

Heritage Park Native Plant Birdscape Project – Designed by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

in Collaboration with the City of Thousand Oaks



KEY: - Over 10 feet tall - Between 3-10 feet tall - Under 3 feet tall
Letters without shapes are low growing and their size can be found below.

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|---|---|
| A - Indian Mallow (3-5' tall x 3-5' across) | ME - Manzanita "Emerald Carpet" (1' tall x 4 - 5' across) |
| B - California Buckwheat 'prostrate' (1' tall X 4' across) | MP - Manzanita "Pacific Mist" (2' tall x 6' across) |
| CB - Coyote Brush (3-8' tall x 8' across) | MS - Manzanita "Sunset" (5-8' tall x 8' across) |
| CC - Ceonothus "centennial" (8-12" tall x 4-5' across) | MM - Mountain Mahogany "Betuloides" (8-10' tall x 8-10' across) |
| CO - Ceonothus "Concho" (6' tall x 6' across) | N - Narrowleaf Milkweed, "volunteer plants" (2-3' tall x 2-3' across) |
| D - Deergrass (3' x 3' across - clump) | PP - Pigeon Point-Coyote Brush (2' tall x 8' across) |
| DM - Desert Mallow (2-3' tall x 2-3' across) | R - Redberry (3-8' tall x 8' across) |
| E - Conejo Buckwheat aka Saffron Buckwheat (1-2'tall x 2-3' across) | RH - Lemonade Berry (4-20' tall x 4-20' across) |
| EC - Ashy-leave Buckwheat - <i>Eriogonum cinereum</i> (2' tall X 6' across) | RC - Coffeeberry 'Mound San Bruno (3-4' tall x 10-15' across) |
| FD - Fairy Duster (1-3' tall x 3-4' across) | S - Salvia 'Poza Blue, Poza Blue Sage (5' tall x 5' across) |
| GF - Island Snapdragon "Gran Canon" (2-3'tall x 3' across) | T - Toyon (8-15' tall x 8-15' across) |
| GU - Island Snapdragon 'Firecracker' (3-4'tall x 5-8' across) | W - Desert Willow "Burgundy Lace" (12-20' tall x 12-20' across) |
| H - Island Alum Root (2-3' tall x 2' across) | X - Red Buckwheat - <i>Eriogonum grande</i> "Rubescens" (1-2' tall X 2-3' across) |
| J - Rush <i>Juncus patens</i> (1-2' tall x 2' across - clump) | Z - California Fuchsia "Hurricane Point" (1-2' tall x 2-4' across) & <i>Epilobium (Zauschneria) canum</i> ssp. <i>Canum</i> or equivalent variety |
| MC - Manzanita "Carmel Sur" (1-2' tall X 6' across) | Q - Valley Oak, <i>Quercus lobata</i> (40 feet in height and width in 25 years.) |
| MD - Manzanita "John Dourley" (4' tall x 6' across) | |

Under the Oak & Sycamore Canopy pre-existing ornamental grass was left..

Heritage Park:

I. Scope of Work

- A. Conejo Valley Audubon Society (CVAS) will create an attractive bird and butterfly-friendly garden at Heritage Park by replacing turf and non-native plants with native plants.
- i. CVAS will provide a landscaping plan with map and proposed plants.
 - a. TO City will either approve or negotiate changes to the plant palette.
 - ii. TO City will tear out turf and unwanted non-native plants including grasses
 - a. Under oak & sycamore canopy - leave Deergrasses and hand remove society garlic, cotoneaster, and asparagus fern. (The patch of ferns in NE corner okay to keep. If it is removed, CVAS will relandscape with 'Centennial' Ceonothus at this location.)
 - b. Ask TO City for the CVAS option to hand remove deergrass in advanced of removal with heavy equipment. This way it can be used for other bird habitat gardens around the CVAS community.
 - iii. TO City will provide sitting boulders, wood chips, Biochar, water bubblers, and deal with the "stream bed."
 - iv. TO City will plant the 24" boxed *Quercus lobata* and assist with digging the 5 and 15 gallon holes.
 - v. CVAS will be responsible for providing volunteers for the planting
 - a. TO City will provide a hose and water for the proper planting of native plants.
- B. Signing - CVAS will create an interpretive signing about the drought tolerant, native plant, bird & butterfly-friendly garden for people at Heritage Park. (This will be phase 2.)
- i. CVAS will provide the signing with city approval.
 - ii. CVAS and TO City will collaborate to determine size, material, mounting, and location of the signing.
 - iii. CVAS will apply for a Grant to help fund the signing.

C. Annual native wild flowers and perennial milkweed will be established between the groundcover, shrubs, and trees while the garden is young.

- i. California Poppies - seeds
- ii. Arroyo lupine - seeds
- iii. Theodore Payne – ¼ pound of low meadow mix.
- iv. Seed Balls – The Conejo Open Foundation (COSF) has offered to assist with the creation of seed balls to more effectively broadcast seed once the rains start. CVAS will provide the seed and COSF the materials for making the seed balls. (This will be Phase 2, after planting is completed.)

D. Volunteer workers will be used for planting

- i. CVAS Members
- ii. Community Volunteers
- iii. Paid day laborers will be an alternative if volunteers are not adequate to complete planting.

E. Timeline

- i. Be ready to plant on December 12, 2015 (December 13 is the raindate.)
 - a. Plants will be stored off site at CVAS Conservation Chair Dee Lyon's residence.
 - b. Plants will be either picked up or delivered before the December 12 planting date.
 - c. Thousand Oaks City Staff will pick up and plant the Valley Oak on December 10.
- ii. City said the planting part of the project must be completed before first of the year 2016
- iii. Initial CVAS Proposal was submitted and approved by city in October 2015.

F. Birdhouse will be sited at the Heritage Park Garden

- i. Oak Titmouse, House Wren, or for other species?
- ii. On post, location still to be determined.



Heritage Park Bird Friendly Garden



Plant selection





ASHYLEAF BUCKWHEAT *Eriogonum cinereum*

3 to 6 feet tall x up to 10 feet across

Ashyleaf buckwheat is a billowing shrub that puts forth numerous slender stems from its base. It creates a shapely mound. Countless flower stalks hold small, fuzzy pink flower heads that last for months.

Birds and other small creatures eat the seeds in late summer and fall. The buckwheats are very important for butterflies and native wasps. The wasps are small predatory insects that control the aphids, mealy bug, and scale insects, etc., in the garden. (Unavailable, so it was removed from the plant palette.)

INDIAN MALLOW

Abutilon palmerii

3 to 5 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet across

Evergreen shrub with nearly continuous bloom through the year.

The bright mango-colored blossoms are a favorite of hummingbirds and butterflies from spring through summer while its soft, rounded form makes it perfect for blending with other landscape forms.





COYOTE BRUSH

Baccharis pilularis

4 feet tall x 3 feet across, Full sun

Evergreen shrub, small yellow flowers, provides food and cover for a across variety of birds, mammals, and insects. Some birds like Wrentits and White-crowed Sparrows, may spend their entire lives among stands of Coyote Brush. *Baccharis* species are the nectary sources for most of the predatory wasps, native skippers (small butterflies) and native flies, which in turn provides food for birds.

CEONOTHUS `CENTENNIAL`

Ceanothus species variety `centennial`

8 to 12 inches tall x 4 to 5 feet across

Centennial spreads quickly producing a 4-8' ground cover within 2 years. The tiny, dark green leaves have a glossy surface that gives a polished backdrop to the intensely blue, button-like flower clusters in spring.

Drought tolerant once established but best with occasional water. Grows in full sun, part shade, or shade. If their utility and beauty are not enough enticement, then consider the habitat value of ceanothus. The button-like or puffy panicles of tiny blue to white flowers are an important source of food for bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. The leaves nourish larvae of several kinds of butterflies and moths. All of these insects in turn provide food for insectivorous birds. Birds also use the dense twigggy growth as shelter and for nest building. Ceanothus seeds, which can be heard exploding out of the drying capsules, are eaten by many kinds of mammals.





CEANOTHUS ``CONCHA``

Ceanothus species variety 'concha'

Mounding, 6 to 8 feet tall X 6 to 8 feet across

``Concha`` flowers heavily, beginning in late winter, and produces 1 ½ inch long clusters of luminous cobalt blue flowers. Its dark, narrow leaves have a warty surface that glints appealingly in the sun, and is one of the most adaptable dark-flowered ceanothus available. The button-like or puffy panicles of tiny blue to white flowers are an important source of food for bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. The leaves nourish larvae of several kinds of butterflies and moths. All of these insects in turn provide food for insectivorous birds. Birds also use the dense twiggly growth as shelter and for nest building.

DEERGRASS

Mulhenbergia rigens

This warm season California native bunch grass typically has foliage to 3 feet in height and the plant gets to 5 feet when in flower with an equal spread. Once established, Deer Grass can go the entire summer without water but it can also tolerate regular garden water which keeps the foliage nearly evergreen. Hardy to around 0 °F. This is an extremely adaptable plant that can grow in hot dry xeric gardens as a companion to native plants. *While most of the existing deergrass will be removed, we request that one deergrass plant in the west end be left. Additionally leave the deergrass under the oak and sycamore canopy. This emulates what naturally occurs in nature, as the native growing oak trees have worked out a fine balance over thousands of years of mutual existence in its habitat

*Additionally, if possible, we would like permission to hand dig out the deergrass scheduled to be removed with heavy equipment, so we can use it in other bird restoration habitat projects.





COAST DUDLEYA; BLUFF LETTUCE

Dudleya caespitosa "Frank Reinelt"

6 to 9 inches x 12 inches across)

Dudleya 'Frank Reinelt' will form dense mounds 6 - 8 inches tall with silvery finger-like leaves. They make handsome specimens in a rock garden or perform as a striking groundcover in mass plantings mixed with other plants. Avoid over-watering and control snails. Full sun to light shade with good drainage. (Unavailable so it was removed from the plant palette.)

Native plants support native **birds** and **butterflies**

SAFFRON BUCKWHEAT; CONEJO BUCKWHEAT

Eriogonum crocatum

1 to 2 foot tall x 2 to 3 foot across

Conejo buckwheat is the official flower of Thousand Oaks. It is native to Ventura County where it grows along the Conejo Pass in the area where Highway 101 climbs south from the coastal plains of Camarillo; from this location comes the alternate common name, Conejo Buckwheat. Weeding caution is needed since branches are very brittle, otherwise maintenance consists of simply removing spent flowers in late summer or fall and tipping back leggy branches. That will keep Saffron Buckwheat dense and attractive for years. *Eriogonum* species are used as food plants by the larvae of some butterflies and moths. Wild buckwheat flowers are also an important source of food for these and other Lepidoptera, while birds and small animals feed on the seeds.





FAIRY DUSTER

Calliandra eriophylla

1 to 3 feet tall x 3 to 4 feet across

It displays delightful puffs of colorful blossoms from late winter to early summer. Fairy duster is a sturdy yet fine textured shrub. Despite its desert origins, fairy duster grows surprisingly well in cooler environments. It requires no maintenance and is not bothered by insects or diseases. The Fairy Duster flowers are a pale pink color and are an attraction to animals that live in the desert. This plant attracts butterflies and hummingbirds when the flowers are blooming. This plant provides nectar for the animals that feed off of this plant such as hummingbirds and bees.

ISLAND SNAPDRAGON

Galvezia Speciosa and *Galvezia juncea* 'gran canon'

3 to 4 feet tall and 5 to 7 feet across

Evergreen shrub with red tubular flowers that the hummingbirds love.

Galvezia Speciosa 'FIRECRACKER' cultivar is a variety of *G. speciose*. 'Firecracker' has tomentose (slightly fuzzy) leaves and a more compact habit. 2 to 3 foot tall x 3 foot across.

All Island Snapdragon species are magnets for birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. They are host plants for caterpillars and provide food and excellent cover for birds.





ISLAND ALUM ROOT; CORAL BELLS

Heuchera maxima

2-3 feet tall when blooming x 2 feet across

Forms dense foliage mats composed of tightly packed rosettes of bright green leaves. Blooms white or pink for a three to four week period from spring to early summer. Attracts hummingbirds, who feed on the nectar.

RUSH

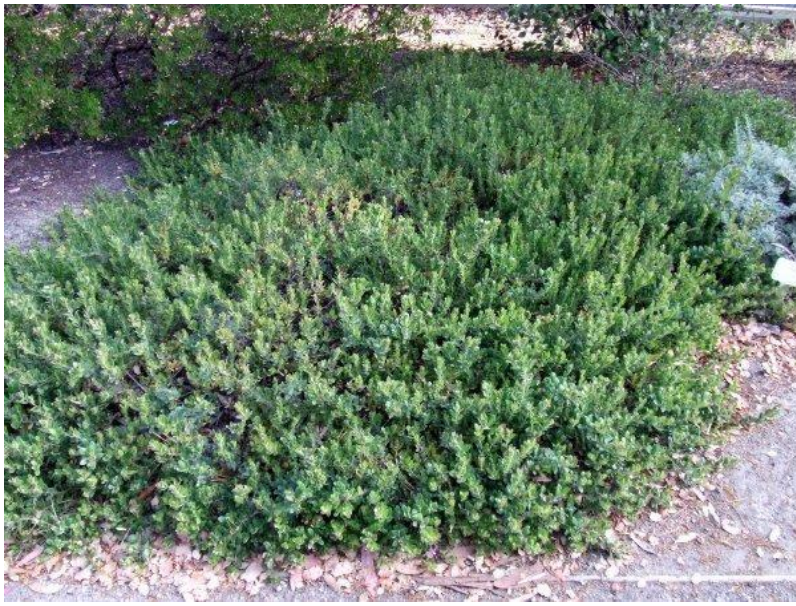
Juncus Patens

1 to 2 feet tall x 2 feet across, forms dense clumps

It evokes the presence of water, especially when planted along dry stream courses. It is easily grown.

Rushes provide shelter and food (seeds) for several species of birds.





MANZANITA `CARMEL SUR`

Arctostaphylos edmundsii variety `Carmel Sur`

1 to 2 feet tall x 6 feet across

'Carmel Sur' manzanita is a flat evergreen shrub (arches to 3 inches high in middle), with light green leaves. This manzanita is very garden and water tolerant as long as the water doesn't stand on it. In part shade it has a lot of drought tolerance (for a flat plant). 'Carmel Sur' prefers some afternoon shade in our location (interior coast ranges). Fast growing for a manzanita.

Manzanitas are great wildlife plants. Providing nectar for butterflies, hummingbirds and native insects. Many of the manzanitas regulate their nectar to attract different insects, butterflies and hummingbirds during the day.

MANZANITA `JOHN DOURLEY`

Arctostaphylos species variety `John Dourley`

2 to 4 feet tall x 6 feet across

Manzanita 'John Dourley' is the chameleon of the smaller manzanita selections, seasonally displaying an abundance of deep pink blossoms, coppery new growth, red-burnished fruits, and slate gray foliage. This vigorous, easily grown plant has a mounding growth habit.

Manzanitas are great wildlife plants. Providing nectar for butterflies, hummingbirds and native insects.





MANZANITA `PACIFIC MIST`

Arctostaphylos species variety `Pacific Mist`

2 feet tall x 6 feet across

Pacific Mist manzanita is gray-green sprawling ground cover of hybrid origin that is very fast growing for a manzanita. In a coastal garden it can be a real winner. Low, gray and sprawling on a foot or so tall. Loves beach sand, but tolerates clay. *Arctostaphylos Pacific Mist* gets greener with extra water.

Manzanitas are great wildlife plants. Providing nectar for butterflies, hummingbirds and native insects, and food and cover for birds.

MANZANITA `SUNSET`

Arctostaphylos species variety `Sunset`

5 to 8 feet after 20 years x 6 to 8 feet across

Sunset manzanita was introduced to commemorate Sunset Magazine's 75th anniversary. It lived nearly everywhere it was planted.

It has rough bark, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long flower clusters and dense foliage.

Manzanitas are great wildlife plants. Providing nectar for butterflies, hummingbirds and native insects, and food and cover for birds.





PIGEON POINT COYOTE BRUSH

Baccharis species variety 'Pigeon Point'

2 feet tall x 8 feet wide

Can be sheared as a lawn alternative. Fire resistant as long as it is watered.

Seeds are food for ground feeders such as Golden-crowned Sparrows and California Towhees,

REDBERRY

Rhamnus crocea

3 to 8 feet tall x 5 to 8 feet across

Redberry is a more diminutive relative of coffeeberry that grows in dense thickets. The dark glossy green leaves are small, rounded, and held on stiff, almost spine-like stems. Provides shelter and food for birds and mammals. Inconspicuous yellow-green flowers appear in small clusters each spring, followed in summer by luminous red berries favored by birds, especially Western bluebirds.





LEMONADE BERRY*

Rhus integrifolia

4 to 20 feet tall x 4 to 20 feet across

Lemonade Berry or Lemonade Sumac is a shrub to small tree. It is native to the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges and the South Coast regions of Southern California. A mature plant is large and thicket-like with a sprawling arrangement. The fruits are enjoyed by many bird species including the greater roadrunner. Lemonade Berry and Sugarbush provide excellent cover for birds.

*May substitute Sugarbush, *Rhus Ovata*

TOYON

Heteromeles arbutifolia

8 to 15 feet in height and width

Toyon is the only California native plant that continues to be commonly known by a Native American name. Toyon's resemblance to the European holly and its abundance in the hills of southern California were the genesis of the name "Hollywood."

This widely adaptable, easy to grow shrub is treasured for its evergreen foliage and bounty of winter berries, which are preceded in early summer by showy terminal bunches of small white flowers. The fruits are one of the main sources of food in the winter for birds, and it attracts Cedar Waxwings, American Robins, Hermit Thrush along with many other species. It also attracts butterflies. After establishment, toyons become long-lived backbone elements of a garden.





DESERT WILLOW "Burgundy Lace"

Chilopsis linearis

12 to 20 feet in height and width

It's the best summer-blooming small tree that California has to offer. It's one of the most adaptable and easily grown of California's native plants. Occasional deep irrigation is all that it requires. It is fast growing and requires minimal pruning. Unlike most other desert willows, "Burgundy Lace" blooms in summer. It produces a profusion of dark burgundy flowers tinged with purple, and prefers well drained drier locations.

Desert Willow produces large, fragrant flowers, which attract hummingbirds, large butterflies and bees.

CALIFORNIA FUSCHIA

Epilobium/Zauschneria species (California Fuchsia "Hurricane Point," a compact variety and *Epilobium* (*Zauschneria*)*canum* ssp. *Canum* were used.)

1 to 3 feet tall x 2 to 4 feet across, plants can spread via underground rhizomes

Many of the cultivars are well behaved. Vigorous and easily grown, they are stunning when planted among boulders or near dry stream beds. Rather than competing for the attention of pollinators in the heady days of spring, California

fuschias wait until late summer and fall to produce their abundant blooms. The southern migration of hummingbirds coincides with the start of their blooming period. Hummingbirds and butterflies benefit from this plant.





VALLEY OAK

Quercus lobata

40 feet in height and width in 25 years

Deciduous tree, the elder statesman of California's oaks, and the namesake of the City of Thousand Oaks, possesses a quiet dignity derived from its size, longevity (400 to 600 years), and grace. These impressive, elegant trees are survivors. They have faced droughts, fire and pests, yet they persist and govern the landscape.

Young trees have a straight, rigid form but eventually a spreading crown with limbs that occasionally sweep to the ground. Songbirds highly favor valley oaks for food, shelter, and nesting.

MANZANITA 'Emerald Carpet'

Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'

8 - 14 inches feet tall x 5 feet across

'Emerald Carpet' is a favorite lawn substitute. It prefers fertile soil to retain its deep green color. It grows well in full sun, looks best with some irrigation during hot months, although it needs less in shade. If it turns yellow, it needs feeding. 'Emerald Carpet' has white flowers in early spring.

Manzanitas are great wildlife plants. Providing nectar for butterflies, hummingbirds and native insects, and food and cover for birds



DESERT MALLOW

Sphaeralcea ambigua

2 to 3 feet tall X 2 to 3 feet across

Desert Mallow is a perennial with many one inch orange flowers on a two to three foot spike with gray, almost fuzzy foliage. Desert Hollyhock or desert globe are other names for the plant with its flower spikes that can occur most of the year here. Desert Mallow needs sun and good air flow.

The large number of flowers produced over a year provides a steady source of pollen and nectar to honey bees and other insects. It attracts hummingbirds and provides shelter for birds and reptiles.



CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT 'Warriner Lytle' (Prostrate)

Eriogonum fasciculatum var. *Warriner Lytle*

1 foot tall X 4 feet wide.

Evergreen sprawling low growing California buckwheat that on occasion can grow to 2 feet tall, but is often more prostrate, hugging the ground like a mat.

Eriogonum species are used as food plants by the larvae of some butterflies and moths. Several of these are monophagous meaning their caterpillars only feed on this genus. Wild buckwheat flowers are also an important source of food for these and other Lepidoptera, while birds and small animals feed on the seeds.

RED BUCKWHEAT (San Miguel Island Buckwheat)

Eriogonum grande var. *rubescens*

1 foot tall X 3 feet wide.

Evergreen small shrub that has small spoon-shaped leaves that are gray-green on the upper surface and wooly below. In the late spring through fall, clusters of pink flowers bloom on 2 foot tall inflorescence. *Eriogonum* species are used as food plants by the larvae of some butterflies and moths. Several of these are monophagous meaning their caterpillars only feed on this genus. Wild buckwheat flowers are also an important source of food for these and other Lepidoptera, while birds and small animals feed on the seeds.



POZO BLUE SAGE

Salvia Sp. 'Pozo Blue

(Hybrid of California Blue Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) and California Purple Sage (*Salvia leucophylla*).

5 inches feet tall x 5 feet across

'Salvia 'Pozo Blue' is a tough, fragrant California native shrub. It is tolerant of almost any soil and tolerates both heat and drought, however it dislikes wet feet in the summer. It's lavender flowers usually bloom for a full month in the spring.

Salvia's are native butterfly bushes. They attract a wide variety of butterflies and pollinators. Many species of small mammals and birds, especially hummingbirds, are attracted to *Salvias* for food and cover.



COFFEEBERRY 'Mound San Bruno'

Frangula (Rhamnus) californica

3-4' tall x 10-15' across

'Mound San Bruno' Coffeeberry is vigorous dwarf form of coffeeberry from the San Bruno Mountains. It is an attractive evergreen that grows in full sun or partial shade with narrow leaves and a compact habit that can be a shrubby groundcover, border planting, or foundation plant. It is excellent in heavy adobe or rocky soils. Flowers are loved by pollinators, especially bees. A larval food source for the pale swallowtail butterfly. Provides black juicy fruit in the fall for thrushes, jays, mockingbirds, robins, bandtailed pigeon, purple finch and species. It provides shelter for birds and other small wildlife.



MOUNTAIN MAHAGONY var. *Betuloides*

Cercocarpus betuloides

8-10' tall x 8-10' across

Mountain Mahogany is an drought tolerant evergreen shrub. The whole plant appears silvery in the late summer through fall, due to the feathery fruits. Mountain Mahogany tolerates full sun and tolerates clay soils and wind.

All the *Cercocarpus* species are nitrogen fixing and good for revegetation, erosion control and wildlife. Attracts Butterflies, Bees, and provides food and shelter for birds.





NARROWLEAF MILKWEED

Asclepias fascicularis

2-3' tall x 2-3' across

Narrowleaf Milkweed, which gets its name from its narrow leaves and milky sap, was not planted at Heritage Park. It volunteered to grow on its own and will be left, because this attractive perennial is a beneficial native plant. It tends to go dormant in the winter and regenerate the next year. It is sometimes viewed as a weed, however it is a ``must-have'' plant for wildlife gardens. Monarch butterflies depend on the alkaloids associated with milkweed, to give the butterfly larvae that feed on it protection. Several other butterfly and insect species forage on milkweed leaves for the same reason. Its nectar provides food for butterflies, bees and wasps. Orioles use the dead stems for nests the next spring.

Updates:

Note changes to the original landscape plan due to plant availability and about a 10% loss, approximately 10 months after the initial planting (December 2015): The map was revised on November 24, 2016 to reflect these changes.

1. Ashy-leaved buckwheat (*Eriogonum cinerium*) which was previously unavailable, became available as a replacement for dead desert mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), which were initially planted as substitutes for the Ashy-leaved Buckwheat. They both have grey leaves, and their growing habitat and size is similar.
2. Galvesia species - Galvesia upright will either be *Galvesia juncea* or Galvesia 'Firecracker,' which replaced two dead *Galvesia juncea*. *Galvesia* 'gran canon' was planted in the Northeast corner.

3. *Dudleya caespitosa* "Frank Reinelt" was still unavailable - substituted a compact variety of California fuchsia 'Hurricane Point.' (*Epilobium* sp.) for the sidewalk parkway paired with the *Juncus patens*. Additionally, *Epilobium canna*, was later used to replace two *Ceanothus* 'centennial' and a *Manzanita* 'Pacific mist' that did not survive.
4. *Rhus Integrifolia* (lemonadeberry) was used instead of *Rhus ovata* (sugarbush) , due to its availability in the 5-gallon size.
5. The grass that was left under the Oak and Sycamore Canopy (east boundary, east of sidewalk, and southeast boundary, between the ferns and sidewalk) was believed to be Deergrass, *Muhlenbergia rigens*, and was left in place. After it bloomed in late November 2016, it was later identified as another ornamental bunchgrass, still to be identified. Since it is somewhat isolated from the rest of the replacement landscaping and not being watered, it is being left in place for the time being.