

Paradise Hills Native Garden

Fiscal Year 2020–2021

Annual Report



Salvia munzii

A Paradise Gardeners' Project
In Collaboration with the
City of San Diego
Parks and Recreation Department
and our many partners



PARADISE HILLS Native Garden



Ceanothus 'Joyce Coulter'

The Mission of
Paradise Hills Native Garden
is
to discover and share
knowledge about native
plants, native wildlife and
the historical past of the
Paradise Hills area as we
provide a beautiful outdoor
space to exercise and relax.

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*All images are from the
Paradise Hills Native Garden
Photos by W. Janssen*

Highlight Calendar

September 2020:

First Planting, Eight Engelmann Oaks planted by City of San Diego Crew.

October 2020:

Received our largest grant from the County of San Diego.

November 2020:

ROE received, no digging awaiting the approval of gas monitor.

Working with Covid-19 County regulations, Paradise Gardeners volunteers worked in family groups to install 82 cubic yards of mulch on sheets of cardboard.

January 2021:

Received verification of gas monitor and authorization to dig.

Planted Western Red Buds in the Pollinator Garden.

Rented Bobcat and moved donated gravel to paths.

February 2021

Installed 49 boulders in the three areas of the Pollinator Garden.

March 2021

Paradise Gardeners Volunteers installed 105 plants in the three areas of the pollinator garden.

Lions Club donated bench installed.

Teams of Paradise Gardener Volunteers begin weekly watering of plants.

April 2021

Second bench installed in the westerly pollinator garden.

Kiosk pad donated and installed.

May 2021

Docents led three tours of the garden with community members.

Kiosk installed by an Eagle Scout candidate and volunteers.



Soon after the Engelmann Oaks were installed in the parking lot in September, Western Bluebirds discovered the new trees. We have spotted them flying among the Engelmann Oaks and the Western Redbuds on many of our subsequent visits.

Volunteer Commitment

We are committed to only use volunteer labor in every aspect of Paradise Hills Native Garden.

We have an outstanding reserve of volunteers that support this commitment.



Within our volunteer ranks we have:

- a retired biologist with 30+ years of experience in project management.
- a retired educator with a degree in landscape design and horticulture.
- a retired engineer who designed our kiosks.
- a retired graphic designer who creates all the graphics.
- a horticulture instructor at Cuyamaca College.
- our community representative at the Urban Forestry Board
- a retired librarian to research and construct the area's history.
- six UCCE Master Gardeners of San Diego County.
- 60 plus community volunteers signed up to our interest list.

Sustainable Planting

Our landscape design was created by Illisa Goldman from the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department. We consulted with both the California Native Plant Society and Native West Nursery before making our final plant selections.



On planting day, March 5, eleven Paradise Gardeners volunteers worked for three hours planting 91 plants.

Plants were chosen that would require little ongoing maintenance, low water requirements and could tolerate heavy soil.



Tradition dictates to expect about a 10% plant loss after planting. 100 days since planting, we have a less than 5% loss.



The Pollinator Garden is completed and looks wonderful!

Partnerships

In order to fulfill our vision, we have partnerships with the following organizations:

- City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department
- Councilmember Monica Montgomery-Steppe's Office
- San Diego Gas & Electric
- County of San Diego, District 1
- UCCE Master Gardeners of San Diego County
- California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter
- Paradise Hills Foundation
- San Diego Pollinator Alliance
- Paradise Hills/Skyline Planning Committee
- Village of Garden Club of La Jolla
- Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club
- Poway Valley Garden Club
- Yadira Garcia/State Farm Insurance
- Kate Sessions Commitment
- Metropolitan Water District
- San Diego Canyonlands
- I Love A Clean San Diego
- Native West Nursery
- San Diego Mulch



Bahiopsis laciniata

Our Vision:

*Creating a beautiful,
educational
native plant garden
in the
Paradise Hills area of
Southeastern San
Diego.*

2020–2021 Expenditures

We came in under budget for the Pollinator Garden.

The City donated left over gravel from their resurfacing of the main path. The Eagle Scout raised funds and purchased all materials for the kiosk. The cost of plants, boulders and mulch were less than originally quoted since we received non-profit discounts.

Actual Costs for Pollinator Garden

	Budgeted	Actual
Mulch	\$3500	\$2870
Boulders	\$4000	\$3809
Plants	\$836	\$607
Trees	\$770	\$680
Benches	\$3060	\$2682
Kiosk	\$1000	Donated
Gravel	\$1430	Donated
Totals	\$14,596	\$10,648

\$3948 Under Budget



Asclepias fascicularis

Volunteer Hours

All volunteers are required to read our Volunteer Handbook, sign a waiver and participate in our safety talk before participating in any on site volunteer activities.

Since receiving the Right of Entry to the Pollinator Garden in November 2020, our volunteers have contributed 1299 hours to its success.

Activity	Total Hours 11/1/20– 6/15/21
Sheet Mulching	698
Gravel Laying	194
Planting	64
Bench Installations	20
Kiosk construction	95
Weeding	78
Weekly Watering	150

In addition, Paradise Gardeners' Board Members volunteered over **200 hours** to complete 34 grant applications in pursuit of funding for the Paradise Hills Native Garden.



Grant Awards

Paradise Hills Native Garden is dependent on grants to develop and sustain.

Paradise Gardeners officially organized as a 501c3, non-profit, two years ago. As a result of our recent formation, many funders had reservations on funding our project. Yet, our volunteer grant writers have succeeded in completely funding the native garden.

Major Donors

- San Diego County, District 1
- San Diego Gas and Electric
- Metropolitan Water District
- UCCE Master Gardeners of San Diego County
- Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club
- Poway Valley Garden Club
- Village Garden Club of La Jolla
- Yadira Garcia, State Farm Insurance
- Paradise Hills Foundation
- and many private donations



Native Milkweed attracts Monarch Butterflies

Monitoring

Paradise Hills Native Garden is placed over a closed, covered landfill. The City of San Diego Environmental Department is responsible for monitoring the landfill and requires Paradise Gardeners to monitor any digging with a gas monitor.

Since approval of our gas monitor in January 2021, we have had 8 different digging days where the gas meter reading was done every half hour.

EVERY reading was zero.

Digging Dates

January 18: Boulders

January 19: Boulders

January 24: Planting

March 3: Planting

March 5: Planting

March 9: Bench #1

April 20: Bench #2

April 23: Kiosk Pad



Next Steps

Planning ahead and looking forward we will:

- Gain the Right of Entry from the City of San Diego to complete the remainder of the project.
- Eradicate the invasive goathead weeds, **Tribulus terrestris**.
- Plant wildflowers in approved areas once the weeds are fully eradicated.
- Continue applying for smaller grants for regular maintenance and plant replacement.
- Continue recruiting interested volunteers for sustainment of the project.
- Reach out to local schools to begin scheduling field trips.
- Build additional relationships with like minded organizations.



Goatheads are the garden's worst nemesis. They hitchhike into other areas via foot traffic. The burrs puncture tires, injure dog paws and stick to shoes. Goatheads need to be controlled outside the native garden to keep them from choking out the plantings inside the native garden.