

Other green home features, such as a cool roof, bird-safe windows screens, "Dark Skies at Night" light covers, or similar. Please describe:

If volunteers can be found to safeguard your house and inform visitors about your electrification efforts, might you be willing to have Tour visitors come into your home to see your green home features?

Yes

No

I would would not like to give a 15 minute talk(s) on the day of the tour. The title is:

_____ (Please initial) I agree to return the tour materials (sign, evaluations, left-over hand-outs, donations) to the tour coordinator by the Saturday after the event. A drop-off event at Kathy Kramer's garden in San Pablo will be scheduled for the Saturday after the Tour, but you are welcome to bring the materials earlier in the week. If you would like to coordinate with nearby hosts on the return of materials, let Kathy know and she will e-introduce you to them. (You are welcome to ask your volunteers if they can return your tour materials, but if they can't, you are responsible for ensuring that the materials are returned promptly.)

Questions about the tour can be directed to Kathy Kramer on her landline at (510) 236-9558 between 9 am and 7 pm, or emailed to Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net.

Host Gardener (print name)

Host Gardener (signature)

Date

Address/city/zip

Phone number _____