

City of Mountain View Green Garden Showcase

221 Bryant Avenue

Members of First Church of Christ, Scientist wanted to transform their street-facing landscape from a plain lawn to a welcoming, community and neighborhood orientated, low-water-use garden. With the grassy area going unused, a failing birch tree, and unsatisfactory border plantings, it was time for a change. The church found inspiration in other low-water-use gardens and hired a licensed landscape architect to develop a new layout and planting plan.



Before: Lawn dominates the landscape

Image from Google Maps Street View

After: A variety of colors, textures and plant heights



Overcoming Doubts

At first, the congregation expressed concern that a less water-intensive landscape would lack color and an inviting feel. Convincing the congregation to try something new with California native plants presented the greatest challenge in moving the project forward.



Epilobium 'Select Mattole' (California Fuchsia)

Many Helping Hands

The landscape was renovated in late 2011. Church members got involved first-hand by sheet mulching the lawn in preparation for the plant installation. Sheet mulching is a technique used to smother turf grass, prevent its growth, and encourage its decomposition to add nutrients to the soil. The design includes plants with a variety of colors and textures, like the bright orange *Epilobium* and the fuzzy silvery-gray Lamb's Ear, which was placed especially for kids. Plantings also include fragrant Mock Orange, *Sarcococca*, and Lemon Thyme for the enjoyment of

City of Mountain View Green Garden Showcase

both children and adults. A water-permeable path of decomposed granite provides access to wooden benches which invite visitors to relax and socialize. The church plans to install a water feature to provide a wildlife water source and point of interest in the near future. The church participated in the Santa Clara Valley Water District lawn replacement rebate program, which helped to cover the materials costs.



Adjustments Needed

Initially, the drip irrigation system had to run more than first expected because the dry winter following the installation did not provide enough water for the plantings to get established. Church staff also needed to train their gardener in proper maintenance practices for what was at first an unfamiliar type of landscape.

Benefits Beyond Beauty

Neighborhood passers-by, as well as congregation members, have expressed how much they enjoy the colorful and changing blooms of the California native plants. In addition to a more



interesting space, church members appreciate the ecological benefits of a California native garden. The new garden requires relatively little maintenance and water, while the old lawn was maintained with mowing, artificial fertilizer, and greater volumes of water. The new design has changed the character of the space and helped to reduce the church's environmental impact.

City of Mountain View Green Garden Showcase

Plant List

Symbol	Botanical Name	Common Name	Notes
Ae	Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'	Manzanita	
Ap	Arctostaphylos pajaromensis 'Paradise'	Manzanita	Year round interest
Ad	Artemisia 'David's Choice'	Sandhill sage	
Cf	Calamagrostis foliosa	Leafy Reed Grass	
Ct	Carex tumulicola	Foothill Sedge	
Cy	Ceanothus 'Yankee Point'	California Lilac	Evergreen, looks good all year
Es	Epilobium 'Select Mattole'	California Fuchsia	Attracts hummingbirds
Eu	Eriogonum umbellatum 'Shasta Sulfur'	Sulfur Buckwheat	Yellow flowers in spring
Gs	Galvezia speciosa	Island Snapdragon	Attracts hummingbirds
Iris	Iris 'Canyon Snow'	Pacific Coast Iris	
Mc	Mahonia aquifolium 'Compacta'	Dwarf Oregon Grape	Foliage/ flowers/berries
Mv	Monardella villosa	Coyote Mint	Minty fragrance
Pa	Penstemon 'Garnet'	Beard Tongue	Summer color, hummingbirds
Pl	Philadelphus lewisii	California Mock Orange	Sweet fragrance
Pt	Pittosporum tobira 'Vareigata'	Variiegated Pittosporum	Sweet fragrance
Rs	Ribes sanguineum 'Claremont'	Pink Flowering Currant	Striking flowers, not too dense
Rv	Ribes viburnifolium	Evergreen Currant	Woodsy fragrance, nice foliage
Sb	Stachys byzantium 'Silver Carpet'	Lamb's Ears	Soft/ tactile for kids
Sr	Sarcococca confusa	Fragrant Sarcococca	Sweet fragrance, evergreen foliage
Ss	Salvia spathacea	Hummingbird Sage	Fruity fragrance
VI	Verbena lilacina	Cedros Island Verbena	Sweet fragrance, short-lived
Th	Thymus citriadorus	Lemon Thyme	Herb fragrance

Landscape Designer: Stephanie Morris, Licensed Landscape Architect (www.nativeplantdesign.com)



Calamagrostis foliosa



Penstemon 'Garnet'

