

The Gardener's Guide to the Sausal Creek Watershed

A Home Companion to
Growing Native Plants



Martha E. Lowe,
the Friends of Sausal Creek,
and the Aquatic Outreach Institute

This booklet is part of a restoration project that is taking place in Dimond Park in Oakland, California. The project is a collaboration between the City of Oakland Public Works Agency, the Oakland Parks and Recreation Department, the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the Aquatic Outreach Institute, the Friends of Sausal Creek, and the many local neighbors who have volunteered hundreds of hours of their time.

The goals of the project are to:

- enhance the park experience with improved creek access and colorful California native plantings
- create a focal place for creek-oriented education programs, biological monitoring, and local community activities
- improve wildlife habitat value by reintroducing local native plants
- encourage gardeners to help restore the local ecosystem by planting natives in their home gardens

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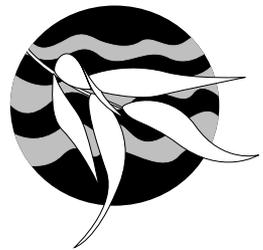
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Martha E. Lowe
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Produced by the Aquatic Outreach Institute,
as part of the Sausal Creek Watershed Awareness Program

Contents

Introduction	3
Growing Tips	7
Plant Descriptions	9
<i>Trees</i>	
Coast Live Oak	9
Western Redbud	9
California Buckeye	10
<i>Shrubs</i>	
McMinn's Vinehill Manzanita	11
Emerald Carpet Manzanita	12
Bush Anemone	12
Yankee Point Ceanothus	13
Julia Phelps Ceanothus	14
St. Catherine's Lace	14
Coast Silktassel	15
Oregon Grape	15
Pacific Wax Myrtle	16
Sugarbush	17
Pink Flowering Currant	17
Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry	18
Cleveland Sage	18
Purple Sage	19
Flannel Bush	20
<i>Herbaceous Perennials</i>	
Douglas Iris	20
California Fuchsia	21
Western Sword Fern	22
<i>Grasses</i>	
California Fescue	23
Purple Needlegrass	23
Where to Purchase Native Plants	24
How to Learn More	25
Some of the Plants in the Demonstration Garden	26
The Sausal Creek Watershed	28

Introduction

When early Spanish explorers reached the San Francisco Bay in the late 1700s, they found a place teeming with life. A rich assembly of plant communities supported a wide variety of life forms and ecological relationships. Huge flocks of migrating shorebirds found food and shelter in the marshes where the creeks and rivers met the bay. Fish ran in great numbers up these waterways, where bear, mountain lion, fox, and others would come to feed and quench their thirst. Between the marshes and the hills was coastal prairie, where elk grazed on grasses and herbs. Further uphill the grassland, oak woodland, and chaparral gave way to redwood forests containing some of the tallest trees in the world. The native people, who had lived here for many thousands of years, were well skilled in managing the land to enhance their hunting and gathering.

In the two hundred years since then, the Bay Area has changed dramatically. Settlers drained and filled most of the marshland for agriculture and construction, diverted and dammed the creeks, cleared the forests for lumber and firewood, and hunted wildlife and native people almost to extinction. Then came the building of roads and highways, houses, factories, and great skyscrapers. Now, as we enjoy the comfortable modern life provided by our industrial society, we recognize the great cost to the local ecosystem.

Gardening activities have also had significant impact on the land. Settlers found that plants from all over the world could thrive in this generous climate. Some of the plants they imported—acacia, Algerian ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom—are very aggressive colonizers. Uncontrolled by natural predators, these exotic (non-native) species spread into the local canyons. They now occupy large areas of the Sausal Creek watershed, and remnant islands of native plants are shrinking each year. This change results in dwindling populations of the insects, birds, and mammals that depend upon specific plants for their livelihood.

The Restoration Project in Dimond Park

In March 1997, local neighbors decided to take restorative action in a section of Dimond Park. People began hand-clearing the slopes of weedy plants, and work proceeded through the summer

with installation of paths, terraces, stone benches, sprinklers, and erosion control materials. Volunteers gathered seeds and cuttings from local native plants, and began a nursery program. In the fall, the first plants were ready to be placed out, and planting began. Spring 1998 brought a rush of new wildflowers, and a joyous sense of renewal. The new plants are now becoming well established, and the Friends' restoration focus is moving upstream, into Dimond Canyon and Joaquin Miller Park.

The project in Dimond Park covers about 35,000 square feet and consists of two parts. The demonstration garden, located between the Recreation Center and El Centro Avenue, features plants native to California. Beautiful in color and form, California native plants are well adapted to our mild, wet winters and warm, dry summers. They are good garden plants, easy to grow without the use of pesticides, fertilizers, or summer water (once established). These plants, listed on page 26, were chosen because they are easy for home gardeners to obtain from local nurseries. Some of them have been bred for their garden-worthy traits, and in the strictest sense of the word, these plants are no longer true natives—they are cousins to their more wild kin. But they still offer us the benefits of local native plants and, as in the case of bush anemone (see “Plant Descriptions”), growing them sometimes contributes to the preservation of species almost entirely gone from the wild.

The riparian restoration area, between Sausal Creek and El Centro Avenue, is planted with species native to our local watershed. *Riparian* means “related to, living, or located on the bank of a natural watercourse.” Here the goal is to reestablish a native plant community as it might have been before the influx of exotic plants. Watch the area as the plants mature—will a new and diverse community of wildlife move in?

Native Gardens and Habitat Restoration

We are fortunate to have so much of Sausal Creek flowing above ground through public parkland, available for restoration work. But the creek is only the core of the watershed. As home gardeners, we have the opportunity to preserve and enhance biodiversity by planting natives in our backyards.

“It is possible to transform any small garden space into a refuge many species can use,” writes Jeff Caldwell of Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco. “The garden can be a place of healing both for the gardener and for the earth. The gardener can

use practices that encourage the balance of nature, and eliminate practices that upset that balance.” Regarding starting your own wildlife garden, he offers the following tips:

“Think diversity. Choose species that flower and fruit at different times. With carefully chosen plantings, pollen, nectar, seeds, and fruit of one sort or another will always be available.

“Think insects. Many interesting wildlife species rely heavily or exclusively on insects for food. Begin taking more careful note of them and you will find that insects and other invertebrates themselves can be among the chief delights in your garden. Their beauty and diversity is a never-ending source of wonder and amusement.

“Think natives. Local plants are perfectly adapted to our climate. Most are drought tolerant and fit best into a wildlife garden, as they support local native insect and mushroom populations that have had thousands of years to strike a balance. Remember, it is not only in the tropics that native plants and animals are going extinct. They need your help right in your own backyard.”

By planting natives we create a home for wildlife and contribute to the healing of our local ecosystem. We also give ourselves the chance to explore our relationship with nature, to witness natural processes as they unfold, and to participate in those processes. As gardeners we can enter into conversation with the natural world around us, and in doing so, learn the ways of the land. Through our skillful action, we will make this a better place for all who live here.

About This Guide

This booklet focuses on twenty-three of the more than one hundred species of California native plants growing in the project area. Most of the featured plants are shrubs—the woody perennials—because these plants offer such great benefits in the garden. They are long-lived, require little care, and they often bloom early, providing color in your garden as early as February and March.

Not listed in this book are the annuals, though there are plenty of them to recommend. Seeds for these annuals are available locally and will light up any springtime garden. See the “Where to Purchase Native Plants” section for information on where you can buy seeds.

Following this introduction is the “Growing Tips” section, where general guidelines for growing native plants are given.

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After that comes the main section of the book, the “Plant Descriptions.” Beside an illustration of each plant, its common and scientific names are given, its value to wildlife is described, and its size, shape, habit, flowers, fruit, and uses are listed. The plant’s light, soil, and water preferences are also included. For a few plants, two scientific names are listed; this is because taxonomists have recently changed these plants’ names. The older name is listed in parentheses. After the plant descriptions are sections that list where you can purchase native plants and how you can learn more. A list of the native plants in the demonstration garden is also included, as well as a map of the Sausal Creek watershed.

Our hope is that this small booklet will be both an introduction and an inspiration to learn more about California’s wonderful and varied flora. For more information on how you can start a wildlife habitat garden, call the Aquatic Outreach Institute at (510) 231-5655.

Growing Tips

As with any plant, it is important to learn about a native species and its requirements before you plant it in your garden. Ask these questions when considering a plant: How big will it get? Does it prefer full sun or shade? What kind of soil does it need? Does it require summer water? What group of species does it naturally associate with?

Think about your garden's topography and microclimates. Whether you have dry sunny slopes or a yard full of large trees, you can successfully incorporate natives into your garden by choosing the right species for the conditions that exist there.

Group plants according to their requirements for light, soil type, and water. Natives that grow in shade generally require more water and soils richer in organic matter than those that grow naturally in full sun. Plants with similar requirements can be grouped in different parts of the garden to create woodland, chaparral, or grassland areas.

As you are planting, make sure you give your plants room to grow. This will save you the work of pruning and will often result in healthier plants. Some natives resent pruning or may pick up pathogens from pruning cuts, resulting in disease and possible die-back.

Light

Pay special attention to a species' light requirements. A shade-loving plant will sometimes persist in full sun but will never live up to its full potential. Forest and woodland species require the relatively cool, moist conditions of partial or full shade. Plants that require full sun will not do well in shade, becoming leggy as they reach for light and rarely producing flowers. Chaparral species generally require warmer, drier conditions, as well as leaner soil.

Soil

Clay soils with poor drainage are prevalent in the East Bay, and while many natives can make do in clay soils, many need good drainage in order to thrive. The best way to improve clay soils is through the regular addition of organic matter such as well rotted compost, leaf mold, or other amendments. Organic matter can also be added to sandy soils, improving their nutrient content and resulting in better water retention. Also consider creating raised

beds or mounds in your garden; these planting options give you better control over the texture and resulting drainage of your soil.

The addition of organic matter will also increase the amounts of nutrients in your soil, giving your plants an extra boost. Most natives are not adapted to very rich soils, however, and do not require, or even like, fertilizers. In fact, using fertilizer can result in shorter life spans for many California native species because it encourages an accelerated growth rate.

Water

Many natives are drought tolerant but all plants need regular water until they have established themselves in the garden. Some natives will tolerate summer water and, in fact, will look better if they receive regular, deep watering in the dry months. Others will not tolerate this treatment, especially in heavy clay soils, so be sure you understand your plant's needs.

If you don't already have one, consider putting in a drip system for your native garden. These systems cut evaporation and waste by delivering water only where it is needed and reduce the incidence of fungal disease. Drip systems deliver water at a slow rate, which means that it can soak down into the soil rather than running off over the surface. This will encourage your plants to send down deep roots, enabling them to withstand drought conditions in the summer. Once established, many California native gardens need little or no summer water.

Mulch

Mulch is useful for both weed suppression and water conservation. Be careful, though, not to pile mulch around the root crowns of your plants (the point at which a plant's stem or trunk ends and its roots begin), particularly if you rely on overhead watering. This practice may lead to crown rot and the death of the plant. One way to avoid this problem is to place your plants so the root crowns are slightly above ground level, then spread your mulch up to the base of the plants. Compost, wood chips, straw, cocoa hulls, leaf mold, and chipped or shredded bark all make fine mulches.

Plant Descriptions

Given below are care and culture tips for twenty-three of the “star” California native plants growing in the demonstration garden. Each plant offers gardeners beauty and ease of care, and all are excellent wildlife habitat plants.

Trees

Coast Live Oak

Quercus agrifolia

- Value to wildlife: Oaks are the basis for a complex food web; acorns provide food for at least 30 species of birds, such as scrub jays, woodpeckers, chickadees, wrens, and warblers. They also attract California sister, dusky wings, golden hairstreak, and echo blue butterflies.
- Shape/Habit: Evergreen spreading tree. Moderate growth.
- Height: 30 to 75 feet, spread from 60 to 100 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Flowers insignificant, bears acorns in fall.
- Environment: Full sun to part shade. Well-drained soil. Summer water only until well established.
- Uses: As specimen, shade tree in large gardens, naturally occurs in groves—plant several!
- Comments: Prune only if needed. Leaves fall after one year as new leaves begin appearing. Give plenty of room to grow. Do not plant other species requiring plentiful water within the oak’s root zone.

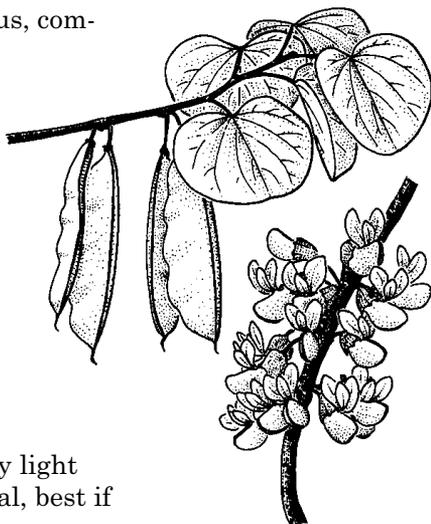


Western Redbud

Cercis occidentalis

- Value to wildlife: Hummingbirds are attracted to the nectar, goldfinches and other birds eat the seeds.

- Shape/Habit: Winter deciduous, compact, multitrunked tree. New foliage coppery green, leaves heart- to kidney-shaped. Slow to moderate growth rate.
- Height: 6 to 18 feet, spread to 16 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Pealike, magenta flowers appear March through April, before or with new leaves. Persistent rose-purple seed pods appear in late spring.
- Environment: Full sun or very light shade. Good drainage essential, best if soil is slightly acidic.
- Uses: Specimen, very effective with *Ceanothus*.
- Comments: Redbud is attractive all year-round and can be shaped as a dense shrub or small tree. The native peoples of California used the bark of this species for medicinal purposes and in baskets. Young flower buds were used in salads.



California Buckeye

Aesculus californica

- Value to wildlife: Provides food for echo blue, mourning cloak, buckeye, and western tiger swallowtail butterfly larvae. Its flowers provide nectar for a variety of hummingbirds and attract native bees.
- Shape/Habit: Summer deciduous tree with generally rounded crown. Gray bark, new foliage bright, light green. Moderate growth rate.
- Height: 15 to 40 feet, spread from 30 to 60 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Spectacular white flowers in 6 to 10 inch spikes, blooms May through June. Fruit contains one or two large, glossy



mahogany-colored seeds similar to chestnuts, which often persist on tree through the fall.

- Environment: Full sun to partial shade. Does best in well drained, loamy soil. Drought tolerant but will hold leaves longer with water. Sensitive to excessive winter water; water no more than once a month in summer, once established.
- Uses: As a specimen, on slopes, in a grove.
- Comments: Attractive all year, even without leaves, which drop late June to July without extra water. Give plenty of room to grow. Without special preparations, the fruits are poisonous. Native Americans used them for food after roasting them and leaching them in running water. Ground-up buckeye seeds were also used to stun fish.

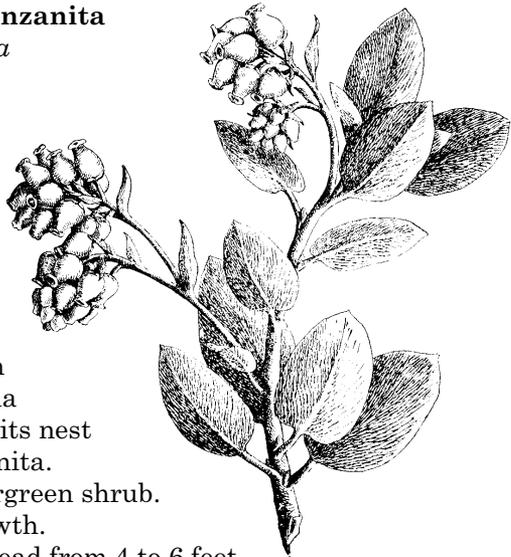
Shrubs

McMinn's Vinehill Manzanita

Arctostaphylos densiflora

'Howard McMinn'

- Value to wildlife: The flowers attract the brown elfin butterfly and native bees, and provide nectar to hummingbirds in the spring. The berries attract birds, including cedar waxwings, in late summer. California valley quail and wrentits nest in low-growing manzanita.
- Shape/Habit: Low evergreen shrub. Moderate to rapid growth.
- Height: 4 to 6 feet, spread from 4 to 6 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Flowers pink to white urn-shaped clusters. Blooms March through April. Small reddish brown berries in summer.
- Environment: Full sun. This cultivar tolerates much slower drainage than most *Arctostaphylos*. It also tolerates full drought in Oakland.
- Uses: As chaparral garden component, as low informal hedge.



- Comments: Can be cut back slightly when young to shape. Manzanitas come in all shapes and sizes, from ground covers to shrubs and small trees. All are drought tolerant, prefer full sun, and favor slightly acid but well-drained soil. The larger species can be used as informal hedges or specimens in the garden. Nearly all parts of the manzanita were used by indigenous peoples and early settlers. Uses included making cider and jelly from berries and bowls from the hard wood.

Emerald Carpet Manzanita

Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'

- Value to wildlife: The flowers attract the brown elfin butterfly and native bees, and provide nectar to hummingbirds in the spring. The berries attract birds, including cedar waxwings, in late summer. California valley quail and wrentits nest in low-growing manzanita.
- Shape/Habit: Low, spreading shrub. Rich green foliage, red-mahogany bark. Moderate growth rate.
- Height: 6 to 12 inches, spread to 6 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: White to pink urn-shaped flowers in clusters, late winter to early spring. Red berries in late summer.
- Environment: Full sun, but will accept light shade. Tolerant of most soils, but needs good drainage. Does well in sandy or rocky soils. Drought tolerant, but will accept moderate amounts of summer water.
- Uses: Ground cover, erosion control, and under oaks.
- Comments: See 'Howard McMinn' above.



Bush Anemone

Carpenteria californica

- Shape/Habit: Evergreen, compact upright shrub. Dark green foliage. Slow growth rate.
- Height: 6 to 10 feet or more, spread from 4 to 6 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Fragrant white flowers up to 3 inches across. Blooms May through July.

- Environment: Best in part shade but will take full sun in cooler areas. Well-drained soil essential, tolerates some summer water under these conditions, otherwise drought tolerant.
- Uses: Specimen, under large trees such as oaks, massed plantings, informal hedge, foundation plant.
- Comments: Stems can be tan or red; red-stemmed forms produce flower clusters that are more open. Can be sheared to maintain dense growth and shape. One of the state's rarest plants in the wild.

Yankee Point Ceanothus

Ceanothus griseus var. *horizontalis*
'Yankee Point'

- Value to wildlife: The fragrant flowers attract a variety of beneficial insects. The larvae of the western brown elfin and California tortoiseshell butterflies feed on its young leaves. Pale swallowtail, echo blue, and spring azure butterflies are also attracted to this plant. Quails nest in low-growing, shrubby *Ceanothus*. Its seeds attract bushtits, quail, and finches. Also attracts native bees.
- Uses: As ground cover, for erosion control on slopes, in rock gardens.
- Shape/Habit: Low spreading shrub. Dark green foliage. Moderate to rapid growth rate.
- Height: 2 to 3 feet, spread from 5 to 15 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Up to 2-inch-long clusters of violet-blue flowers in spring.
- Environment: Full sun to part shade. Tolerates heavy, nutrient-poor soil. This particular species also tolerates summer water better than most *Ceanothus*.
- Comments: There are many species of *Ceanothus* available, from ground covers to shrubs and small trees. These hardy plants have flowers ranging in color from white to powder blue to a blue so dark it is almost purple, a rare color in the garden. Some



have fragrant flowers, hence the common name for the genus—California lilac. After plants are established, water no more than once a month in the summer, except in the hottest locations. Excessive summer water will shorten the lifespan of most *Ceanothus* species 4 to 6 years. Keep the root crown dry and do not let soil build up around the crown of any ceanothus. Will tolerate light pruning to shape; will tolerate severe pruning to thin or shape.

Julia Phelps Ceanothus

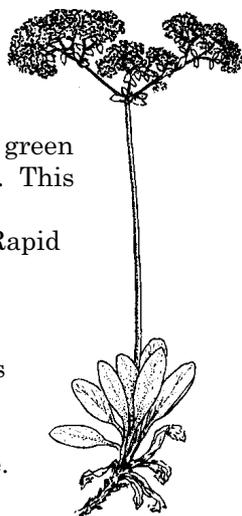
Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps'

- Value to wildlife: Same as for 'Yankee Point', above.
- Shape/Habit: Upright, stiffly arching shrub. Dark green foliage. Moderate growth rate.
- Height: 3 to 5 feet, spread from 8 to 10 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Profuse clusters of dark blue purple flowers, February through April.
- Environment: Full sun, will tolerate some shade. Drought tolerant, but accepts summer water well if in well-drained soil.
- Uses: Specimen, slope cover, foundation planting, informal hedge.
- Comments: See 'Yankee Point' above.

St. Catherine's Lace

Eriogonum giganteum

- Value to wildlife: Attracts a variety of butterflies, including skippers, acmon blues, dotted blues, buckeyes, Mormon metalmark, green and gray hairstreak, and Langer metalmark. This is also an excellent bee plant.
- Shape/Habit: Rounded shrub. Gray foliage. Rapid growth rate.
- Height: 3 to 6 feet, spread from 4 to 6 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Large, flat clusters of pinkish white flowers held well above foliage. Blooms June through July. Flowers dry to a bronzy red and are long lasting.
- Environment: Full sun. Needs good drainage. Needs no summer water.

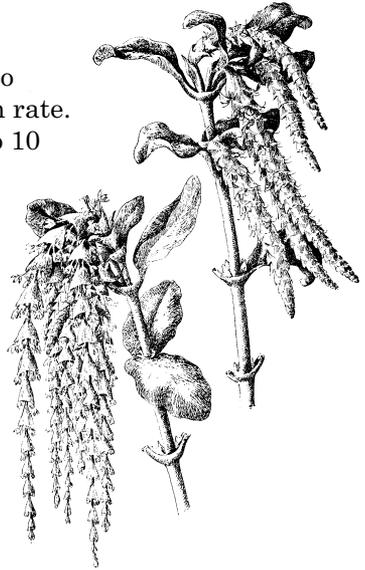


- Uses: Tall informal hedge, on dry sunny slopes, erosion control, specimen. Dried flowers in arrangements.
- Comments: Native Americans had many medicinal uses for this species, including relief of headache, stomachache, and controlling high blood pressure.

Coast Silktassel

Garrya elliptica 'James Roof'

- Shape/Habit: Upright, dense shrub to small tree. Moderate to rapid growth rate.
- Height: 8 to 30 feet, spread from 8 to 10 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Male and female plants with flowers in long catkins, male catkins 4 to 7 inches, female catkins 2 to 4 inches, silvery yellow or greenish in January through March. Fruit round, purple, in grapelike clusters August through September (female plants only).
- Environment: Full sun to part shade. Moist soil with good drainage. Tolerates full drought in shade.
- Uses: Tall screen, specimen.
- Comments: Flowers showier than fruit so male plants are recommended. Foliage may burn if plant receives too much hot sun or wind. Tolerates pruning if needed.

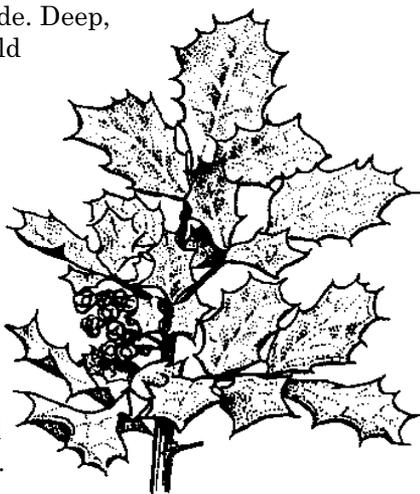


Oregon Grape

Berberis aquifolium (*Mahonia aquifolium*)

- Value to wildlife: Birds are attracted by the berries.
- Shape/Habit: Evergreen, stiff, upright shrub. Spiny dark green, glossy foliage, new growth bronzy. Some leaves turn bright red in autumn or when ready to fall. Moderate to rapid growth rate.
- Height and spread: 1 to 6 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Yellow flowers in 2- to 3-inch-long clusters in March through May. Dark blue, edible berries from May through July.

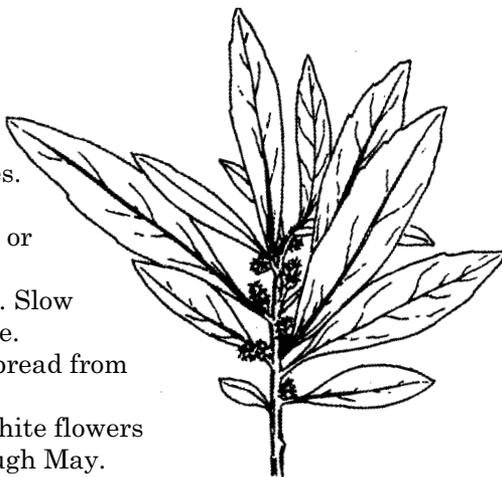
- Environment: Part to full shade. Deep, well-drained soil with leaf mold added. Moderately drought tolerant, will take summer water.
- Uses: As barrier, shade plant, in woodland gardens, foundation planting.
- Comments: Tough when established but may take a year or two to put on much growth. Cut off old branches to encourage new growth. Bright yellow inner bark used as a dye by Native Americans.



Pacific Wax Myrtle

Myrica californica

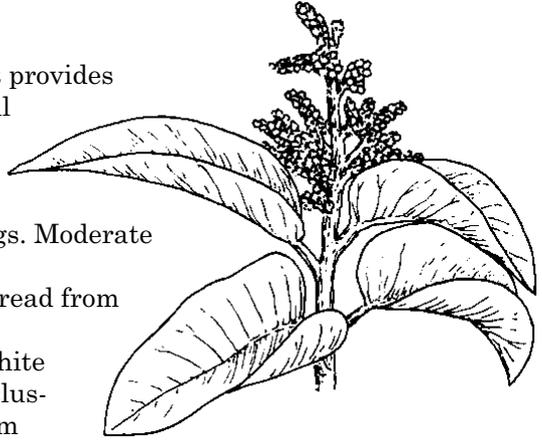
- Value to wildlife: Birds, including flickers, robins, and finches enjoy the berries.
- Shape/Habit: Large, dense, evergreen shrub or small tree. Dark green foliage with spicy scent. Slow to moderate growth rate.
- Height: 10 to 35 feet, spread from 15 to 20 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Small white flowers in catkins, March through May. Round, purplish berries, July through September.
- Environment: Full sun at coast, otherwise part shade. Soil rich in organic matter. Prefers summer water, but will tolerate full drought when established in part shade.
- Uses: Specimen or informal hedge or screen. Foundation planting or woodland setting.
- Comments: Leaves can be used as flavoring in cooking. Tolerant of pruning and can be trained as a tree.



Sugarbush

Rhus ovata

- Value to wildlife: Fruit provides food for birds and small mammals.
- Shape/Habit: Ever-green, rounded shrub with stout reddish twigs. Moderate to rapid growth rate.
- Height: 6 to 10 feet, spread from 3 to 10 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Tiny, white pink flowers in dense clusters. Long-lasting bloom from March through May. Fruit is reddish, forms in tight clusters, is coated with a sugary secretion, and appears June through October.
- Environment: Full sun. Will tolerate summer water in well-drained soil.
- Uses: Specimen, screen or hedge.
- Comments: Native Americans used the fruit to make a sugary drink. Resents pruning, so plant with room to grow.



Pink Flowering Currant

Ribes sanguineum var. *glutiniosum*

- Value to wildlife: Flowers attract hummingbirds. Berries attract thrushes, quail, towhees, robins, and finches.
- Shape/Habit: Upright spreading shrub with moderate to rapid growth rate. Winter deciduous but will lose leaves earlier in low water situations.
- Height: 5 to 12 feet, spread 4 to 10 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Large clusters of pink flowers February through April. Bluish black berries are edible, but not entirely palatable.
- Environment: Best in part or light shade, will tolerate full sun with adequate summer water. Soil tolerant.



- Uses: As specimen, in rear of borders, as woodland or chaparral component.
- Comments: Flowers appear just as shrub begins to leaf out.

Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry

Ribes speciosum

- Value to wildlife: Flowers attract Anna's, Allen's, rufous hummingbirds. Berries provide food for thrushes, quail, towhees, and small mammals.
- Shape/Habit: Semideciduous upright to arching shrub with long branches. Dark green foliage. Moderate to rapid growth rate.
- Height: 4 to 6 feet, spread from 3 to 6 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Deep crimson flowers dangle along length of branches from January to May. Small berries appear in summer and, while edible, are covered with dense bristles that make them less than palatable.
- Environment: Will take full sun but best in part shade. Well-drained soil. Will drop leaves without summer water.
- Uses: Outstanding specimen, barrier, informal hedge, under oaks.
- Comments: Spines on branches. Prune to keep plant open enough to enjoy full effect of flowers.



Cleveland Sage

Salvia clevelandii

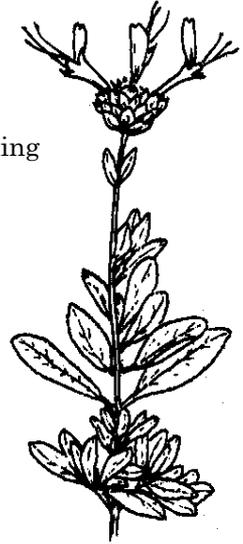
- Value to wildlife: Flowers attract hummingbirds, wrentits, bushtits, and sparrows. Painted lady, buckeye, red admirals, monarchs, pale swallow-tails, common sulphur, and silvery blue butterflies are all attracted to this plant.
- Shape/Habit: Small evergreen to partly summer-deciduous shrub. Gray green foliage.
- Height: 4 to 6 feet, spread 6 to 8 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Blue violet flowers in whorls at end of stems from May through August. Fruit a nutlet.

- Environment: Full sun. Well-drained soil. Water only until plants are well established, except in hot, dry situations where a little summer water will encourage leaf retention.
- Uses: In dry borders, mass, informal hedge. Extends bloom time in chaparral gardens.
- Comments: Cut flowering stalks after bloom and prune back old growth in winter. Summer deciduous in hot, dry situations. Aromatic foliage can be used as seasoning in cooking.

Purple Sage

Salvia leucophylla

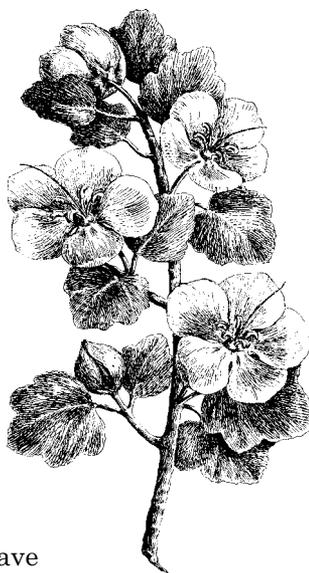
- Value to wildlife: Flowers attract hummingbirds, wrentits, bushtits, and sparrows. Painted lady, buckeye, red admirals, monarchs, pale swallowtails, common sulphur, and silvery blue butterflies are all attracted to this plant.
- Shape/Habit: Evergreen to semideciduous shrub. Grayish green foliage. Rapid growth rate.
- Height and spread: up to 5 feet or more.
- Flowers/Fruit: Clusters of pink to purplish flowers spaced along stem in whorls. From May through July.
- Environment: Full sun, heat tolerant. Gravelly, dry soil ideal but will tolerate other soil types as long as well drained. Judicious summer water will prevent leaf loss, but very drought tolerant.
- Uses: On dry slopes, in dry border. With chaparral species.
- Comments: See *S. clevelandii*. Other native sages are also useful in the home garden. For instance, *S. sonomensis* is a low grower that can be used as a drought-tolerant ground cover, as can *S. mellifera* ‘Terra Seca’.



Flannel Bush

Fremontodendron 'California Glory'

- Value to wildlife: Attracts native bees.
- Shape/Habit: Loosely branched upright shrub. Foliage a dark olive green, tawny below. Rapid growth rate.
- Height: 10 to 15 feet, spread from 8 to 15 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: Profuse, deep yellow flowers up to 2.5 inches across in April through June. Fruit is a capsule.
- Environment: Full sun. Dry, well-drained soil. Water when young then discontinue, as this plant is prone to fungal root rot. Thrives in hot areas.
- Uses: As a specimen. Mix in dry areas with *Ceanothus* or other shrubs that have complementary flower colors. Can be espaliered or pruned to have single trunk.
- Comments: This species has loose, slippery bark so make sure your loppers are sharp when pruning. Leaves and fruit are covered in bristles that may cause skin irritation, so avoid contact. A truly spectacular plant; when in bloom it lights up the whole yard.



Herbaceous Perennials

Douglas Iris

Iris douglasiana

- Value to wildlife: The lovely stripes on iris petals are nectar guides that probably attract native bees.
- Shape/Habit: Low-growing herbaceous perennial. Sword-shaped, dark green foliage. Moderate growth rate.
- Height: 12 to 24 inches, spread indefinite, forming extensive ground cover when allowed.
- Flowers/Fruit: Flower color ranges from pale purple to white or blue purple. Blooms February May.
- Environment: High shade ideal, will take dense shade or tolerate full sun where not too hot. Add



humus or leaf mold to soil when planting for best growth. Does best with water year-round. Plant from containers all year-round. Lift and divide from fall to midwinter.

- Uses: In borders, woodland gardens, rock gardens, lightly shaded slopes.
- Comments: There are also a number of other native iris species well worth adding to your garden but less easily available. Some other species to look for are *I. innominata*, a miniature with showy flowers, and *I. macrosiphon*, which is a somewhat more drought tolerant species.



California Fuchsia

Epilobium canum spp. *canum*
(*Zauschneria californica*)

- Value to wildlife: Attractive to hummingbirds.
- Shape/Habit: Low-growing herbaceous perennial. Gray to greenish gray foliage. Moderate to rapid growth rate.
- Height: 18 to 24 inches, spreads by underground rhizomes and can be invasive.
- Flowers/Fruit: Fuchsia-like scarlet flowers, 1.5 to 2 inches in length, blooms in August through October.
- Environment: Full sun. Prefers light, well-drained soil, but will tolerate clay. Needs little water once established and thrives in heat.
- Uses: Ground cover between drought-tolerant shrubs, rock gardens, in rock walls, low border.
- Comments: There are a number of cultivars of this species, as well as other species in the genus, some with more upright growth and greener leaves, as well as variations in flower size and color. Can be pruned to the ground in winter or

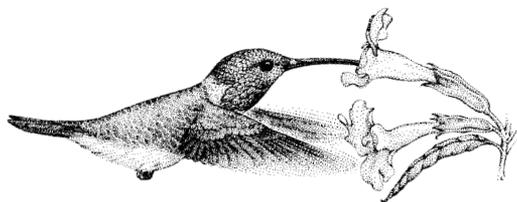


early spring if necessary to rejuvenate plant; plants often die back at this time naturally and revive in the spring.

Western Sword Fern

Polystichum munitum

- Shape/Habit: A fern with fronds from 12 to 24 inches long. Medium green foliage.
- Height and spread: 2 to 4 feet.
- Flowers/Fruit: none
- Environment: Partial to full shade. Rich soil with plenty of organic matter preferred. Tolerates summer water, but does not need it.
- Uses: As ground cover. In rock and shade gardens. Under oaks. Use fronds in arrangements.
- Comments: Remove old fronds periodically to maintain best appearance.



Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) with common monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*) by Valerie Kells from *The Natural History of Big Sur*.

Grasses

California Fescue

Festuca californica

- Value to wildlife: Attracts buckeye, common wood nymph, California ringlet, and skipper butterflies. Many native birds eat the seeds.
- Shape/Habit: A robust perennial bunchgrass. Gracefully drooping pale green leaves.
- Height: 3 to 4 feet; the leaf blades grow 1 to 3 feet tall.
- Flowers/Fruit: Erect flowering stems stand above foliage.
- Environment: Full sun to dappled shade, drought tolerant. Occurs naturally in chaparral and open woodlands.
- Uses: Erosion control under oaks, on slopes, as meadow component.
- Comments: Native bunchgrasses have been replaced in much of California by exotic annual species introduced by the Spanish and other European settlers.



Purple Needlegrass

Nassella pulchra (Stipa pulchra)

- Value to wildlife: Birds may come for seeds. Attracts buckeye, common wood nymph, California ringlet, and skipper butterflies.
- Shape/Habit: A perennial bunchgrass of medium size. Blades grow to 12 inches.
- Flowers/Fruit: Nodding flowering stems stand 2 to 3 feet tall.
- Environment: Full sun-high shade. Well drained soil. Drought tolerant but will take some summer water.
- Uses: Good in dry meadows and in mixed dry borders.
- Comments: A very pretty grass in the garden, not invasive.



Where to Purchase Native Plants

Nurseries

Berkeley Horticultural Nursery, 1310 McGee Avenue, Berkeley, CA, 94703; (510) 526-4704. Open 9 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. daily. Though not a native plant nursery, Berkeley Horticultural Nursery does carry a nice selection of native plants.

California Flora Nursery, 2990 Somers Street, P.O. Box 3, Fulton, CA, 95439; (707) 528-8813.

Cottage Garden Plants, 2680 Franklin Canyon Road, Martinez, CA, 94553; (510) 946-9136. Specializes in butterfly habitats and hard-to-find California natives.

Mostly Natives Nursery, 27235 Highway One, P.O. Box 258, Tomales, CA, 94971; (707) 878-2009.

Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Road (in Tilden Park), Berkeley, CA, 94708; (510) 549-0211. This nursery is open Fridays from 9 A.M. to noon and 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. the second Saturday of each month. Grows only plants native to Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Yerba Buena Nursery, 19500 Skyline Boulevard, Woodside, CA, 94062; (650) 851-1668. This nursery is open daily from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Features a demonstration garden, a garden shop, and the Tea Terrace for drinks and pastry on the weekends.

Plant Sales

The East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society holds an annual native plant sale at Merritt College in Oakland the first weekend in October. (510) 464-4977.

East Bay Regional Park Botanic Garden in Tilden Park, which features California native plants from all over the state, holds an annual sale the third Saturday in April. (510) 841-8732.

The U.C. Botanical Garden also holds an annual spring sale and offers both native and non-native plants. (510) 642-3343.

Wildflower seeds are available by mail from Lerner Seeds, P.O. Box 407, Bolinas, CA, 94924. (415) 868-9407. Open 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. Tuesday and Thursday, and noon to 4 P.M. Saturday. Berkeley Horticultural Nursery (see above) also carries a large selection of Lerner Seeds.

How to Learn More

Books

California Oak Foundation. *Compatible Plants Under and Around Oaks*. Oakland, CA.

Labadie, Emile L. *Native Plants for Use in the California Landscape*. Sierra City Press, Sierra City, CA. 1978.

Keator, Glenn. *Complete Garden Guide to the Native Perennials of California*. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, CA. 1990.

Keator, Glenn. *Complete Garden Guide to the Native Shrubs of California*. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, CA. 1994.

Perry, Bob. *Landscape Plants for Western Regions: An Illustrated Guide to Plants for Water Conservation*. Land Design Publications, 1992.

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. *California Plants to Color: A Coloring Book of Native California Trees, Shrubs, and Wildflowers*. Santa Barbara, CA. 1995.

Saratoga Horticultural Foundation. *Selected California Native Plants with Commercial Sources*. 1979. (Includes bibliography.)

Schmidt, Marjorie G. *Growing California Native Plants*. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. 1980.

Journals

Fremontia—quarterly publication of the California Native Plant Society. Free with membership in the CNPS, (916) 447-2677.

Growing Natives—articles for home and school gardens that promote native plants and biodiversity in the garden. Write Louise Lacey, editor, P.O. Box 489, Berkeley, CA, 94701, for more information.

Online Resources

California Native Plant Society

http://www.calpoly.edu/~dchippin/cnps_main.html

Friends of Sausal Creek

<http://www.aoinstitute.org/sausal/>

Aquatic Outreach Institute

<http://www.aoinstitute.org/>

Some of the Plants in the Demonstration Garden

This list does not include all of the plants in the riparian restoration area. A complete list of the plants in the watershed is available from Jennifer Stanley, City of Oakland, at 510-238-6 889.

Trees

<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California Buckeye
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	Alder
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak

Shrubs

<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i> 'Howard McMinn'	Manzanita
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Emerald Carpet'	Manzanita
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	Coast Sagebrush
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote Bush
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape
<i>Berberis aquifolium compacta</i>	Oregon Grape
<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	Spicebush
<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	Bush Anemone
<i>Ceanothus griseus</i> var. <i>horizontalis</i> 'Yankee Point'	Ceanothus
<i>Ceanothus jepsonii</i>	Ceanothus
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Julia Phelps'	Ceanothus
<i>Cornus</i> sp.	Dogwood
<i>Corylus cornuta californica</i>	Western Hazelnut
<i>Eriogonum arborescens</i>	Wild Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	St. Catherine's Lace
<i>Fremontodendron</i> 'California Glory'	Flannel Bush
<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>	Bush Snapdragon
<i>Garrya elliptica</i> 'James Roof'	Coast Silktassel
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Ocean Spray
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Monkeyflower
<i>Mimulus californica</i>	Monkeyflower
<i>Myrica californica</i>	Pacific Wax Myrtle
<i>Osmaronia ceradiformis</i>	Osoberry
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Mock Orange
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Ninebark
<i>Rhamnus californica</i> 'Eve Case'	Coffeeberry
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	Lemonade Berry
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugarbush
<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	Chaparral Currant
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> var. <i>glutinosum</i>	Pink Flowering Currant
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> 'White Icicle'	White Flowering Currant
<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	Evergreen Currant
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California Rose

<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	Wild Rose
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	Thimbleberry
<i>Salix laevigata</i>	Willow
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland Sage
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	White Sage
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black Sage
<i>Salvia</i> 'Alan Chickering'	Sage
<i>Salvia</i> 'Aromas'	Sage
<i>Sambucus caerulea</i>	Blue Elderberry
<i>Symphoricarpos rivularis</i>	Snowberry

Vines

<i>Aristolochia californica</i>	Dutchman's pipe
<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Vitis californica</i> 'Roger's Red'	California Grape

Herbaceous Perennials

<i>Achillea borealis</i>	Yarrow
<i>Artemisia douglasii</i>	Mugwort
<i>Epilobium canum</i> ssp. <i>canum</i>	California Fuchsia
<i>Erigeron glauca</i>	Seaside daisy
<i>Eriophyllum</i> sp.	Lizard Tail
<i>Grindelia stricta</i>	Gum plant
<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	Douglas Iris
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Western Sword Fern
<i>Romneya coulteri</i>	Matilija Poppy
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	Hummingbird Sage
<i>Satureja douglasii</i>	Yerba Buena
<i>Whipplea modesta</i>	Modesty

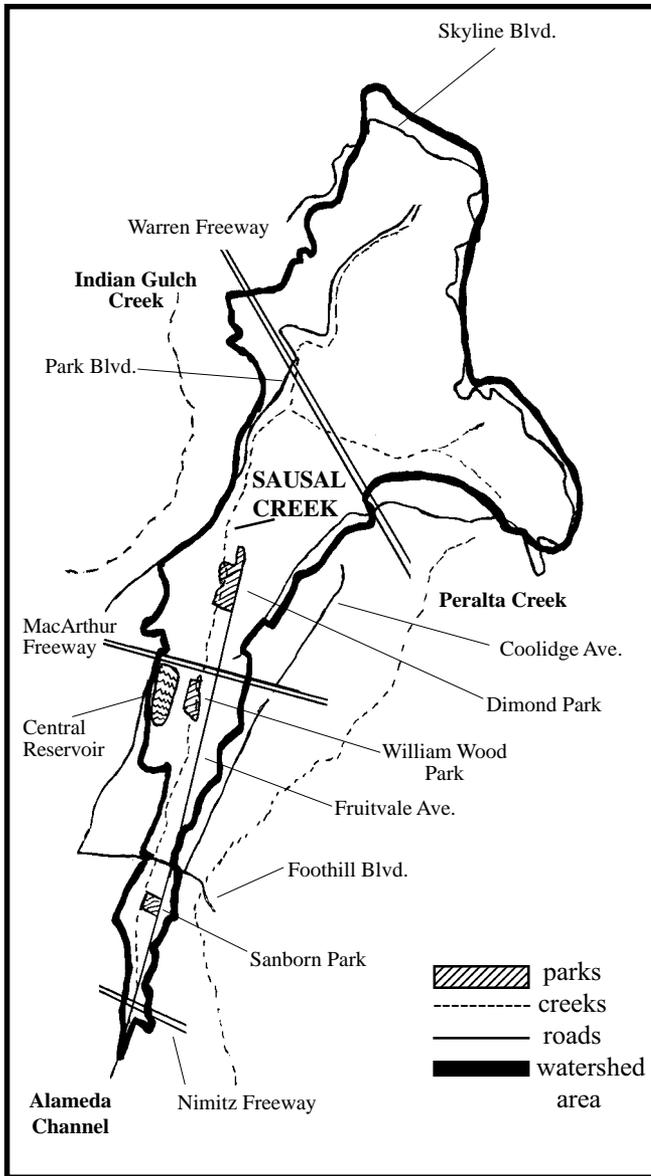
Grasses

<i>Calamagrostis nutkaensis</i>	Reed grass
<i>Carex tumulicola</i>	Berkeley Sedge
<i>Festuca californica</i>	California Fescue
<i>Festuca rubra</i> 'Molate'	Red Fescue
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	Rush
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deergrass
<i>Nassella pulchra</i>	Purple Needlegrass

Annuals and Biennials

<i>Clarkia amoena</i>	Farewell-to-Spring
<i>Clarkia concinna</i>	Clarkia
<i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>	Chinese Houses
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i>	Gold Fields
<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	Tidy Tips
<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	Baby Blue Eyes
<i>Oenothera hookeri</i>	Evening Primrose

The Sausal Creek Watershed



About the Friends of Sausal Creek

Formed in 1996, the Friends of Sausal Creek are a group of community members protecting Sausal Creek at a grassroots level. The Friends recognize that citizen participation, from residents to decision-makers, teachers, and students, is critical for building long-term commitment to protect a community's natural resources.

The Friends' mission is to "promote awareness and appreciation of the Sausal Creek Watershed; to inspire action to restore and protect the creek and its watershed; and to obtain recognition for the creek as an important natural and community resource."

The Friends have identified five broad goals:

- be an educational resource about the creek
- build membership and make the Friends an effective, self-sustaining organization
- increase opportunities for experiencing and enjoying the creek
- be a legal and regulatory advocate for the creek
- assess the natural resources and restore the native flora and fauna of the creek.

The Friends meet every month (except July) to share information and plan activities. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. at the Dimond Branch Library in Oakland. Community creek workdays are held on the Saturday following the monthly meetings, at Dimond Park from 9:00 A.M. to noon. Workdays have been spent restoring 35,000 square feet of the park by creating a Native Plant Demonstration Garden and revegetating the creek corridor with native plants. The Friends are also actively involved in monitoring the water quality of the creek, inventorying bird populations, and sampling for aquatic insects. The Friends plan to continue moving upstream, into Dimond Canyon, with their restoration efforts.

What You Can Do to Help

First, respect the plants and the creek banks by staying on the paths. Many people use the park, and young plants are easily trampled. Tell your kids and your dogs, too!

Come to one of our work parties! Meet your neighbors and help the park grow. You can also improve your own backyard habitat by planting natives in your home garden.

If you would like to join the Friends in their efforts or receive a copy of their monthly newsletter, please call the Aquatic Outreach Institute at (510) 231-9566.



Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*) left, tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*) right, and baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) front. These annual wildflowers have been blooming in the Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Dimond Park all spring.