

# INTRODUCTION TO ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM

It was 1849 when George Patterson joined the stream of young men leaving the Midwest for California's gold fields. His dreams left little room for failure, but after a year and a half of mining he was ill and broke. And so he turned to work he knew well – farming.

George gradually bought land with the money he earned by working for farmers near Mission San Jose. By the time he married Clara Hawley in 1877, he was on his way to acquiring nearly 6,000 acres of land and was one of the most wealthy and well-respected men in the area. At last he had struck "gold" – not in the hills, but through farming the fertile plains of the East Bay.

Today Ardenwood invites you to experience farm life as it was near the turn-of-the century. Draft horses still pull wagons, railcars, and plows. The land still grows the kinds of crops George Patterson tended 100 years ago, and the farmyard is still full of animals.

Staff and volunteers attired in Victorian clothing are on hand to show you through the Patterson family home, to demonstrate farm chores, to explain the social graces of the Victorian era, and to give you a horse-drawn train ride around the 205-acre farm.

A tremendous community and Park District effort has brought the farm to this point, but it is far from complete. We are busy restoring antique pieces of farm equipment, and adding some things that weren't here 100 years ago. So don't make this your only visit! Come back often to see how things are coming along.

The East Bay Regional Park District and the City of Fremont invite you to Ardenwood; to picnic, play, and to see for yourselves what life was like at the turn-of-the-century. It's a way of life nearly forgotten in the East Bay.

**TRAIN STATION:** At Arden Station you'll find the admission desk, drinking fountain, telephone, and restrooms. At the Train Station visitors pay the entrance fee and receive information about the activities of the day. Board the horse-drawn railway here.

**DEER PARK STATION & PICNIC AREA:** North of the Patterson House, Deer Park historically was a 20-acre site. It has been developed into a picnic area for group use. The area is operated by Ardenwood Affairs and can be reserved for large picnics. The site can accommodate groups from 50 to 1,200 people. When not reserved, Deer Park is available for public use on a first-come-first-serve basis. For a ride to the Train Station board the horse-drawn railway here.

**OHLONE INDIAN VILLAGE AND BURIAL SITE:** Once a village site for Ardenwood's first inhabitants, the area is now protected in a natural state.

**REFLECTING POOL:** This was the first concrete swimming pool built in the county. Now covered, it is used for special activities and weddings receptions.

**PATTERSON HOUSE:** The Patterson House, owned and operated by the City of Fremont, has

been restored to the period between 1889 and 1915. Original Patterson family furniture was donated to the house by Sally Patterson Adams in 1982. Approximately 95% of the house's furnishings are original turn-of-the-last-century Patterson family pieces.

The Patterson House is governed by a mayor appointed body called the Patterson House Advisory Board. A second group, the Historic Patterson House Foundation, was established in 1994 as a fund raising group in support of the house. Tours are given Thursday through Sunday from April 1 through mid-December. Docents lead guided tours of up to 20 people, and assist with Open House on Special Event Days.

**FARMHOUSE:** (c. 1856) The back portion of the house was built in the early days when money was scarce.

**QUEEN ANNE ADDITION:** (c. 1889) As the family, farm, and profits grew, the house was expanded.

**MILK HOUSE:** (mid 19th C.) The milk house is a cool spot for storing produce, meat, and milk.

**COOK'S HOUSE:** (late 19th C.) The cook's house is now the Patterson House office.

**VICTORIAN GARDENS:** The garden area looks much like it did near the turn-of-the-last-century.

**TENNIS COURT:** (c. 1900) A clay tennis court was a real luxury back then. It's been covered with asphalt.

**GAZEBO:** (*re-created*) A gazebo was a common feature on many large turn-of-the-last-century farms. People like to make music and conduct wedding ceremonies here. (Reserveable).

**FARMYARD:** The farmyard, with the Patterson barn, equipment storage sheds, and corrals, has been restored to reflect a working farm near the turn-of-the-last-century. Dozens of pieces of farm machinery, many donated by Northern California families, are being restored to working order and are on display and in use in the farmyard and elsewhere in the park.

**FARMYARD CAFE-Food Service:** (*re-created*) You may purchase food and drinks here.

**ORCHARDS:** The orchards, including 20 acres of walnuts and a family apple orchard, are being revitalized and cultivated under many of the farming practices common in the Patterson era. For the apple orchard, the Park District staff has been acquiring young apple trees from long forgotten varieties that were popular in the 1800's.

**FIELDS:** Fields continue to be planted with row crops. The central field, east of the farmyard, is planted with a variety of vegetables and grains. Farmer Joe Perry operates a produce stand at the entrance to Ardenwood where the public may purchase organically grown fruits and vegetables.

**EUCALYPTUS GROVES:** The eucalyptus groves, from which George Patterson unsuccessfully tried to make a profit in timber, provide an important windbreak for the farm and vital habitat for various species of animals, including the Monarch butterfly. The Park District staff will continue their efforts to battle the Long-Horned-Eucalyptus Borer and several other Australian pests that have recently invaded the groves.



During 1995-6, Ardenwood went through the process of developing the District's first business plan for a park. The plan was adopted by the board of Directors in November 1996 and implemented beginning in 1997. The plan set program, service, revenue and development goals for Ardenwood. As part of the business plan process, Ardenwood's own Vision and Mission statements were also created.

## VISION

Ardenwood Historic Farm will be a unique and vibrant public attraction, offering, a rich spectrum of cultural, educational and recreational opportunities. Ardenwood will offer authentic historic facilities and activities, interpreting the general themes of the post Gold Rush Era and farming evolution. Ardenwood will host a variety of events and celebrations, continuing its role as a center of community life.

## MISSION

The following Mission Statement is intended to define purpose, approach and intent as Ardenwood meets its Vision. The execution of these statements is to be detailed in the Business Plan and in a variety of subsequent documents. These documents could include, but are not limited to, the East Bay Regional Park District Master Plan, the Ardenwood Land Use Development Plan, the budgets and capital improvement plans of the District and its partners, as well as other procedural and operating manuals.

**It is the mission of Ardenwood Historic Farm to:**

- Create a haven from the rapidly expanding urban environment of the Bay Area.
- Establish and maintain a Core Historic Area within Ardenwood, including the Patterson House, lawn, gardens, farmyard and immediate fields. This core area will be the heart of Ardenwood, affording cultural and educational experiences, interpreted by a variety of skilled craft workers, staff and volunteers. Events and facilities within the historic core will be designed to be as authentic as is practical, with a time frame of approximately 1860 to 1925.

- Create a model of efficient land use by establishing areas and facilities, outside the core historic area, for large public activities and events. Establish Ardenwood as a vibrant, regional center of social and cultural celebrations.
- Conserve agricultural open space as well as natural and cultural resources.
- Increase volunteer opportunities and enhance the energy, skills and talents that volunteers bring to Ardenwood.
- Establish and maintain historic modes of transportation that will deliver visitors to destinations throughout the Farm.
- Attract visitors from the broadest cross section of the regional population possible with a special focus on East Bay residents.
- Offer a variety of quality entertainment and leisure experiences that will stimulate repeat visitorship.
- Welcome visitors with unique opportunities to enjoy events in safe, clean and pleasing surroundings.
- Appropriately locate and offer a variety of high quality facilities to meet visitor needs and expectations, including restaurants, day meeting and conference facilities and retail stores selling produce and goods germane to the Farm.
- Focus on the benefits of partnerships (public-public, public-private) and sound business practices.

