

OCEAN VIEW FARMS

Intersection of Rose Ave and South Centinela Avenue (Main Entrance). The site is bounded to the west by South Centinela Avenue, to the north by homes (which are bounded to the north by Stanwood Drive), to the east by a parking lot shared with North Venice Little League Baseball (which is bounded on the east by Grand View Boulevard), and to the south by homes (which are partially bounded to the south by Lawler Street).

West Los Angeles
Los Angeles County
California

HALS CA-76

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

OCEAN VIEW FARMS

HALS NO. CA-76

- Location:** The main entrance to Ocean View Farms community garden is located at the intersection of Rose Ave and South Centinela Avenue.
The site is bounded to the west by South Centinela Avenue, to the north by homes (which are bounded to the north by Stanwood Drive), to the east by a parking lot shared with North Venice Little League Baseball (which is bounded on the east by Grand View Boulevard), and to the south by homes (which are partially bounded to the south by Lawler Street).
- Community of Mar Vista, West Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California
- Lat: 34.015097 Long: -118.441964 (northwest corner of Ocean View Farms, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84)
- Significance:** Ocean View Farms is one of oldest community gardens in Los Angeles, established in 1977. It was among the first gardens started under then Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's initiative to use public lands for community gardening. Ocean View Farms has a very ethnically diverse membership, which includes Central European, Asian, Latin, and African immigrants. This diversity is directly correlated to the variety of food plants that are grown in the garden.
- Description:** Ocean View Farms is 6.5 acres. It presently has 500 garden plots (approximately 15-by-15 feet each, separated by pathways) tended by over 300 community members. The garden also has a substantial fruit tree orchard, a children's garden, a community meeting area, a picnic area, two tools sheds, and two compost areas. The garden began as an open field that once grew soybeans. The founders laid the plan, leveled, and terraced as needed. From a couple acres it expanded in four phases to fill the 6.5 acres it occupies today. A water system was installed to make water accessible to every plot. Electricity was also installed in the early years. The site is well kept today as a result of the comprehensive rules and regulations that members have to follow.
- History:** Ocean View Farms is situated on land that was once planned for use by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power as a site for a reservoir. The land is known as the Venice Reservoir Site. The DWP's "Venice Reservoir Site, located in Ocean Park Heights" became the home of the North Venice Little League in 1966, and the home of Ocean View Farms in 1977. Ocean View Farms was founded by a group of people interested in growing produce on a hillside in West Los Angeles overlooking Santa Monica Bay. The use of public lands for gardening was originally Mayor Tom Bradley's idea. Ocean View

Farms was begun with federal funding from the Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA) program. The land where Ocean View Farms is situated is owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and administered by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Ocean View Farms members vary in age from 18 to 90, and include a wide range of income levels and speak many languages. Occupations include manual laborers, housewives, managers, professionals, students and retired persons, among others.

George Dodds, one of the garden's early Chairman/Presidents created a Proposed Master Plan for Ocean View Farms in 1977. The plan shows the layout of the individual garden plots in the first three phases of the garden. It also includes a proposed compost pit, picnic area, and orchard. The plan is on display in the main office at Ocean View Farms. An image of it is also available on the Ocean View Farms website: <http://www.oceanviewfarms.net/history.html>.

Sources: "Inside OVF" 30, *Jul 2011* < <http://www.oceanviewfarms.net/index.html> >

Howell, Glen. "History of Mar Vista: Grand View Boulevard." 2006, 30, *Jul 2011*. <<http://www.marvistahistoricalsociety.net/history/timelines/grandview.htm> >

Wilhelmi, Christy. Phone Interview. 28 *Jul. 2011*

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