gather at the farm
A USERS GUIDE TO MIRAMAR FARMS
miramar farms
gather. learn. grow.

This guide provides an introduction and overview of key resources available to you at the farm—from state-of-the-art technology in our barn to panoramic views out over the Pacific Ocean. We offer some ideas and anecdotes based on a decade of experience and over 10,000 guest visits, as well as our own meeting planning and facilitation experience.

Miramar Farms was built to invite exploration, support quiet contemplation, ignite creativity, and build community. We look forward to supporting you as you plan your day and unlock the magic of the farm.

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introduction

a place for inspiration and restoration

the nature principle

Most of us are well-aware of the power connected to spending time in the outdoors. Nature calls to us when we are looking to relax or play, or when we are looking to quiet our minds. It is barely a conscious thought, but rather an intuitive connection to ground and gather ourselves in nature.

Over the past decade, increasing scientific evidence documents the powerful impacts of spending time in the outdoors. Researchers have found a direct link between time outdoors and mental and physical health, and the "nature prescription" is a growing movement around the world to support a wide variety of physical and mental health issues. As Florence Williams, author of The Nature Fix, suggest, "We're full sensory beings, or at least we were once built to be," she writes. "Isn't it possible that it's only when you open all the doors—literally and figuratively—that the real magic happens?"

The nature principal suggests that human connection with the natural world has the power to boost mental acuity and creativity, promote health and wellness, help us build smarter and more sustainable enterprises, and strengthen human bonds.

sustainable meetings

When you come to the farm, you'll be helping us meet our zero-waste goals, grow food for community members in need, and offer meeting support to nonprofit groups at a reduced rate.

You can help us further our sustainability efforts in five easy ways:

1. Encourage and/or organize carpooling/ridesharing to the farm.
2. Bring your own reusuable mug and/or water bottle to the farm and encourage others to follow your lead.
3. Make maximum use of our beautiful white boards and minimize the use of paper flip charts.
4. Don't bring plastic tchotchkes or trinkets to the farm. We'd be happy to help you find a more sustainable option if you looking for a small gift or doodling tool.
5. Don't bring extra food or drinks to the farm. We'd be happy to help you with whatever you need, sourced through local and sustainable options.

meeting essentials

When you come to the farm, we hope you don't have to bring much more than your laptop with you. We pride ourselves on having the tools and equipment you need.

Here's what we keep ready, available and in stock for you to have a great day:

Two walls of white boards (approximately 12 feet x 4 feet)

Flip charts (full size and tabletop)

75-inch and 45-inch monitors, along with Mac and PC connections

Dedicated zoom room system with built-in state-of-the-art audio and video

Post it notes of all sizes and shapes, voting dots, markers, markers and more markers!

Note pads and pens

books that inspire and guide us

The Five Dysfunctions of a Team
Patrick Lencioni

The Art of Gathering
Priya Parker

The Nature Fix
Florence Williams

Dare to Lead
Brene Brown

Leadership is an Art
Max De Pree

All We Can Save
Ayana Elizabeth Johnson
and Katharine K. Wilkinson

A Forest Feast
Erin Gleason

Branches and Blooms
Aletha Harampolis and Jill Rizzo

the barn

a space to inspire and hold

the barn

The barn at Miramar Farms was originally built in the 1940's, stabilized in the late 1990's, and then completely rebuilt as a meeting space in 2012. The building is approximately 600 square-feet and sits adjacent to a smaller greenhouse sitting room on one side, a small serving kitchen on the other, and a large outdoor pergola just beyond the kitchen doors. The pergola is well protected from the elements and has electric overhead heating. Both the barn and the pergola each comfortably accommodate up to 40 people.

With a wood fireplace set in the corner and comfortably heating the entire redwood building, the barn offers both a cozy refuge and a fully-technology equipped facility. And while the technology in the barn is state-of-the-art, the real magic of the place lies in the quiet history and calming essence that wraps around you as you enter the space.

This is a space that causes you to take a beat. To take a breath. To wonder and be quiet and be curious. It is a great place to start.

barn meeting area

600 sq. ft. meeting room

greenhouse sitting room

serving kitchen

750 sf outdoor pergola

the food

connect and gather with locally farmed food

food for the soul

Fresh, seasonal and delicious food is a central part of the Miramar Farms experience. At the farm, food is more than just a source of nutrition—rather it is a way to connect and gather, to share a common experience and connect with nature.

We grow a variety of fresh fruit, herbs and flowers on the property and work with small farms throughout our region to supply the rest of our produce, dairy products and proteins. We use all that we produce here to serve our guests; any extra product is donated to community-service food distribution networks.

enjoy breakfast, lunch, & snacks

Most of our baked goods are prepared in our own little kitchen daily, with fresh eggs supplied by our chickens and fruits usually picked fresh within 24 hours of your visit. This is as fresh as it gets—and you will taste the difference!

For lunch, we offer individual wicker picnic baskets filled with gourmet sandwiches or salads for you to take out on the property to enjoy. Or, if you'd like to have a served chef-to-table family meal, we are happy to accommodate this as well.

Hot and cold drinks are available all day. During peak season, we love to share our homemade Meyer lemonade or apple cider.

breathing room
a place for creativity and restoration

your private retreat

When you and your team visit the farm, you have complete privacy and access to 11-acres overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Over the past 25 years we have built a network of gardens, orchards, trails and scenic platforms that we hope you will explore. We know you have work to do, but don't miss the opportunity to help people restore, imagine and connect across this stunning landscape.

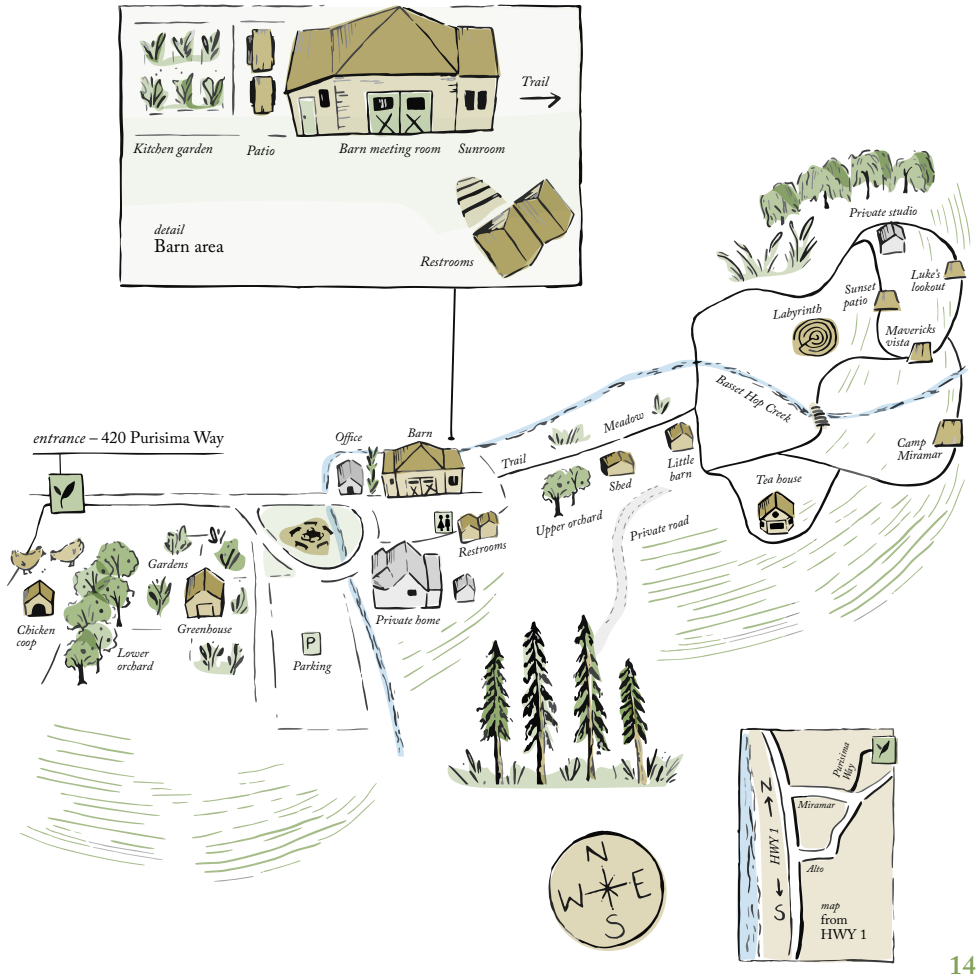
walks from the barn

The Little Barn: 3-minutes

Labyrinth: 5-minutes

Tea House: 6-minutes

Maverick's Vista: 8-minutes



the labyrinth

The labyrinth at Miramar Farms is about a 5-minute walk from the barn. Set at the base of the watershed and looking west out over the Pacific Ocean, it is a magical spot on the property.

People use the labyrinth throughout the day as a place to walk, wonder, breath and reflect. It is a place for quiet and reflection; a place to slow down and ease the stress. All you need to do is follow the path.

Teams also use the labyrinth as a place to gather and connect. Here are just a few creative ways we've used the labyrinth for teambuilding over the years.

gathering circle for morning stretches and reconnection.

path to walk and share life-journey conversations among teammates.

end of day circle and check-out location.

the garden

The garden is the heartbeat of the farm, and we take our cues from the seasons as we steward this special place. Take a walk with us and enjoy first strawberries and daffodils in the springtime, herbs and vegetables all summer, and apples and pears in the fall.

Miramar Farms began operation in 2012 with a clear mission to bring agriculture back to the property. Since then, we have planted two orchards and established a wide range of seasonal produce and flowers. Apples and pears, strawberries and flowers seem to thrive on the property. We also take great care to protect the little watershed that provides beneficial habitat and groundwater for our agricultural operations. In 2021 we began implementation of a Conservation and Carbon Farm Plan on the property—which is a vital part of our stewardship and community service efforts.

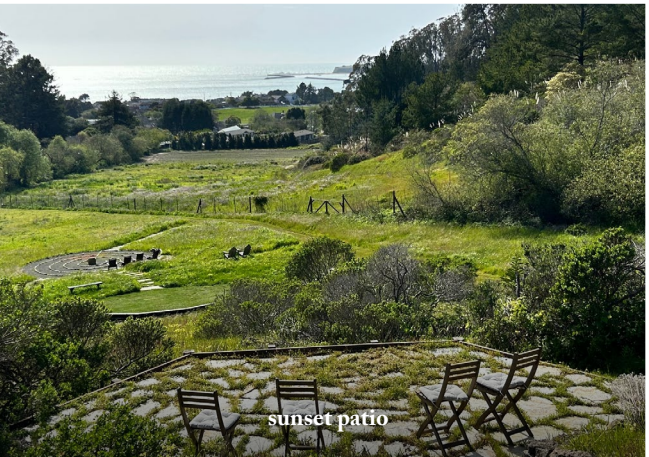
tour the gardens and orchards

The tour takes about 30 to 45 minutes and includes a visit to the gardens, a tour of the watershed and a discussion of both the history of the property and our current sustainability and climate conservation efforts. This is a wonderful way to help your group arrive and connect in the morning, or to take a mid-day break.

breakout spaces

Mark Battey became a builder and landscape artist in the early 2010's. With his keen eye for vistas and sunsets, he's created a variety of small structures and platforms across the property. These spaces, set in nature, provide special opportunities for small teams to gather together and dive into meaningful conversations. The barn is lovely, but be sure to take advantage of this unique opportunity to think outside the box.

the little barn


sunset patio

maverick's vista

the tea house

team building workshops

workshops

Nearly everyone that comes to the farm is striving to build connection and alignment within their leadership team. We are keenly focused on helping teams do this foundational work with team building workshops.

getting to know ourselves and each other

Miramar Farms is an authorized Wiley Everything DiSC® partner. Since 2017, we've helped thousands of leaders learn about themselves and the dynamics of their team through the DiSC assessment process. If you are looking to increase leadership awareness and build team connections, as well as have a fun and insightful conversation, DiSC offers immediate insight and lasting impact. The 90-minute DiSC workshop requires an advanced individual assessment for all participants.

tap into your creative side

While we are big fans of DiSC, we also know the value of moving from an intellectual space to a more playful and creative space. Play is a powerful tool to help people connect with themselves and others. At the farm, we offer an outdoor lawn area and a variety of lawn games (cornhole, spike ball, whiffle ball, frisbees, ping pong, etc), along with watercolor paint sets for those that might enjoy a quieter activity. We also offer a variety of facilitated team building workshops for our guests each year. Our workshops, developed and led by acclaimed creative experts, are centered around food, art and play. Visit our Teambuilding page on our website to learn more about our current offerings.

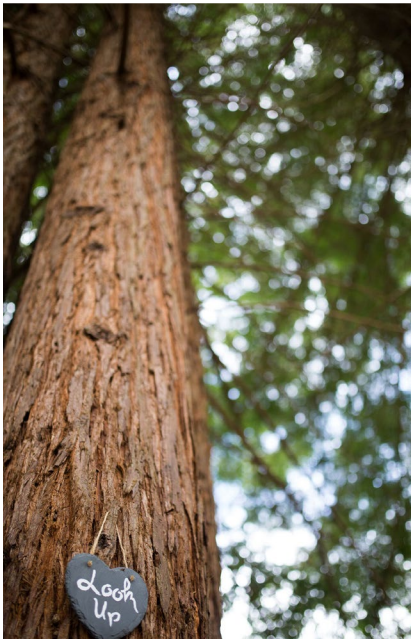
a day to remember

planning a day at the Farm

We know you have a plan for your time together, but we are also here to offer guidance and suggestions on how to make the most of your time at the farm. Here are some of our top tips as you develop your agenda.

don't skip breakfast! It's a warm and delicious experience, so give your team 30-minutes or more to arrive at the farm, grab a cup of coffee and a fresh baked scone, and maybe even take a morning walk on the labyrinth. Don't rush the reconnection.

join us for a farm tour: We offer a complimentary "tour and taste" to all our guests. This 1/2-mile is a great way to start your day or reenergizing your group after lunch. Join us for 30-40 minutes and we'll show you the gardens and orchards, introduce you to the chickens, and see how the berries, apples or herbs are tasting. We'll finish up with a visit out to the watershed areas of the property, with views out over Princeton Harbor and the Pacific Ocean.



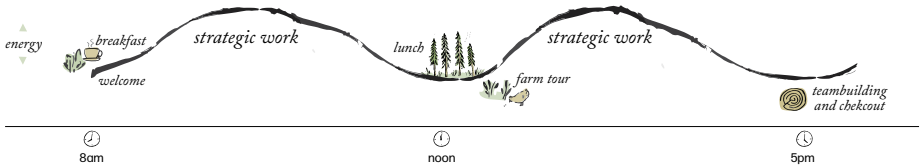
honor the 90-minute rule: Think about the work items on your agenda in modules of about 90 minutes. That's the optimal time for concentration; after that it is diminishing returns. A quick 10-minute break, with a walk in the fresh ocean air, will offer an instant reset and you can dive right back in.

go outside and play: It's 11 acres and it's all yours for the day. We know you have a lot to do, but don't miss the chance to integrate a walking meeting into your day, host a conversation on a platform looking out over the ocean, or take a break with lawn games or one of our facilitated creative workshops.

go with the flow

Be mindful of managing your agenda to match the natural flow of energy over the course of a day. Start with connective and grounding activities in the morning, dive into deep thinking mid-morning and mid afternoon, and end the day with a peak experience. Along the way, take breaks to honor the balance we are all looking to create in our lives.

Where here to help you create a productive, memorable and inspiring day. Let us know how we can support you in developing an agenda and program that matches the natural flow of the day.



inspiring breaks in the day

an early morning farm walk and welcome with our staff to help people arrive, transition and be present.

a visit to the labyrinth to explore life-journeys or take a mindful moment.

a series of walking meetings throughout the day to help your team connect with each other and discuss key topics.

using our network of small building and platforms as breakout group meeting areas.

taking a picnic lunch break in the orchard or overlooking the ocean.

mark & jayne

Mark and Jayne Battey started Miramar Farms in 2012 to support community and corporate leaders who care deeply about their work and their ability to lead others in compassionate and brave ways. Over the past decade, over 10,000 guests have visited the farm to build teams, develop strategic plans, and think deeply about how to lead in an increasingly dynamic and challenging global economy.

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