

# Edenvale Garden Park

## Artist: Anna Valentina Murch

April 1997

Edenvale Garden Park / 300 Edenvale Ave., San Jose, CA 95136 / Council District 2

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### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Anna Valentina Murch's Garden Park is situated in Edenvale Park next to the historic Hayes Mansion. Through public meetings, Murch discovered that the community wanted an artwork that was inspired by the vast history of the site. They asked for the piece to incorporate elements of the indigenous people of the valley, the agricultural era, Frontier Village - the 1960s era amusement park located on the site, the Hayes family orchards, and the garden of Mary Hayes. They also desired an artwork that revolved around a theme of transition, both physically and symbolically, to represent the transformation of the park through the master plan and the restoration of wildlife. Lastly, they hoped that Murch's artwork would be a place of contemplation and peace.



Above: View of moat of wildflowers leading to the Hayes Mansion



Right: Detail of round scoops in the stone ring at the center of the earthwork

Murch's artwork features a stone circle in the middle of the garden covered in round holes, reminiscent of Native American pounding holes, which function as waterholes for wildlife. To the north of the stone circle is an oak grove, which also references indigenous people who were dependent upon acorns as a staple of their diet. Ornamental cherry trees are planted to the west and east of the circle in remembrance of the Hayes's orchard and the valley's agricultural past. A bridge leads away from the circle towards the mansion over a moat of wildflowers in honor of Frontier Village. Lavender is found on the far edge of the oak grove, creating a rich scent nostalgic of Mary Hayes' healing garden. This peaceful artwork provides an area for quiet meditation on the transition of the seasons and the transformation of the park's historic value.

Students from neighboring elementary, middle and high schools participated in the creation of the artwork and used it as a touchstone for a curriculum about the community. More information about the students' project may be found at [www.lullah.com/gedc/edenvalegardens.html](http://www.lullah.com/gedc/edenvalegardens.html).

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Anna Valentina Murch has been working in the field of public art for more than 20 years. Ms. Murch is well regarded for her aesthetic vision and her community interaction. Her site-responsive work uses transparency, reflection, sound and time as visual phenomena. She is currently a professor of art at Mills College in Oakland, California.

More of her work may be seen at [www.annavalentinamurch.com](http://www.annavalentinamurch.com).

#### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.