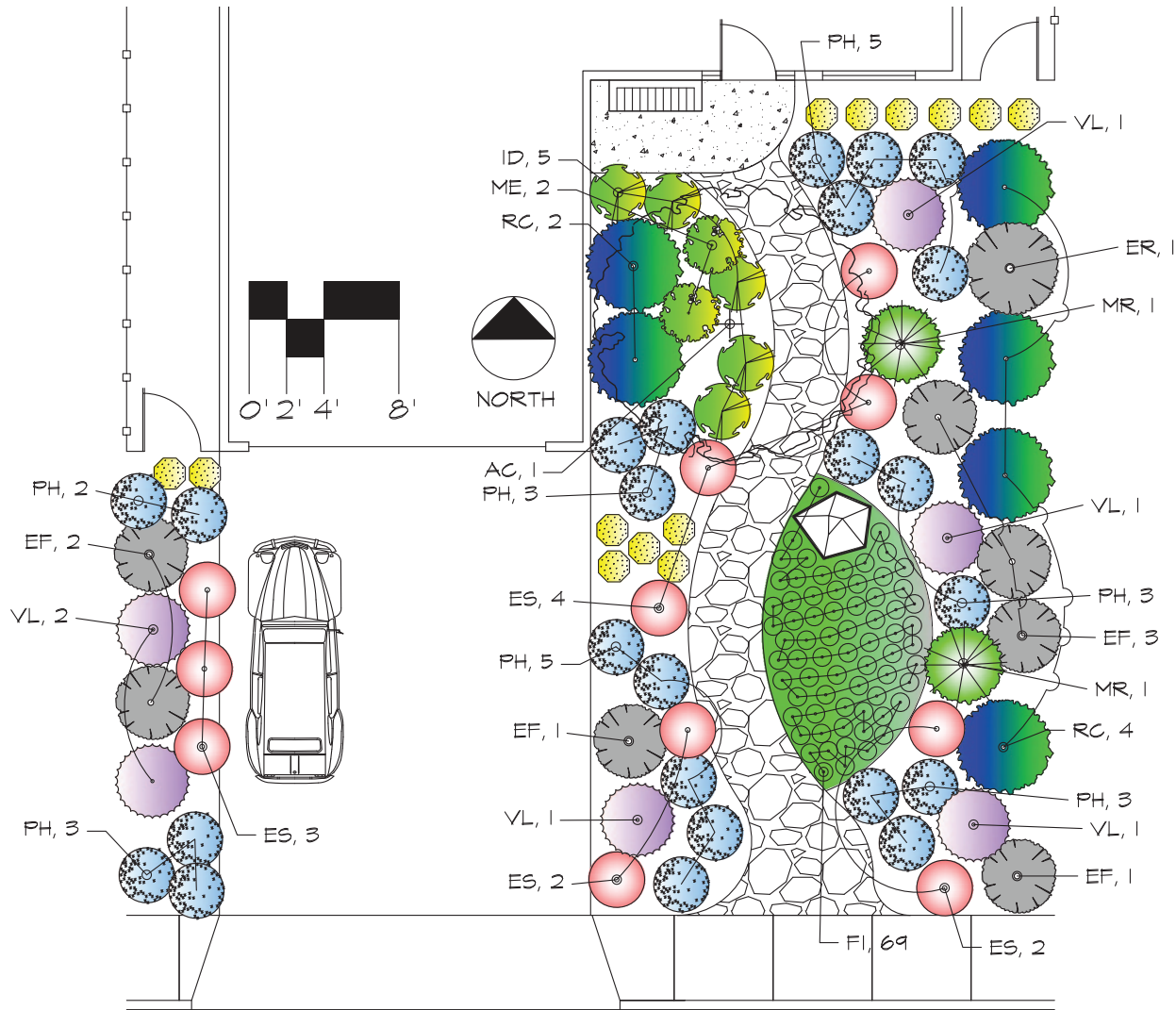








GREEN GARDENS HEALTHY CREEKS

Nectar Garden (Large, Sunny Yard)

Sustainable concept design for yards in Santa Clara Valley



-  Flagstone set in sand
-  Concrete stepping stone
-  Bench made from recycled plastic
-  Existing concrete porch
-  Bolder
-  Existing front door or garden gate



California Buckwheat
Eriogonum fasciculatum



California Fuchsia
Epilobium septentrionale
'Wayne's Silver'



Seaside Daisy
Eriogonum glaucas 'Wayne Roderick'



Beard Tongue
Penstemon heterophyllus
'Blue Springs'



Lilac Verbena
Verbena lilicina

About the Concept Design Series

These designs are simple concepts to provide inspiration and ideas. Check with local nurseries, landscapers or other sustainable garden designers to help choose the best plants for your yard.

Why We Liked This Garden

Showcase Features:

This design focuses on creating a low-cost, easy to maintain garden with flowers of various colors that are welcoming to bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. The design will fit a front yard approximately 25 feet wide by 50 feet deep. This garden includes a small native grass lawn with very low water needs.

All plants are drought-tolerant California native plants with low- or very low-water needs, excepting for the Vine Maple, which is of medium-water need. The diverse plant palate supports a basic pest control technique — if one of the plants has a pest or disease, it won't easily spread all over your garden. The boulders will add additional habitat diversity to encourage other types of wildlife, and will add character. Plants are spaced to allow for growth so minimal shearing or pruning is needed. Plants also stay healthier when they are not constrained by space.

If planted in place of an existing lawn, this garden design meets many eligibility criteria for the Santa Clara Valley Water District rebate. However, check with the Water District for details of their procedure and criteria before planning your garden.

Plants:

The entrance from the sidewalk is framed by Beard Tongue, which blooms deep blue or purple flowers. The white flowers of St. Catherine's Lace and California Buckwheat, that turn brown after summer, are important habitat for butterflies. Douglas Iris is one of the native Iris varieties that will bloom deep blue flowers in spring. Verbena will remain covered with beautiful blooms for long periods of time. A deciduous Vine Maple tree will produce brilliant display of red and orange colors in fall and will provide habitat for native wildlife in your yard. Yellow flowers of Sticky Monkey Flower will provide variety. The Idaho Fescue lawn is an excellent low-water alternative to the traditional lawns.

Light:

This design needs full sun, as in south facing garden.

Nectar Garden Plant Legend (Large, Sunny Yard)

Symbol	Botanical Name	Common Name	Size	QTY	Notes (tall x wide)
Trees					
AC	<i>Acer circinatum</i>	Vine Maple	5 Gal	1	Native, 12' x 12'
Shrubs					
RC	<i>Rhamnus californica</i> 'Mound San Bruno'	Coffeeberry	1 Gal	6	Native, 5' x 5'
Perennials					
EF	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California Buckwheat	1 Gal	7	Native, 3'-4' x 4'
ES	<i>Epilobium septentrionale</i> 'Wayne's Silver'	California Fuchsia	1 Gal	11	Native, 1' x 3'
PH	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i> 'Blue Springs'	Beard Tongue	1 Gal	24	Native, 2' x 3'
ME	<i>Mimulus 'Eleanor'</i>	Sticky Monkeyflower	1 Gal	2	Native, 3' x 3'
MR	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer Grass	1 Gal	2	Native, 3' x 4'
ID	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	Douglas's Iris	1 Gal	5	Native, 1' x 3'
VL	<i>Verbena lilicina</i>	Lilac Verbena	1 Gal	6	Native, 4' x 4'
ER	<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	St. Catherine's Lace	1 Gal	1	Native, 6' x 4-5'
Groundcovers					
FI	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho Fescue	1 Gal	69	Native, 1' x 1'

These planting designs are best not used within 3-5 miles of natural areas containing local native plants in order to protect native plant species.

Sustainable Gardening Resource List

For general installation, understanding of sustainable gardens, and other details, read the factsheets in the Green Gardens Healthy Creeks series. Each of those factsheets provides in depth information to guide homeowners through the process of installing sustainable gardens.



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Watering Needs:

All of the plants in this garden have low water needs, excepting the Vine Maple. Once plants are well established, summer water may not be needed. When occasional summer water is provided, many native plants may extend their blossoming period. Overwatering natives can cause death by root rot, or branches to die back from fungal diseases.

Construction Notes for Sustainable Landscaping

- Avoid weeds by placing sheets of newspaper or cardboard boxes (sheet mulch) under the whole garden.
- Cover planted areas with woodchip mulch to retain soil moisture and prevent weed growth.
- Add high quality compost to improve soil health, drainage, and moisture retention.
- Even though your garden may look a little sparse in the beginning, the plants will fill in as they mature. The mature size of the plants is given in the plant list.
- Use recycled materials when possible, such as reclaimed brick for the pathways in this design.
- For pathways and patio, select permeable materials like pervious paver blocks, bricks, gravel, decomposed granite, or pervious concrete. Set pavers in sand and/or base rock instead of mortar to allow water to percolate into the soil.
- Use rainwater by diverting your downspouts into your garden.
- Retrofit sprinklers to drip irrigation. Rebates are available from Santa Clara Valley Water District for upgrading inefficient irrigation hardware.
- Grade soil so water drains away from the foundation of the house.
- Consider placing furniture in your front yard that allows active use of the yard.
- When landscaping close to creeks, sloughs, lakes, wild land parks, and open spaces, please consult with a designer familiar with California plant ecology and the precautions necessary to protect these wild lands.