

Paradise Hills Native Garden

Fiscal Year 2021–2022
Annual Report

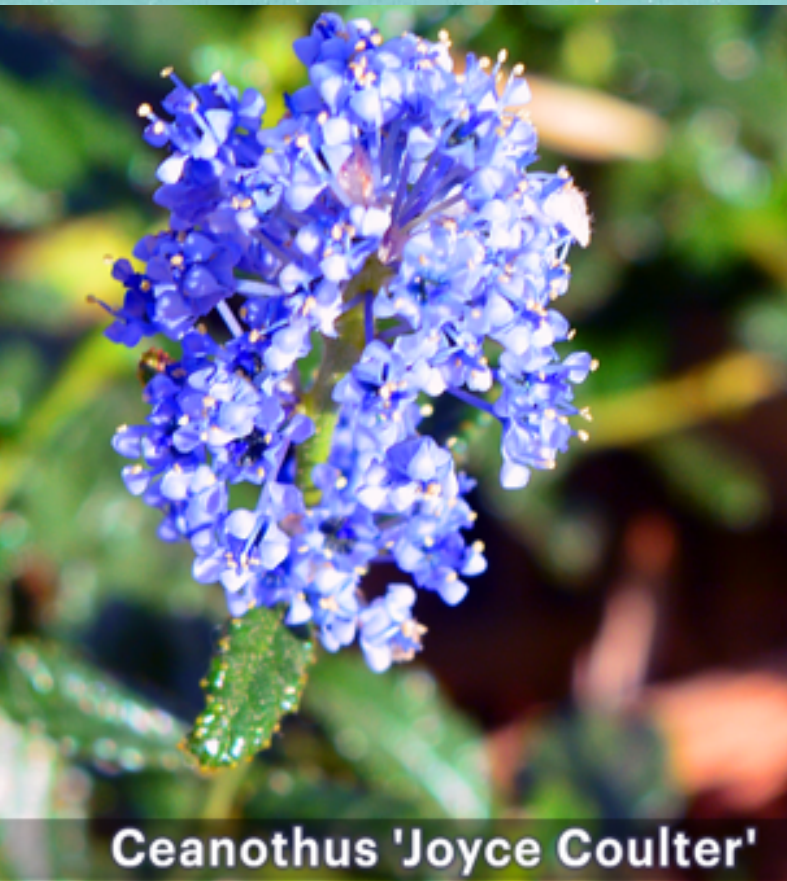


Salvia munzii

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

August 2021:

145 boulders delivered from San Diego County Grant and installed by the City of San Diego into the Ethnobotany and Western Gardens

September 2021:

Environmental Champions Grant of \$7500 from SDGE for mulch.

SDGE alongside I Love A Clean San Diego participated in a mulch day covering the Ethnobotany Garden

October 2021:

Placed desert plants and decomposed granite in the Ethnobotany desert area.

November 2021:

Paradise Gardeners Board and Master Gardeners of San Diego County donated money to purchase 115 demonstration garden plant signs.

Paradise Gardeners meeting at the garden with Patrick Montgomery from Native West Nursery.

December 2021:

Ethan Banegas, History Professor at Kumeyaay College researched and provided information for the Ethnobotany Kiosk.

January 2022:

Plant signs installed

Right of Entry for three years of maintenance approved by the City of San Diego

February 2022

Lumbercycle delivered four more log benches and logs for landscaping

Purchased plants from Tree of Life and installed 55 plants in all three garden areas

March 2022

Installed two redwood kiosks in the Ethnobotany and Western Gardens with the support of the City of San Diego Carpenter

Concrete barriers removed and City supplied logs put int their place

April 2022

I Love A Clean San Diego brought 30 volunteers to clean up the adjoining Canyon

May 2022:

Volunteers from the City of San Diego Planning Department helped weed and mulch. Continued mulching in Western Garden.

City provided boulders and logs to protect the Engelmann Oaks in the parking lot.



We currently have over twenty native milkweed plants in the three gardens. We will be granted 24 more native milkweed plants, next fall, from a Xerces Society Grant.

Volunteer Commitment

We continue our commitment to only use volunteer labor in every aspect of Paradise Hills Native Garden.

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



I Love A Clean San Diego volunteers cleaning the canyon



San Diego City Planners came to help us weed and mulch

Within our regular 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.
- 80 plus community volunteers signed up to our interest list.

Sustainable Planting

Planting on a neglected covered landfill was an experiment in many ways. The soil was not native and was probably from varied sources. We had the soil tested and all tests came back safe. We have lost only a few plants in our first full year and the majority of plants are thriving.



Placing kiosks on a covered landfill had many challenges, but our designer/director, Don Peterson, met the challenge. City employees agree that our kiosks are the strongest and finest in the City of San Diego park's system.

All plants were chosen after exhaustive research to insure they would require little ongoing maintenance, low water requirements and could tolerate heavy soil.



Spreading new decomposed granite in the desert area of the Ethnobotany Garden

Each area of the garden has been planted and we are happy that the community gives the garden rave reviews.

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 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
- Lumbercycle

Our Vision:

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



2021–2022 Expenditures

Using prior year grant funds and new funding

Mulch: Ethnobotany, Western and Refresh Pollinator:	\$12,312
Boulders: Ethnobotany and Western:	\$11,352
Plants:	\$2295
Benches (7 more from Lumbercycle)	\$2400
Two Kiosks and Pads	\$4050
Decomposed Granite (Desert Garden)	\$484
Plant Signs	\$1623
misc.	\$409

Total Expenditures FY2022

\$34,949



Poppies and boulders helped to make the Western Garden shine as the birds, bees and butterflies discover the new additions.



This crew of five put up two pre-cut kiosks in less than four hours!

Grant Awards

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

Paradise Gardeners officially organized as a 501c3, non-profit, three years ago. As the gardens took shape, interest has developed and we are fully funded. The City of San Diego has taken notice and has become our largest supporter with donations gravel, mulch and boulders as well as volunteerism.

Major Donors

- City of San Diego
- 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

Next Steps

Our Right of Entry from the City is now established for continued maintenance only. Any construction will be supplied by the City.

In our next phase of maintenance we will:

- In fall 2022, plant in the Entry Garden and fill in the Western Garden.
- Add decomposed granite to the Ethnobotany Desert area and refresh mulch in all areas as mulch is available.
- Plant wildflowers in small, weed free zones and add plants as available.
- Continue applying for grants for regular maintenance and plant replacement.
- Continue recruiting interested volunteers for sustainment of the project.
- Reach out to local schools to begin scheduling educational field trips during spring 2023.
- Build additional relationships with like minded organizations.
- Complete the educational signage for the kiosks and have them professionally printed.
- Schedule regular weed abatement days.



In September 2021, SDGE volunteers, Community Members and Paradise Gardeners worked together to sheet mulch 65 cubic yards of mulch into the Ethnobotany Garden.