



# Finding Solace in the Soil

Dr. Bonnie J. Clark



# Granada Relocation Center

I am romanticizing a prison.



A stylized, dark grey leaf graphic with several pointed leaves, positioned in the upper left corner of the slide.

# Talking points

Japanese Immigration

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Incarceration

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History of Japanese Gardens

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Amache Gardens through  
Archaeology

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Modern Day Comparisons

# Blocks Surveyed by DU 2008 – 2018

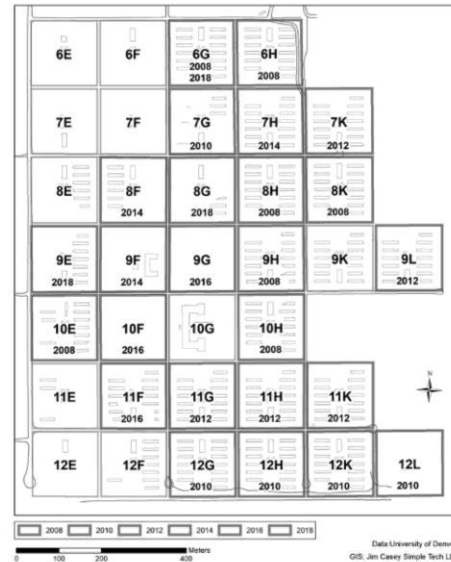


Figure 2.6. Map of all blocks surveyed by DU Amache Project (as of 2018). Courtesy, Jim Casey.

Students in my courses at the University of Denver do the lion's share of the analysis of artifacts collected both from the surface and from excavations. Their results are entered into a database that has now been built up with six field seasons of data. They also sort through the heavy fraction, looking to see if artifacts are present. While my students are working with the artifacts, project specialists are doing their work to analyze botanical, pollen, and soil chemistry data recovered from excavations.

↑  
North

Block 6H ..... camp entryway garden

Block 7G ..... *ishi wo taten koto*

Block 7H ..... *senzai*

Block 11H ... *meisho*

Block 12K ... aerial views



# Grow Space

Living inside a science experiment, February 2018.





# Asclepias Tuberosa

Milkweed hardening-off in grow bags back patio, July 2018.



# 松風園 Shofu-en Japanese Garden

松風園 Shofu-en translates to ‘Garden of Pine and Wind.’ A traditional Japanese stroll garden, Shofu-en was inspired by Colorado’s Rocky Mountains and it features 130 character pines transplanted from the foothills. It was designed by Koichi Kawana and built in 1979.

## Denver Botanic Gardens

*Some of the fence posts appear to be set in a stone (not concrete). Does anyone have an insight?*





# North Boulder, CO Vegetable Garden



2,300 sq ft Summer 2016



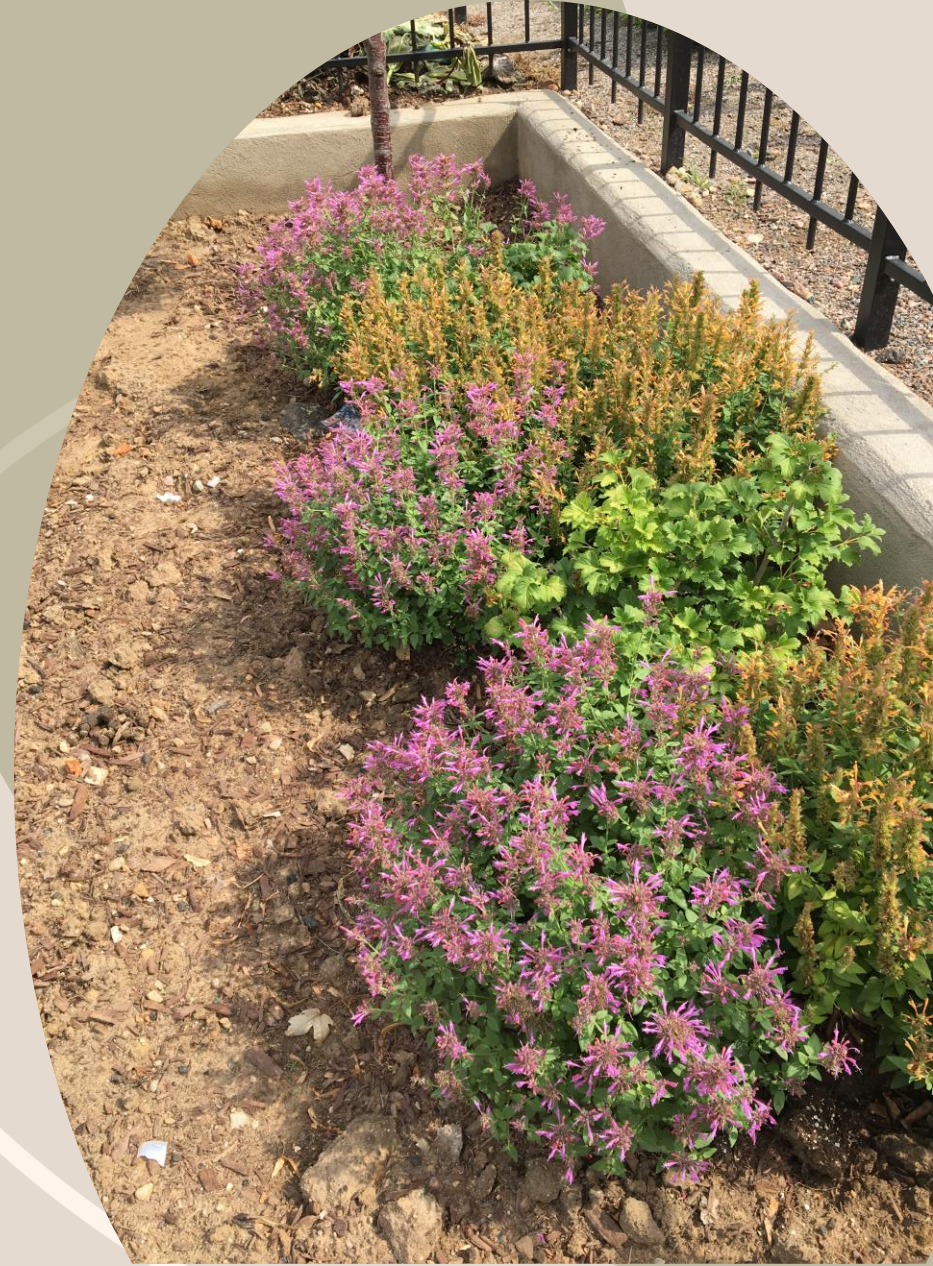
# Examples of Agastache

Border garden adjacent to St. John's Learning Garden July 2018.

*senzai*

planting: any of the plants used in the garden (usually refers to grasses or shrubs); also, a small part of a larger garden given over to favored plants, especially that part close to the residence:

*It is ok not to go big!*





*senzui - A stroll down memory lane*

Literally “mountain-water”, meaning either “nature” or “garden”. The word used to mean “nature” in modern Japanese is *shizen*, while the Sakuteiki uses the older expression *senzui* (modern pronunciation is *sansui*), or *shotoku no sunzui*.

*Is this the same Sansui (Pioneer was top line) sound system I purchased as a 24-year-old college student?*





*Ishi wo taten koto* – “The art of setting stones.”

With these words opens the oldest garden-making treatise in Japan—most likely the oldest in the world—best known by the name *Sakuteiki*, or *Records of Garden Making*. Immediately upon reading this first line, we realize that the *Sakuteiki* will present us with a radically new view of gardening. The expression *ishi wo taten koto* was used by the author of the *Sakuteiki* to define not only the placement of stones within the garden, but also the act of garden making itself. ... How fascinating to see that the simple act of standing a stone upright was so spiritually and aesthetically powerful (as with the dolmens of Stonehenge or Carnac), and so clearly central to the process of making a garden, that the act of setting stones became an appellation for gardening itself.

## Heiankyō Aristocratic Residences

Bordering the east side of Reizeiin is a wide, canal-lined street, Horikawa kōji, and to the northeast of Reizeiin is another four-*chō* property, Kayanoin, which was the residence of Fujiwara no Yorimichi (992-1074), imperial regent and father of Tachibana no Toshitsuna, purported author of the Sakuteiki.

1 *chō* = 120 meters x 120 meters (3.63 acres)  
Heiankyō founded in 794 AD



# Higashisanjōdono – Ideal Heian-period residence

Official residence of regent families from mid 9<sup>th</sup> century onward

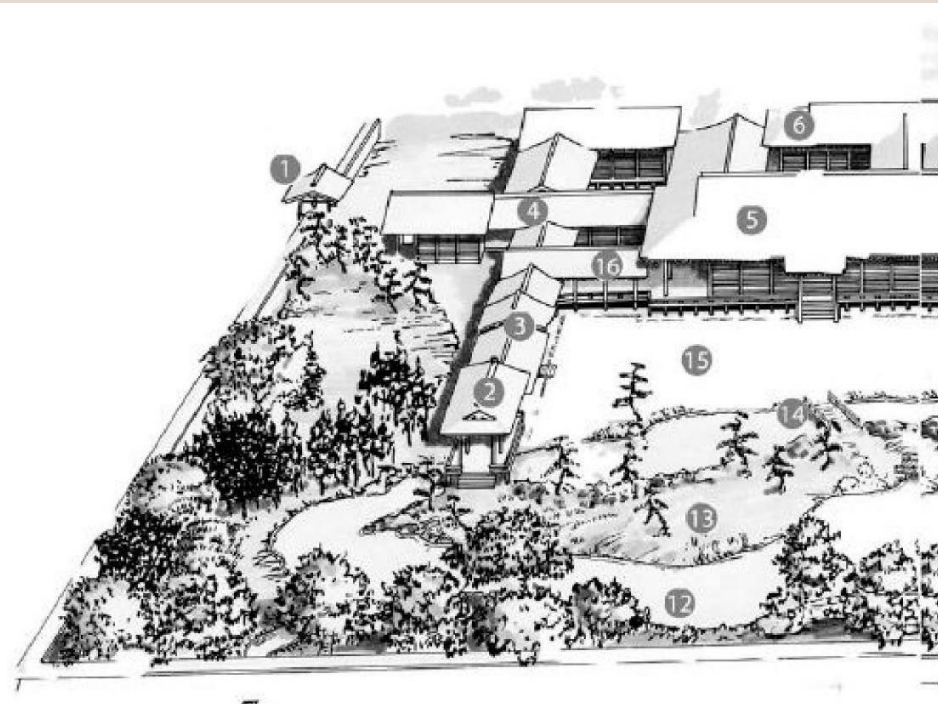
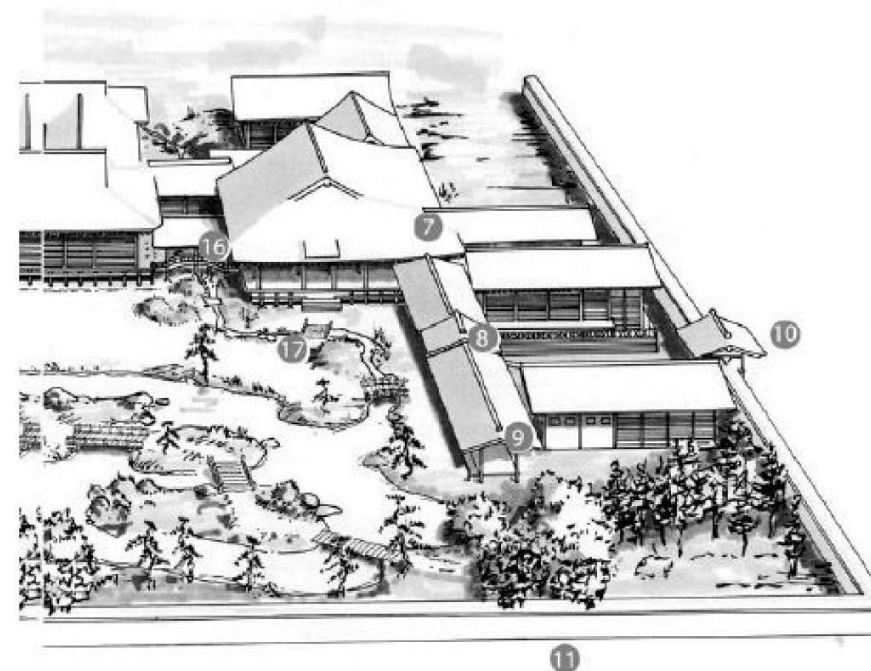


FIGURE 2: Higashisanjōdono

Heian-period *shinden* residences had many forms, some more or less classically symmetrical, others not so. Higashisanjōdono comes relatively close to the ideal form, although in this image (representative



1. West Gate (*nishimon*)
2. Fishing Pavilion (*tsuridono*)
3. Corridor with Middle Gate (*chamomori*)
4. West Annex Hall (*nishi no tai*)

- (Not fully developed at this estate)
10. East Gate (*higashimon*)
  11. Earth Wall (*tsuijibei*)
  12. Pond (*ike*)

## Sakuteiki

### 1. Basics

When creating a garden<sup>1</sup>, first be aware of the basic concepts.

<sup>1</sup> “Creating a garden” is expressed as “setting stones,” *ishi wo taten koto*, literally, the “act of setting stones upright.” At the time the *Sakuteiki* was written, the placement of stones was perceived as the primary act of gardening. Similar expressions are also used in the text, however, to mean literally “setting garden stones” rather than “creating gardens”, as in chapter four: “It is unusual to set large stones ...”

*Modern day design technique of dominance and subordination.*





## Sakuteiki

### 1. Basics

Visualize the famous landscapes<sup>5</sup> of our country and come to understand their most interesting points. Re-create the essence of those scenes in the garden, but do so interpretatively, not strictly.

<sup>5</sup> Famous landscapes, *meisho*, were often used as models for garden design. For instance the maple-covered hills that line the Oi river in Arashiyama are mentioned as a model for the gardening in *The Tale of Genji* (“Otome” “The Maiden”). The pine islands of Ōshū Shiogama, part of Matsushima Bay, Miyagi Prefecture, were used by the Minister of the Left, Minamoto no Tōru, as a model for his garden at the Rokujō Kawaranoin palace. Amasaki and Takei, *Teienshi wo Aruku*, 61.

# Camp Amache 1942 – 1945

## Block 6H Pond & Garden

NOW



THEN



<https://amache.org/>

Clark, Bonnie J., Finding Solace in the Soil, p. 116 & 117

# Camp Amache 1942 - 1945

Block 12K?

100 pounds of rice per day

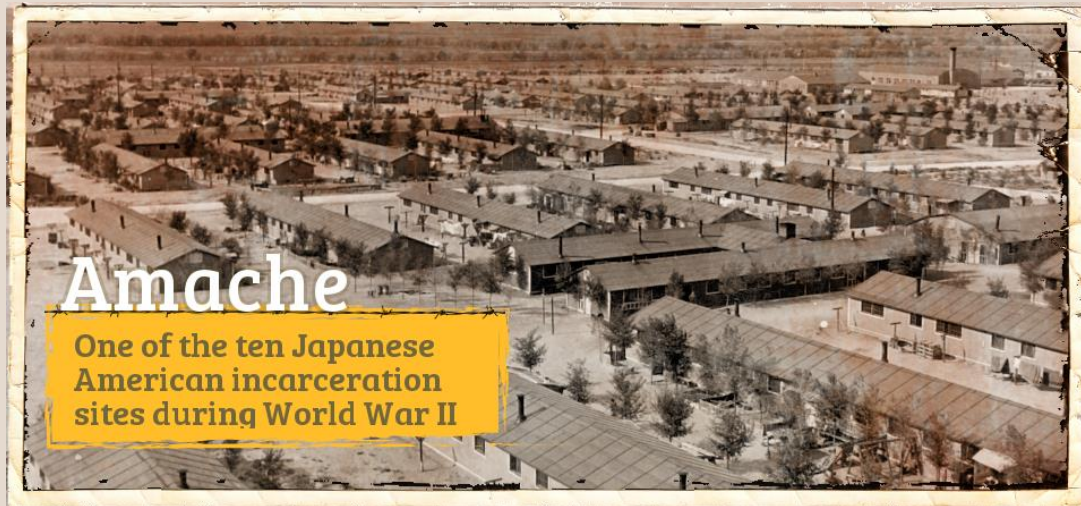


Granada Relocation Center (Amache), circa 1942.

*Courtesy of the Library of Congress.*



Camp Amache  
1942 - 1945



- Look at the trees!
- Ask that Granada tree farmer wrap roots in burlap (forming a root ball?)...
- Block 12K?

<https://amache.org/>

Clark, Bonnie J., Finding Solace in the Soil, p. 123 & 125

# Camp Amache 1942 - 1945



- I assume that the aerial views were taken from the camp water tower.
- Additionally, it appears from the photographs on pages 123 & 125, that the water tower was located on the southeast corner of Block 12K.

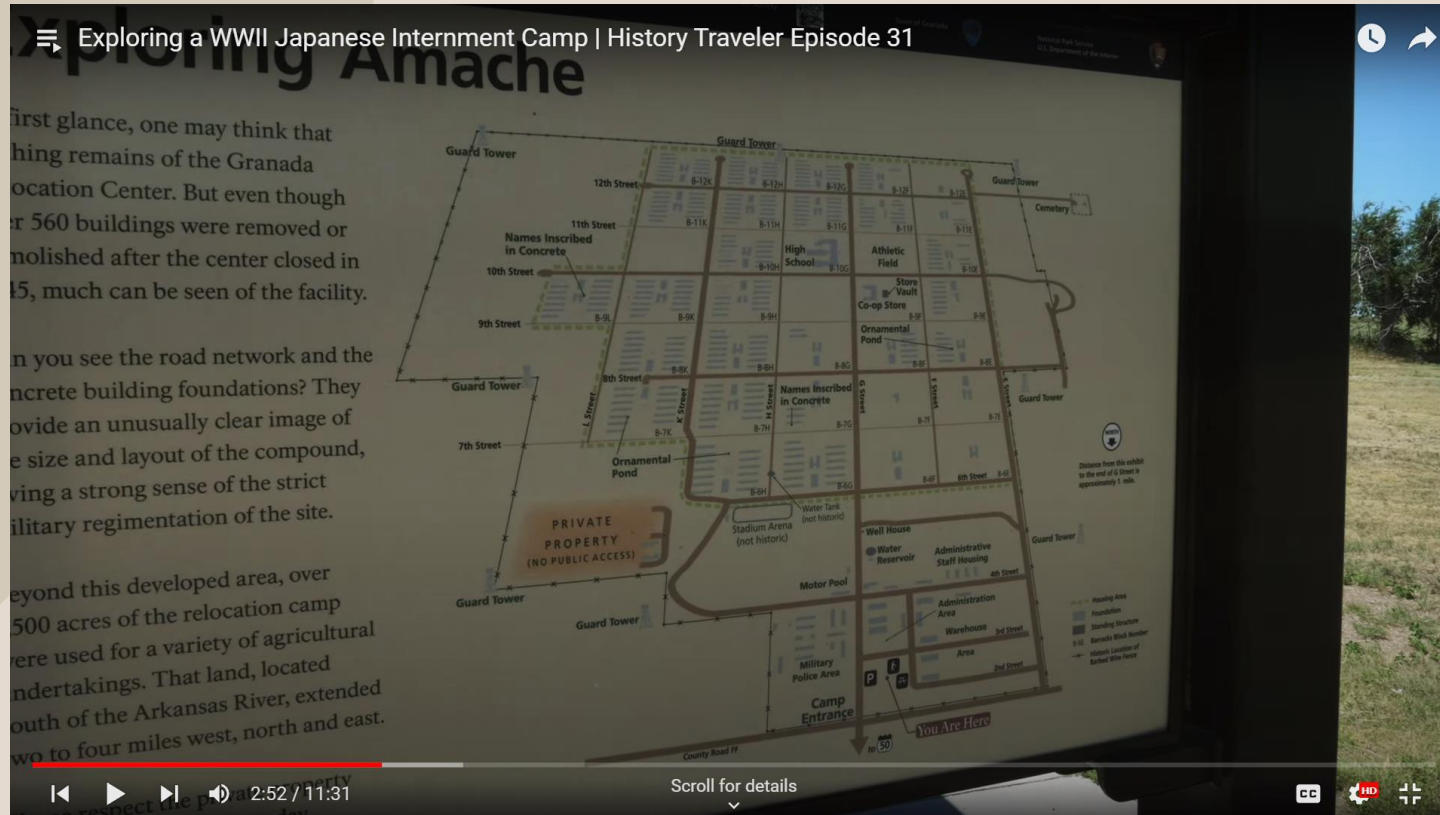
# Granada Relocation Center

Block 12K today.





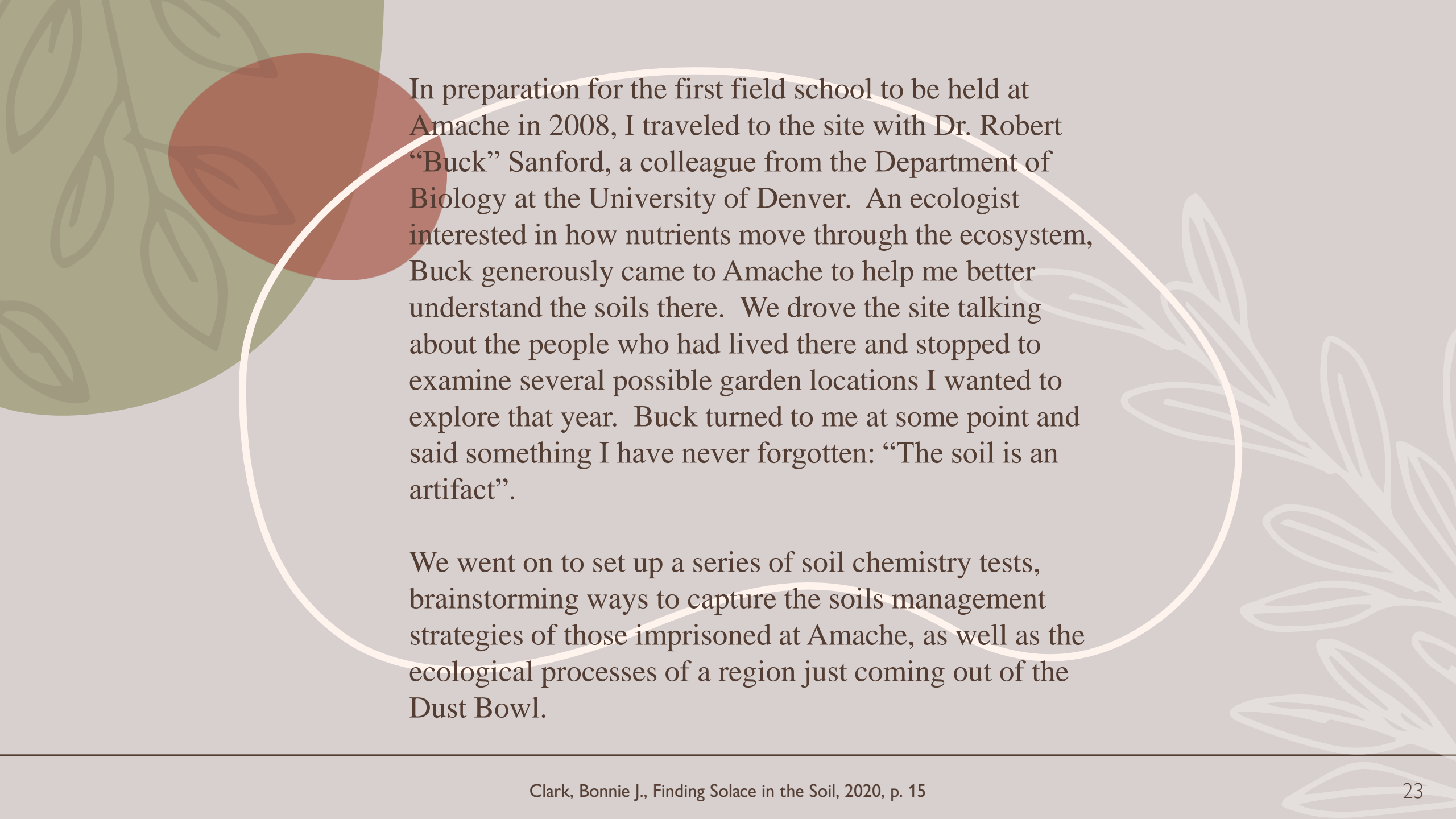
# Camp Amache 1942 - 1945





## Quote from former Mayor of Granada

Toward the end of our 2010 field season, a former mayor of Granada spent the day watching us work in the 7G entryway gardens. He had often visited the camp as a boy and so had a personal interest in our results. When I asked if he remembered gardens at the camp, he replied that he absolutely did. In fact, he declared, Amacheans had created something magical here. The camp, he recalled, was beautiful. He repeated himself for emphasis, “It was beautiful here.”



In preparation for the first field school to be held at Amache in 2008, I traveled to the site with Dr. Robert “Buck” Sanford, a colleague from the Department of Biology at the University of Denver. An ecologist interested in how nutrients move through the ecosystem, Buck generously came to Amache to help me better understand the soils there. We drove the site talking about the people who had lived there and stopped to examine several possible garden locations I wanted to explore that year. Buck turned to me at some point and said something I have never forgotten: “The soil is an artifact”.

We went on to set up a series of soil chemistry tests, brainstorming ways to capture the soils management strategies of those imprisoned at Amache, as well as the ecological processes of a region just coming out of the Dust Bowl.



# Soil Amendments

# THE SOIL IS AN ARTIFACT

- Fish meal
- Fish compost tea
- Iron slag

# CSU SOIL SAMPLE

[illegible]

## CA BUTTERFLY GARDEN



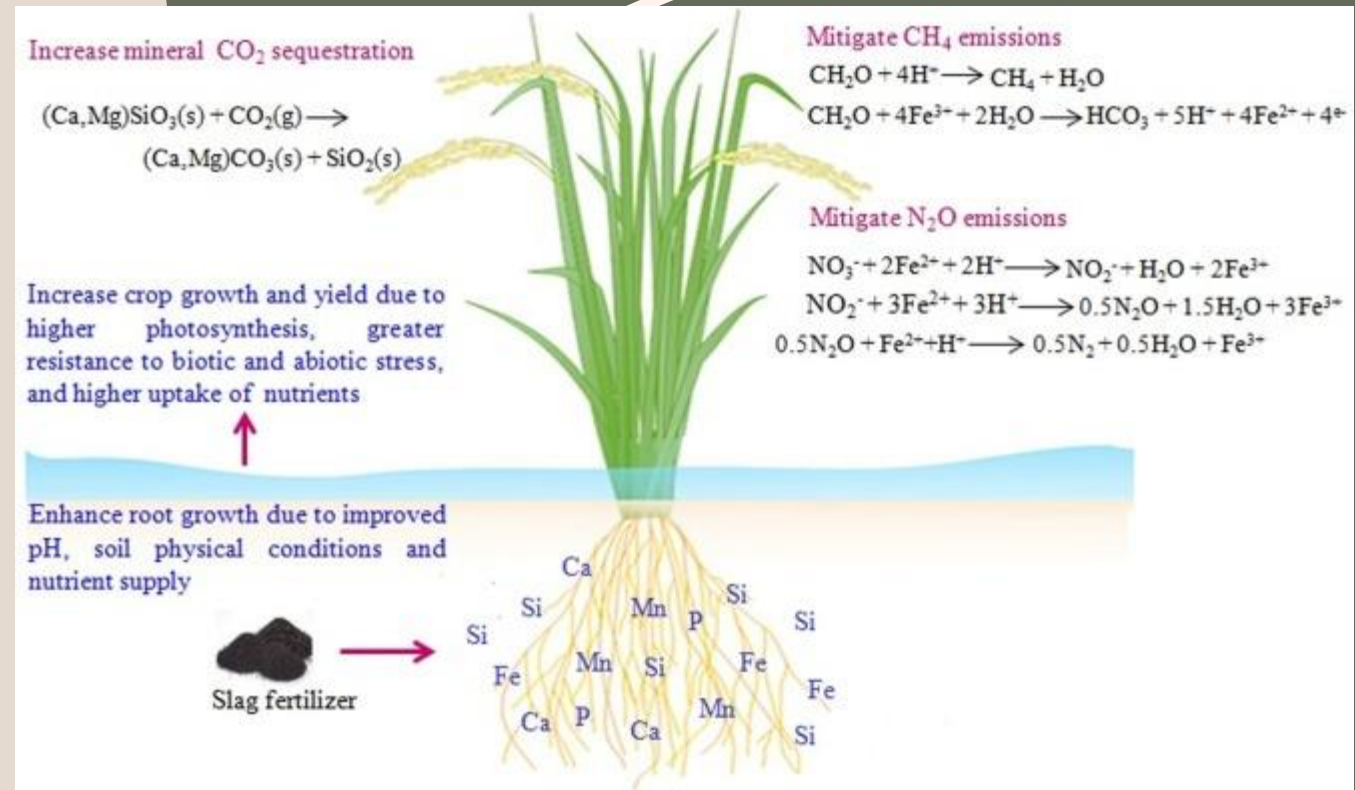
# Slag Fertilizer

Steel-making slag and blast furnace slag are raw material for fertilizer production in Japan, China and Korea.

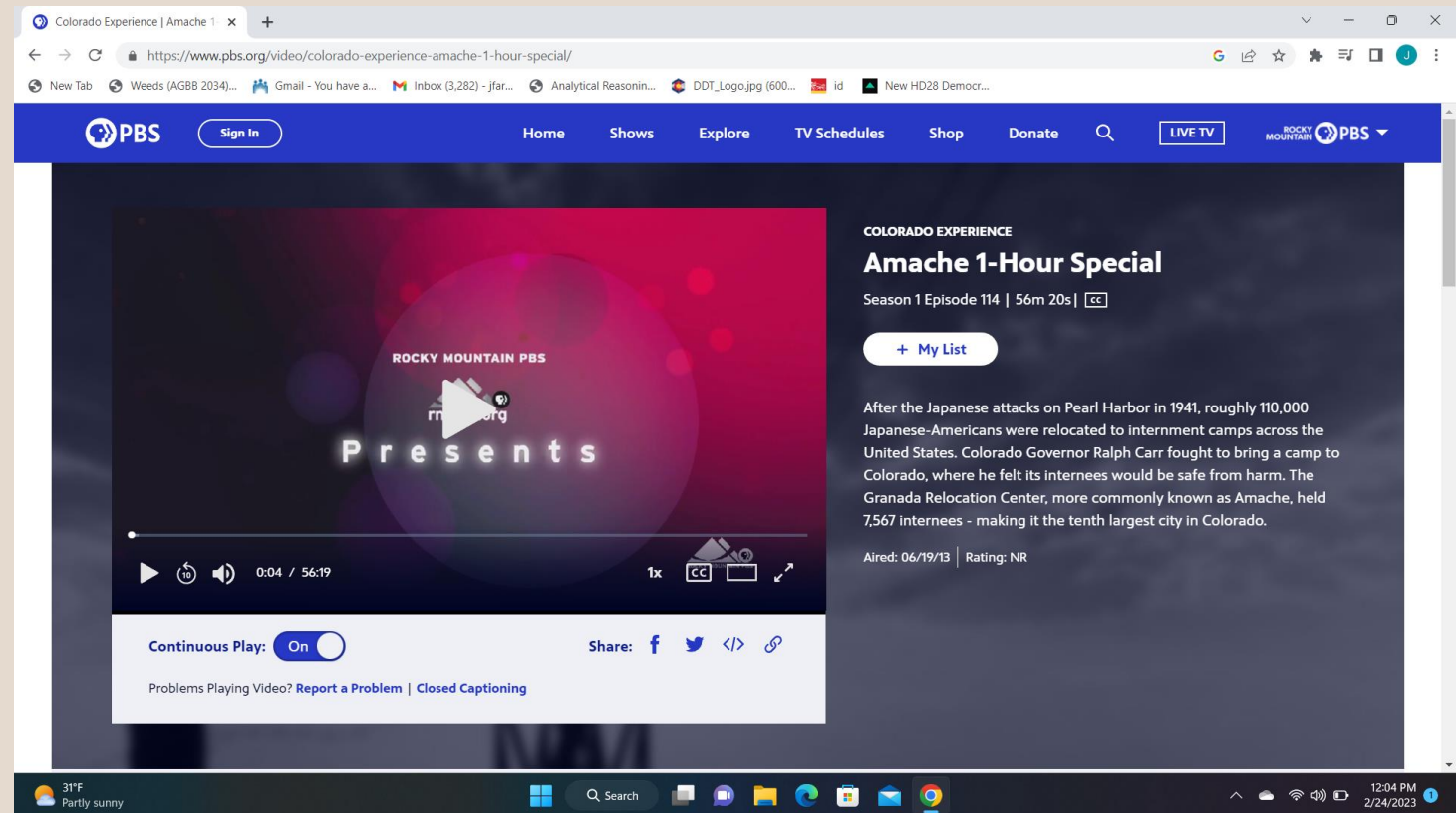
Compost made by combining cow manure and steel-making slag.

Restores Si in rice fields impacted by tsunamis.

Sequesters CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O (greenhouse gases).

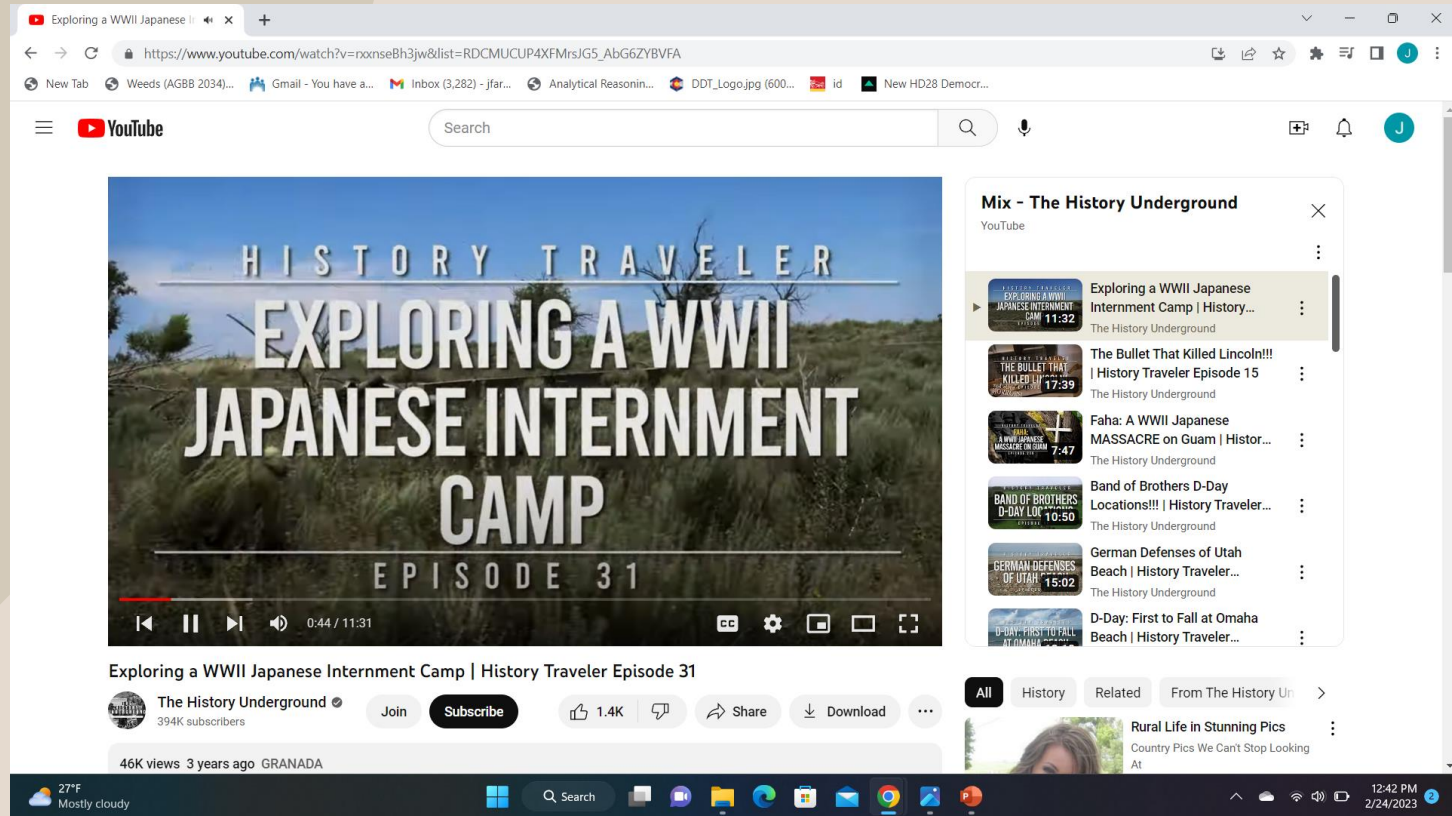


# Recommended by Robin Hunt





# On site excursion



# Spring Tree and Plant Sale



## The Park People

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> tree sale at Sloans Lake and City Park greenhouse:  
<https://theparkpeople.org/What-We-Do/Denver-Digs-Trees/Tree-Sale>

DENVER BOTANIC  
**GARDENS**

York Street plant sale Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>:  
<https://www.botanicgardens.org/events/special-events/spring-plant-sale>

## Community Corner: Offering of Letters Sundays, March 12 and March 19 after all services

Sample letter to Senator Michael Bennet asking that these provisions be included in the national Farm Bill, which is up for renewal.

St. John's requests that one's letters be placed in the offering plate Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The letters will be personally delivered to Senator Bennet's office.

### Offering of Letters Sample

[Date]

Sen. Michael F. Bennet  
U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

The farm bill is our nation's most important national food system legislation. It is critical to the work of ending hunger at home and abroad. Indeed, the farm bill impacts each one of us.

As Congress works to renew our food and farm programs through the farm bill, I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

Specifically, I ask you to:

- Increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables by increasing support for produce-specific Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). This provides resources on top of monthly SNAP benefits for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables, primarily at farmers' markets, for a limited number of households.
- Eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, including ending the ban on former drug offenders, eliminating work requirements for college students, and permitting indigenous communities to administer SNAP and other federal nutrition programs on reservations.
- Keep food out of landfills by increasing support for post-harvest food recovery efforts and addressing the threat to food security posed by extreme weather.
- Support funding for international food aid programs such as Food for Peace.

As a person of faith, I am moved to help and advocate for people experiencing hunger and poverty – no matter where they live. This is why I urge you to support a farm bill that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

Sincerely,

[Your name] [Your address]



The background features a light gray base with large, organic, overlapping shapes in muted red and olive green. A thin white line outlines a wavy shape on the right. In the top left, there is a faint, light gray sketch of a leafy branch.

# thank you

St. John's Green Team