

Green Valley Village

History created the space for us.

First peoples gathered here for a village and meeting spot for trade. Coastal gatherers exchanged the sea's offerings with inlanders for the strategic minerals Mt St Helena sent skyward eons ago, forming black glass obsidian essential for producing arrowheads and ultimately the successful hunt.

The practice of clearing the valley floor through controlled burns made it hospitable to deer and other quarry that inhabit the border zone of grassland/forest, with a constant stream of clear water running year round.

With the arrival of the Spanish the valley became a potrero for grazing bovines, as it would remain for over two centuries. We still can see the footpaths of cattle terracing the slopes decades after their departure.



The Mexican Mission at Sonoma was greatly concerned about the success of the Russian fur settlement at Fort Ross. General Vallejo gathered a significant army in this valley as a show of strength. The intimidation strategy paid off and the Russians left California without a shot fired.

The Giovannini family began ranching Green Valley late in the 19th century.



They built a very substantial barn



and a beautiful family home with lots of rooms.



Their close-knit Italian family culture created the physical infrastructure we enjoy so much today. When the boys grew up they wanted to remain with the family rather than moving to the city to further careers. They built new houses near their parent's home, one by one, creating a "family village."



Early on, the family added harvesting lumber from the lush surrounding forests to the ranch activities. They built a sawmill on the northern part of the property.



These gifts from the Giovannini family have created an unparalleled opportunity for a community to gather with righteous intent to live and work in harmony with each other and this breath-taking landscape.

We formed a group to do just that in 2004.

There are about 25 adults here now. We aim to become a demonstration site for development of new energy and transportation systems, and a learning center for ecological and environmental innovation. To date we have planted an organic farm, hosted university extension courses, and have an innovative “flow-form” fountain manufacturing company in residence, as well as other artisans. We hope to attract more micro businesses to occupy the many structures and create local livelihoods for our villagers.

Green Valley Village holds monthly Open Ranches on Second Sundays. Please contact us at info@greenvalleyvillage.com for more information.