

The Tap Garden is a design that stimulates all of your senses. It is an urban food forest integrated with NFC (near-field communication) chips. This technology will provide access to a digital archive that can change and grow with the culture and community of San Jose. There are three ways that this archive can be used, educationally, reflectively, and playfully. In the Nature Conservancy It can educate visitors about the environment. In the Poetry Forest it can be used reflectively as a means to post and read poetry. In the Singing Rocks section of the Adventure Trail it can be used to play with sound. This unique technology will allow the community to artfully express itself without limiting the physical space of the natural garden. It will support the community by providing opportunities for play and relaxation.

The garden is designed as a low maintenance self-sustaining ecosystem which implements technology and advanced permaculture techniques. This project has a specific focus on ecological and environmental integrity making use of native non-invasive species. By replicating the natural structure of forests, we are able to build a beautiful garden and provide our community with an example of how to grow food while reducing our carbon footprint. The garden is created as a beautiful green space to enjoy, but it also gives refuge to pollinators and other endangered wildlife. Included in this garden are edible plants in the hopes that over time people find a connection to the land and the plants that provide them sustenance.

Included in this design is a door which is located at the entrance to the Poetry Forest as sign that this project is about creating a home for the residents of downtown San Jose.

By combining these seemingly opposing schools of art all visitors of the Tap Garden will be able to use their phones to scan NFC chips in order to find out what foods grow in the garden and when they are ready to harvest. This monument is a digital sculpture in a fruiting and flourishing natural habitat that encourages social responsibility for the land, and can provide to future generations a symbol of this community's commitment to finding the balance between our advancing technological world and our ancient connections to the natural world.

