

Mountain View Green Garden Showcase

DEVONSHIRE PARK 62-66 Devonshire Avenue

Devonshire Park was completed in 2007. The park includes a play area, a picnic area and a variety of plants that are enjoyed by many visitors.

Creating a park

Creating a new park is an interesting and challenging process. To ensure that the new park met the community's needs, there were several opportunities for residents to offer input throughout the development process. The final plant palette was chosen based on the site's characteristics, the needs of the visitors, the desire to be water-wise, the flowering seasons and site aesthetics.



Irrigation

- The irrigation system is maintained in good working order.
- Where possible, drip irrigation is used.
- Irrigation is scheduled based on individual plant needs.
- The irrigation system is run at night to reduce water-waste due to wind and evaporation.



Incorporate existing plants

The park was designed to preserve existing mature plants, such as a Black Walnut, which is native to California. Additionally, the play area was located away from mature trees in order to prevent root damage.

Plant-to-plant relationships were also considered when designing the park. For example, the acidity generated by the mature Deodar Cedar dictated which new plants were chosen for the understory.



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Example plants

Some of the native California plants used at the park include:

Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris



California Polypody



Bush Anemone



Toyon



These and other plants save water and create an environment friendly to local wildlife. Other examples of plants you can admire in the park are:

Indian Hawthorn



Peppermint Tree



New Zealand Flax



Bowles Mauve Wallflower



Dome Euphorbia



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Challenges of high-use areas

Compared to a private garden, a park must address challenges due to the high traffic of visitors. To keep plants looking great between scheduled maintenance, hardy, self-sufficient plants were chosen.

Taking care of the park is an on going process. Even with a good design, some plants will not survive and will have to be replaced. For this reason each park undergoes a landscape renovation every seven to ten years.



Here some specific challenges for Devonshire Park:

- New Zealand flax: Even though a dwarf species was used, flax tends to undwarf after few years entering other plants' spaces.
- Some of the new trees (e.g., Valley Oak) will grow significantly from the current size, and the plants around them may need to be re-evaluated in the future.
- Armstrong Maple: Yellow leaves indicate that the clay soil binds up nutrients making them unavailable to the plant.

