

## Pick Figs, Grapes, And Lemonade Berries At This 5-Acre Park In Culver City

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(Photo via [Stoneview Nature Center/Facebook](#))

A new park in Culver City near the Baldwin Hills border offers Angelenos the opportunity to pick their own fruit. The five-acre [Stoneview Nature Center](#), which opened in April, focuses "on health, art and the environment" and hosts a variety of fruit trees planted by local art collective Fallen Fruit.

[Fallen Fruit](#) was founded in 2004 by artists David Burns, Matias Viegner and Austin Young. The group began mapping fruit-bearing trees that grow on or over public property so that people could pick the produce. In the years since, the collaboration has expanded to include serialized public projects and site-specific installations and happenings in various cities around the world, according to the Fallen Fruit website. This includes [Del Aire Fruit Park](#), which opened in El Segundo in 2013—the space was created by Fallen Fruit in collaboration with various county officials.

"We were interested in how Los Angeles is a driving city, and we felt really disconnected from our neighborhood and community and thought that a map [of fruit trees] would help people meet their neighbors," Young told [NPR](#) of the origins of their collaborative. As for the trees Fallen Fruit has planted, Young added, "We think of it as social sculpture. ...It's an artwork that in a real way changes people's relationship to space."

"We got wind of Fallen Fruit after their work on Del Aire," David McNeill, executive officer of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, the state agency that oversees Stoneview Nature Center, told LAist. "And then they did some work along the Stocker Corridor."

At Stoneview, which was designed by Ehrlich Yanai Rhee Chaney Architects, Fallen Fruit has planted a bounty of oranges (seven different species), avocados, figs, grapes, lemons, blackberries, lemonade berries, and blueberries.

As for how the plants were selected, McNeill told LAist that it was a back-and-forth between Fallen Fruit, the Conservancy, and a few other stakeholders. "We tried to keep the species consistent with the California story—every piece of nature has a story. So, for oranges, we got Valencia orange. For avocados, we used a native species."

As McNeill continued, the fruit trees are regarded as an art installation, but still fit into the park's goal of healthy mind, healthy body, healthy environment, healthy watershed.

"This is an urban sanctuary," Shawna Joplin, superintendent of the park told [NPR](#). "It's passive recreation. You can come here to do some birdwatching and take fruit home with you."

As for *how much* fruit you can take home with you? "We'll have to figure that out," McNeill told LAist. "We don't have a governance set up yet, to be honest. But it hasn't become an issue yet, [at Stoneview] or at Stocker."

LAist reached out to Fallen Fruit for comment, but have not heard back by publication of this article.

[Stoneview Nature Center](#) is located at 5950 Stoneview Drive in Culver City. It's open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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