



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Insight Garden Program (IGP) facilitates an innovative, evidence-based environmental education curriculum combined with vocational gardening and landscaping training so that people in prison, in reentry, and at risk of offending can reconnect to self, community, and the natural world. This “inner” and “outer” gardening approach transforms lives, ends ongoing cycles of incarceration, and creates safer communities.

Launched in 2002, IGP operated as a volunteer-run program at San Quentin Prison for 11 years. Recognizing the potential of IGP’s model, it was established as an independent non-profit in 2014 to bring our evidence-based program to people in prison and reentry across the state and nation.

IMPACT IN PRISON & COMMUNITIES

IGP improves prison culture, promotes positive interactions among people in prison and prison staff, reduces disciplinary infractions, helps people in prison advance toward parole, and supports the reconnection of people in prison with their families and communities. IGP also breaks ongoing cycles of incarceration -- a 2011 study of IGP graduates released into our communities found that ***fewer than 10% returned to prison.***

CURRICULUM

To achieve our mission of transforming lives through connection to nature, IGP engages participants in weekly, two-hour environmental education, personal development, and professional trainings that enable them to re-enter society with a commitment to environmental stewardship, marketable green sector skills, and the personal resilience required to succeed. These are organized into four, interconnected arcs:

- **Environmental Education:** Deepening commitment to environmental stewardship through classes focused on ecological principles, soil and food systems, consumer systems, and climate change.
- **Sustainable Landscape and Gardening Training:** Building marketable gardening skills through principles of permaculture, organic gardening, water conservation, and soil building trainings applied through the cultivation and maintenance of plants and gardens.
- **Inner Gardening:** Promoting behavioral change and personal transformation through emotional process work, eco-therapy approaches, and development of communication, leadership, and community-building skills.
- **Reentry & Career Preparation:** Planning for reentry to society, including opportunities to continue engagement in environmental stewardship and pursue green collar careers.

EXPANSION & PROGRAM CUSTOMIZATION

To date, IGP’s innovative model has been launched in eight California prisons, two Indiana prisons, and in a reentry collaborative in New York City. In 2017, approximately 650 people participated in our program and we anticipate reaching more than 1,000 people in 2018. A versatile and highly customizable program, IGP has been adapted to meet the needs of youth, women, people with mental and physical disabilities, people in high-security facilities, and people both in prison and in reentry.

PROGRAM SITES

MEN'S PRISONS

IGP supports the transformation of people who are preparing for release (San Quentin, Avenal, and Indiana State Prison), serving long-term sentences and life without parole (Solano and Los Angeles).

- **San Quentin Prison** | CA | 2002
- **California State Prison - Solano** | CA | 2014
- **California State Prison - Los Angeles County** | CA | 2016
- **Avenal State Prison** | CA | 2017

WOMEN'S PRISONS

IGP is currently programming with women who are scheduled for release within five years (Folsom Women's Facility) and who are serving long-term sentences and are preparing for parole board review (Central California Women's Facility).

- **Central California Women's Facility** | CA | 2017
- **Folsom Women's Facility** | CA | 2017

YOUTH PRISONS

IGP engages youth ages 14-21 through our hands-on program at Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility in Indiana and is expanding to a female juvenile facility in LaPorte, Indiana in the spring of 2018. To accommodate shorter-term sentences, at LJCF we adapted our curriculum to provide the training series within six months, and have trained volunteer and prison staff as facilitators.

- **Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility** | IN | 2016
- **LaPorte Juvenile Correctional Facility** | IN | Spring 2018
- **O.H. Close Youth Correctional Facility** | CA | Opening Summer 2018

HEALTHCARE PRISONS

IGP offers a trauma-informed, nurturing program and fully accessible gardens to people in prison with physical and mental health challenges.

- **California Medical Facility - Solano** | CA | 2015
- **California Health Care Facility - Stockton** | CA | 2016

REENTRY PROGRAMS

IGP builds bridges with people in reentry by delivering our curriculum to people returning to communities in partnership with the Bard Prison Initiative and Hawthorne Valley Farms (New York Reentry Project) and has connected IGP graduates to green collar career pathways (Environmental Stewardship Reentry Project) through a past grant from the California Environmental Protection Agency.

- **New York Reentry Project** | NYC | 2015
- **Environmental Stewardship Reentry Program** | Bay Area | 2017

"The value of this program for me is to find and create ways to conserve, grow and plant for ourselves in order to survive, now and for generations to come; to observe the beauty of Earth and all its greatness... to enjoy the fruits of our labor without destroying our most precious resources."

- IGP participant at Central California Women's Facility