

Thematic Planting Design: *A California Palette*



Thematic Planting: *A California Palette*

Matthew Vasquez, Spring 2018, Senior Design

Presented to the faculty of the landscape architecture department of the University of California, Davis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of landscape architecture

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Table of Contents

i.	signature page
ii.	table of contents
iii	list of illustrations
iv	abstract
v	aknowledgements
11.	introduction
13.	why use natives?
15.	defining parameters
18.	immediate surroundings of fairytale town
19.	william land park amenities
23.	sod replacement
25.	plants for hedges
27.	plants for part shade
29.	plants for full sun
33.	castle garden introduction
34-38.	castle plant palette
41.	castle garden design intent
45.	japanese garden introduction
46-51.	japanese plant palette
53.	japanese garden design intent
57.	conclusion
59	references

List of illustrations

cover	dune manzanita, blue blossom ceanothus, garrya elliptica	calscape, calscape, plantoregon
10	google earth aerial image of sacramento	google
12	drought in folsom lake	nasa
14	areas of redesign	mvasquez
16	site overview 1 - davis & sacramento	fairytale town
17	site overview 2 - sacramento	mvasquez
18	immediate surroundings of fairytale town	mvasquez
19	william land park amenities	mvasquez
20	existing conditions	mvasquez
21	existing conditions	mvasquez
22	sod areas and sod replacement images	delta blue grass, mvasquez
24	hedge areas	mvasquez
26	plants for part shade to shade	mvasquez
28	plants for sun	mvasquez
31	castle garden plan lines	mvasquez
32	existing conditions of the castle	mvasquez
34	coast live oak, western redbud, blue blossom ceanothus	calpoly, hobbyseeds, calscape
35	california wild rose, silver lupine, sticky monkey flower	nathistoc.bio.uci, yerbabuenanursery, pinimg
36	mock orange, silk tassel, island alum root	friendsofpierpark, plantoregon, worldoffloweringplants
37	humboldt lily, silver select california fuchsia, penstemon	pacifichulbsociety, wikimedia, laspilitas
38	douglas iris, leafy reed grass, howard mcminn manzanita	calscape, boethingtreeland, pacifichorticulture
39	castle plan and section	mvasquez
40	castle plan	mvasquez
43	japanese garden plan lines	mvasquez
44	existing conditions of japanese garden	mvasquez
46	monterey pine, western dogwood, desert peach	lacity, portlandnursery, calscape
47	vine maple, deseert willow, western redbud	theodorepayne, laspilitas, hobbyseeds
48	siskiyou blue fescue, leafy reed grass, foothill sedge	highcountrygardens, boethingtreeland, pacifichorticulture
49	toyon, western azalea, mock orange	staticflickr, pinimg, friendsofpierpark
50	big berry manzanita, vine hill manzanita, dune manzanita	flickr, yerbabuenanursery, calscape
51	concha ceanothus, deer grass, blue blossom ceanothus	mvasquez
52	color japanese planting plan	mvasquez
55	color plan and section	mvasquez

Abstract

This project explores the use of native California plants in the theme park landscape and how they are used to define space. Historically these parks are filled with exotic or nonnative plants that are common to the thematic area in which they will be placed. California has experienced a period of severe drought and landscape practices are already switching into using native or drought tolerant species as a way to adapt to the changing California climate. Through research, interviews, and case studies, it is found that it is not the plants that define the style of garden, but the way the plants are used that gives it its character.

Acknowledgements

I would like to formally thank everyone who has helped me through my journey through not only the Landscape Architecture life, but life itself. My Nana and Papa are my heart and soul and I do not know where I would be without them. My parents for believing and supporting me through it all. My friends, for their love throughout the years. My dentist, Dr. Cindy, for setting me up with my first landscape internship 5 years ago with my first mentor Michael Glassman who showed me that I can do this. Haven Kiers for believing in me and taking on the role of my advisor and helping me get a focus on everything. My brothers; Stephen, Tyler, and Jacob for their unparalleled bond and support. The continued support and love from everyone has kept me pushing towards my goals and I could not be happier to have these people in my life today. So thank you to each and everyone, I could not have done it without you.



Sacramento &
Davis aerial

Introduction

Imagine a place full of great attractions, rides, and games. The tallest and fastest rollercoasters, amazing shows and performances, and wonderful architecture all around. Think of a street, or your favorite local park. Now imagine these places without any plants in sight. A bit eerie right? I ask this question to show how important plants are in the landscape. With a focus on theme parks, the exploration of thematic planting design is explored in the children's theme park, Fairytale town, located in William Land Park in Sacramento CA.

“For over 50 years, Fairytale Town has offered children and families a safe place to imagine, play and learn. With 25 playsets based on nursery rhymes and fairytales, a friendly flock of farm animals, two performing arts stages and several gardens, learning has never been more fun!” (Town)

As the name suggests, this 3.5 acre park is focused on fairytales most people have heard since they were children. For example, there are places that embody classic stories like the three little pigs, mother goose, and the lady in the shoe. Each fairytale is defined by a play structure for kids to interact with, or an attraction that holds live animals (like the three little pigs actually having little pigs). Other attractions, like ‘Jack and the Bean Stalk’ and ‘The Woman in the Shoe’, take form as a giant’s foot to play on or a slide disguised as a giant shoe.

Local amusement parks such as Fairytale Town provide a great platform to use native plants because of their reduced maintenance needs, lower water requirements, and ability in increasing pollinator habitat. Over the last several years, California has been in a state of severe drought. This has led to a change in landscape practices with native plants becoming promoted for use in new developments. Fairytale town provides a great platform for testing the question of; is it the style in which plants are used, or is it the plants themselves that define the theme of the garden?



Why choose native plants?

The California Department for Fish and Wildlife claim that “California hosts approximately 6,500 species, subspecies, and varieties of plants that occur naturally in the state, and many of these are found nowhere else in the world” (Wildlife). With a large selection to choose from, using a native only plant palette is a viable option for replacements of exotics to new and old landscapes all over the state. These plants have beautiful colors textures and forms commonly desired in the landscape. Along with an aesthetic benefit, natives also have important environmental benefits as well.

According to The California Native Plant Society “planting California natives can help save water, reduce maintenance and pesticide use, and invite beneficial pollinators.” These are very important factors as landscapes are not just places for people. Unfortunately, the loss of habitats are escalating for other living species due to rapid human development. Over the past several years California has experienced drought conditions that have put a huge strain on the water resources. Luckily, “native plants are adapted to local environmental conditions, they require far less water, saving time, money, and perhaps the most valuable natural resource, water” (N. A. Society).

The drought in California was, and still is, a serious issue that led to Governor Brown issuing an “Executive order on April 1, 2015, which, for the first time in California history, directs the State Water Resources Control Board to implement mandatory water reductions across the state to reduce water usage by 25 percent” (Gatto). This order also “compels the replacement of 50 million square feet of lawns throughout the state with drought tolerant landscaping” (Gatto) and also notes that native plants and synthetic lawns or turf are a viable alternative.

“This bill would prohibit a city, including a charter city, county, and city and county, from enacting or enforcing any ordinance or regulation that prohibits the installation of drought tolerant landscaping, synthetic grass, or artificial turf on residential property, as specified. The bill would additionally state that this is an issue of statewide concern.” (Gatto)



Areas of Redesign

Defining Parameters

Fairytale Town has a defined character to it. However after 50 years of operation, it is common that some areas may need improvements considering plants have their own life cycles. Big lawn areas take up usable space and can add additional maintenance costs such as: Mowing, edging, and blowing, along with the high water demands grass has.

Throughout the perimeter, there are gaps in the hedges due to a loss of a couple plants. One area by the lady in the shoe has roses along the fence and, when in the winter months, lack a screening ability. In the crooked mile there are hedges along the path to keep kids on course, but these too have gaps and dead spots within it. Bark mulch is heavily used in areas, and like grass, takes up more usable space that could be transformed into more pollinator habitat or seating areas.

The existing shade trees in the landscape are very strong features and provide great canopies for the guests.

This park has an area dedicated to California natives, but the footprint is small. Exotic plants are very prevalent throughout the park and take up the majority of what is currently existing.

As stated in the beginning, the park does have a strong character, but some cohesive factors are need to fully enhance and bring out the fairytale theme.

The image to the left represents what will be addressed (GREEN) and what will be left alone (WHITE). On this site, two areas (YELLOW), will have a detailed planting plan. Planting guidelines will be used to address the overall site conditions.

Constraints:

- Existing pathways, site amenities, topography, are to remain.
- No removal of existing shade trees
- No changing of amenity locations
- No exotic plant choices
- No poisonous or dangerous plants
- Maintenance crew is limited
- Water requirements need to be low to medium at most

Opportunities:

- Strong existing shade trees
- Defined themed areas
- Open areas for new plantings
- Desire for new plantings

There are three needs to be met when choosing plants for the plant palette of Fairytale Town.

- Native to California
- Fit into the fairytale them
- Follow the theme of the microsite that plant will be placed in.

The new planting plans for the Castle and Japanese gardens will provide examples of plants, and details on why they fit best for the space. Design guidelines and plants will be recommended for the rest of the areas within Fairytale town.



Davis

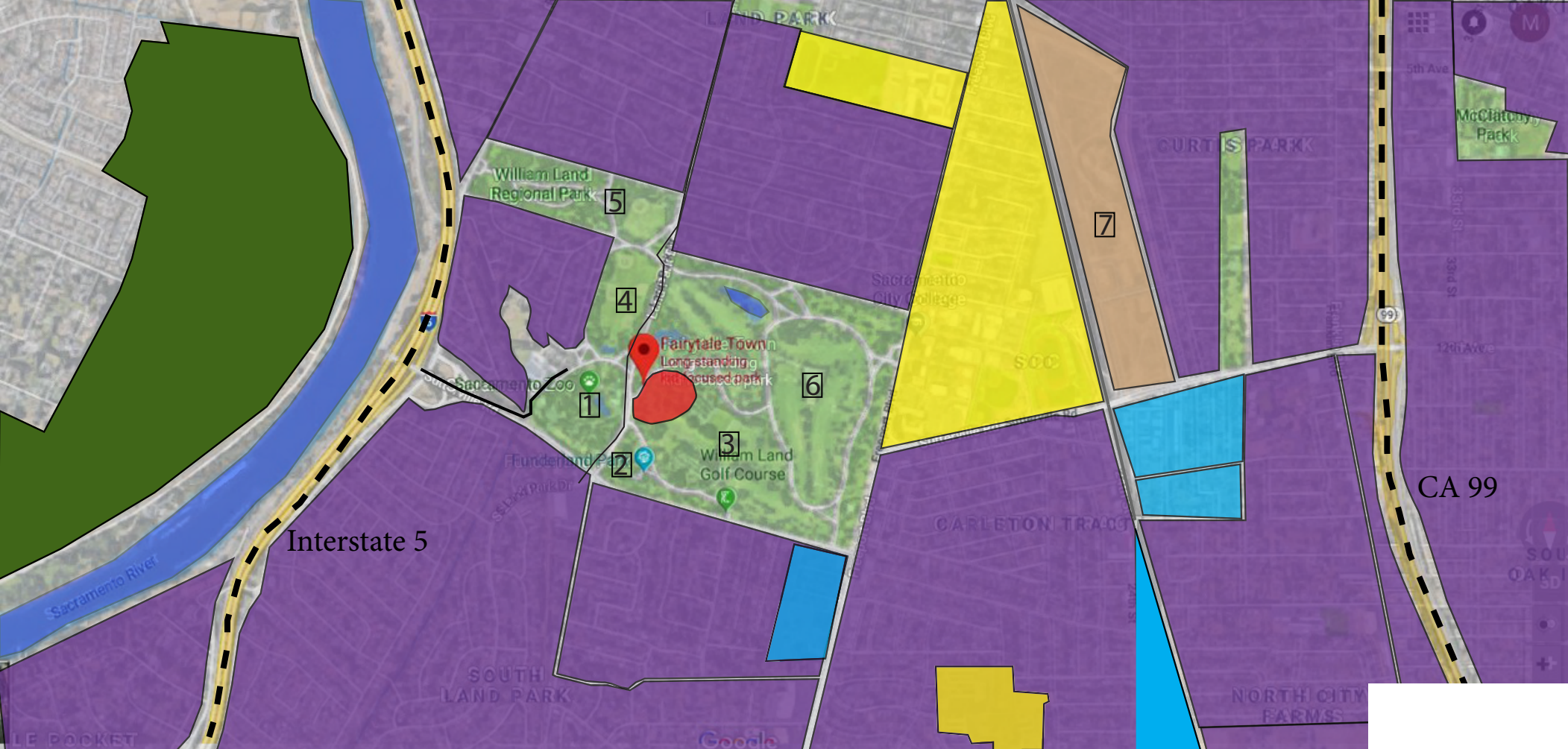
Fairytale Town

Sacramento

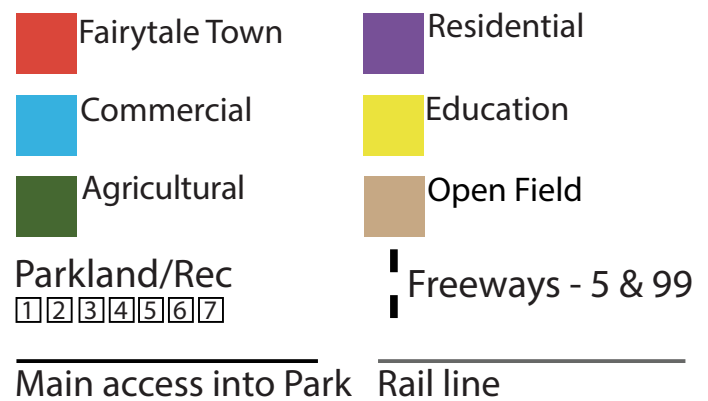
Large Site
Overview

Fairytale Town












The site is surrounded by a large amount of single family residential homes with multi-family mixed in. Several schools are in close proximity and range from elementary to the community college level. Commercial spaces are not too prevalent, but is in close proximity to downtown Sacramento. I-5(Left) and CA-99(Right) sandwich the site providing higher accessibility to the site for people in different regions of Sacramento.





Site Context

Focusing down into the site, we get into William Land Park, named after the founder of this area. This park is home to several unique amenities that add high value and character to the surroundings. The Sacramento Zoo, Funderland (a bigger kiddie amusement park with a few small mechanical rides), a soccer field, and a golf course. This area is very busy during the weekends with people having parties and BBQ's, playing sports, or out taking a walk in the park. Fairytale Town takes up only a small 3.5 acres compared to the entirety of the whole Land Park that is close to 3.2 square miles or approximately 2000 acres.

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|----------------|
|  | Golf Course |  | Parking |
|  | Funderland |  | Soccer field |
|  | Fairytale Town |  | Sacramento Zoo |
|  | Water Bodies | | |



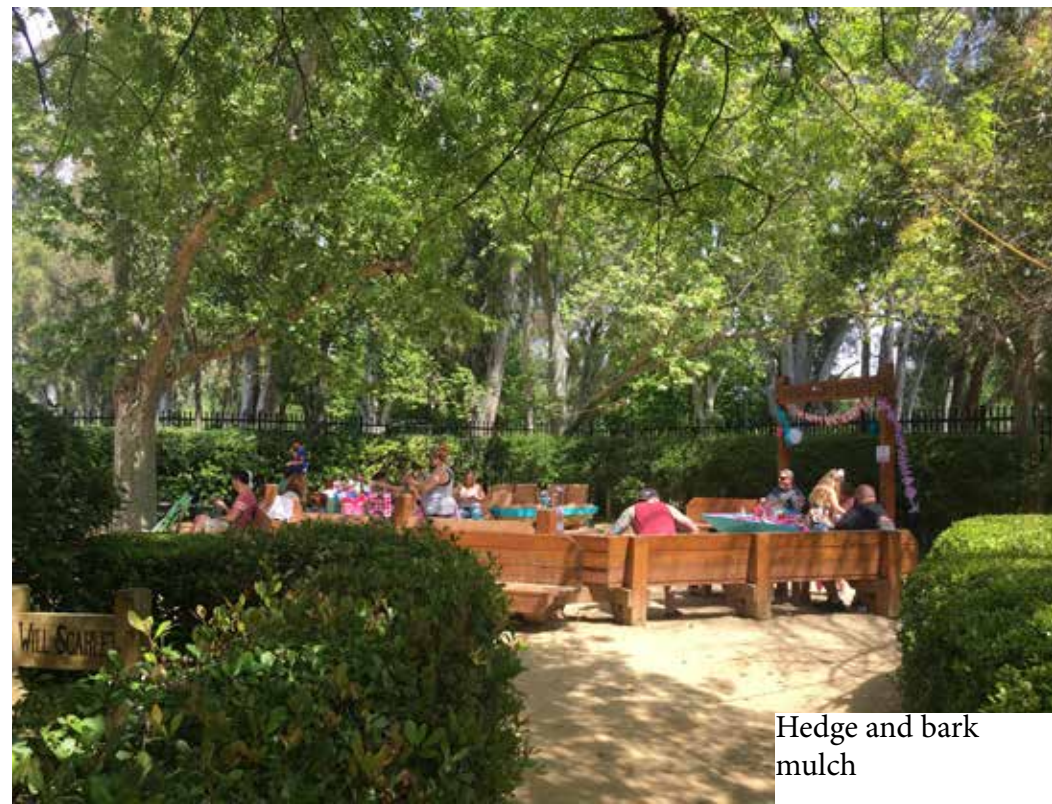
Eeyores tree house



Existing shade canopy of trees



Hedge and bark mulch



Hedge and bark mulch



Grassy area in front of a stage



Deciduous tree in high traffic area



Popular play structure in the "Sherwood"



Low trafficked grass area



Native Bent Grass -
Green



Native Mow Free-
Blue



Delta Grassland Mix-
Yellow



Sod Replacement
Zones

Sod replacement

In some instances, it makes sense to use sod in the landscape. I have selected several areas of sod that are not highly trafficked or used in large enough manner. Delta Blue Grass produce several varieties of native sod-like grasses that can be used to serve the site. A link to the Delta Blue Grass website is provided for more detailed information regarding sod choices.

1. Native Bent Grass: *Agrostis Pallens*

- Medium Leaf Texture
- Thrives in full sun & partial shade
- Withstands low mowing heights
- Strong sod mat provides effective weed barrier
- Extremely drought tolerant
- Uniform growth habit with excellent wear recovery due to selfrepairing rhizomes

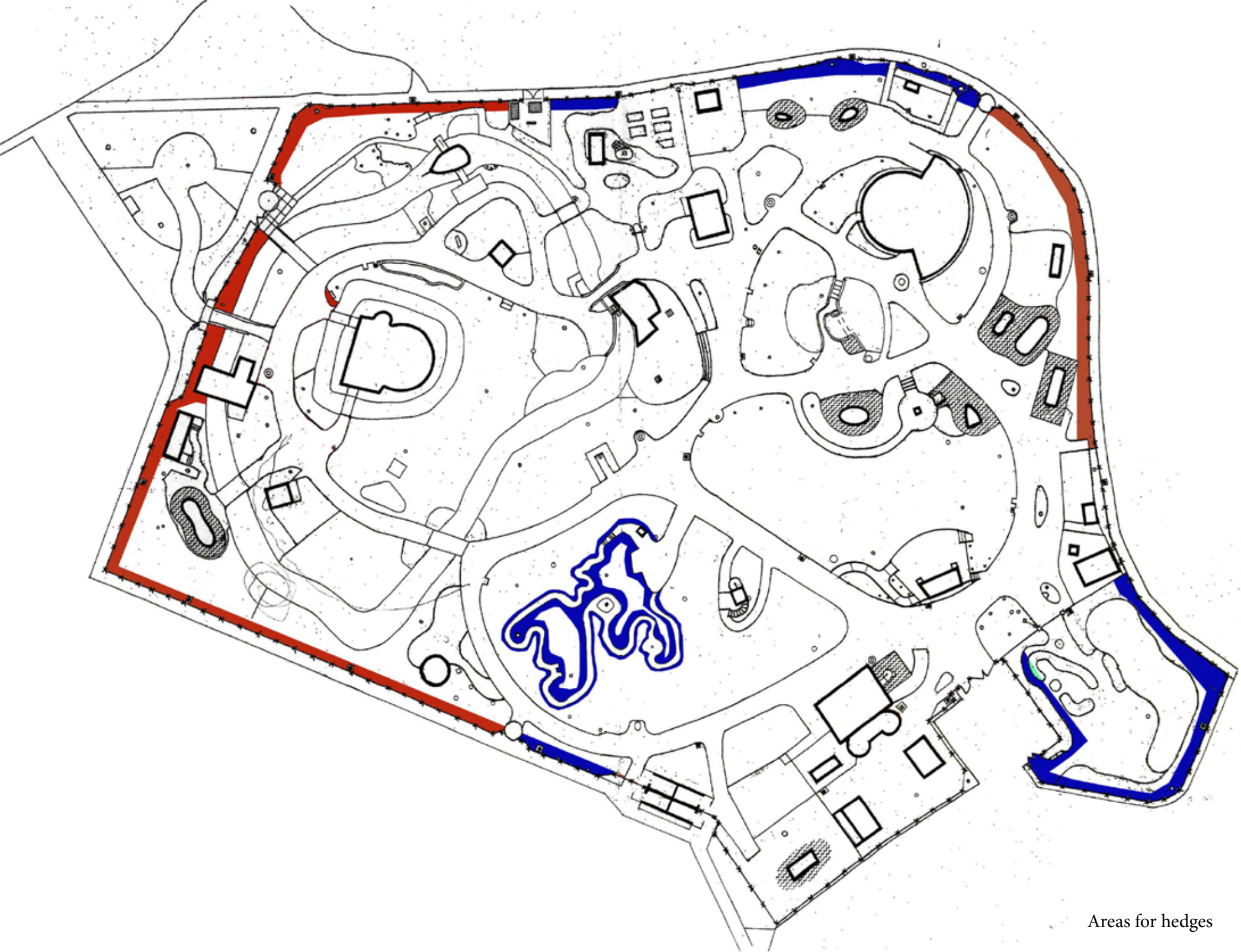
2. Native Mow Free: *Festuca idahoensis*, *Festuca rubra*, *Festuca occidentalis*

- Provides erosion control on sloped areas
- A 3 way combination of fine fescue grasses that create a meadow like look
- Low maintenance providing the option to mow or leave the area natural
- Excellent shade & drought tolerance

3. Delta Grassland Mix: *Koeleria macrantha*, *Deschampsia elongata**Festuca rubra*

- Narrow fine leafed texture
- Moderate wear resistance
- Slow growing, tuft forming, clumping grass
- Persists under drought conditions
- Prefers to grow in partial shade & tolerates full sun

<http://www.deltabluegrass.com/sod-products/california-native-sod>



Areas for hedges

Plants for hedges

These plant choices are recommended for their evergreen display and colorful blooms. They possess the ability to withstand sheering and will grow denser for the 'living wall' effect. It is recommended that mixing of these plants be done in 25' – 30' sections to break up monotony and create visual interest. For further detailed information about these plants, please follow the hyperlink to acquire a fully detailed spread sheet with information about these plants.

Full Sun

Ceanothus spp.: has white and blue blooms from winter into spring. See Japanese Garden planting plan for some selected species.

Arctostaphylos spp.: has white and pink blooms from winter into spring. See Japanese Garden planting plan for some selected species.

Fremontodendron californicum: has yellow spring and summer blooms.

Malva assurgentiflora: pink, purple, red fragrant flowers bloom from winter into summer.

Full Sun = Red

Part Shade = Blue

Part shade plants in in the Crooked Mile area are permitted to have increase spans of single species and may even choose only one for a consistent maze feel.

Part Shade -Full Sun

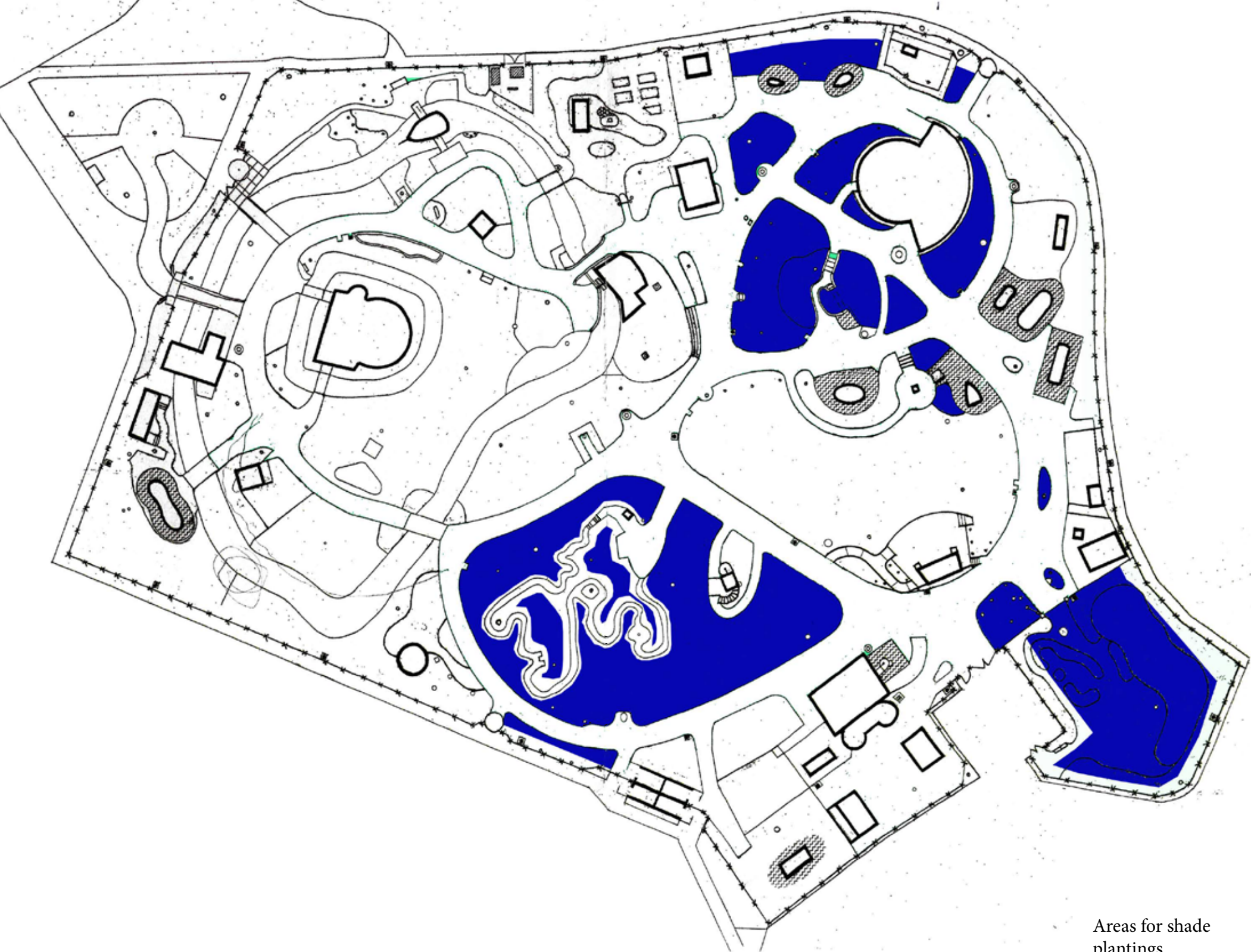
Rhamnus ilicifolia: bright red berries follow a yellow cream flower after the winter-spring months.

Ceanothus gloriosus: blue, lavender, pink, purple flowers cascade in the winter spring months.

Baccharis pilularis: yellow, cream, and white flowers bloom periodically through the year.

Frangula californica: cream, green, white, red flowers bloom from the spring into summer months.

http://calscape.org/search/?customsearch=1&usr_loc_name=California&plant



Areas for shade plantings

Plants for part shade to shade

With the consideration of year round color and seasonal bloom, these plants are able to be applied and thrive in partial shade to full shade areas in the park. For further detailed information about these plants, please follow the hyperlink to acquire a fully detailed spread sheet with information about these plants.

Arctostaphylos spp. - A wonderful choice of plant with a very large variety of genera to choose from that can fit any parameters. The evergreen foliage provides a great year long color while their little white to pink flowers add a wonderful pop.

Ceanothus spp. - Ceanothus have such a bright and bold color and like the *Arctostaphylos* there are many varieties with different colors and growth habits to choose from that can fit the sites character.

These shrubs are all evergreen. The coffeeberry and currant will produce a distinct flower and fruit that add color to the plant. All can serve well as mounds, and juniper is more adaptive to close sheering for a manicured look where applicable.

Frangula californica: CoffeeBerry

Juniperus communis: Common Juniper

Ribes viburnifolium: Catalina Currant

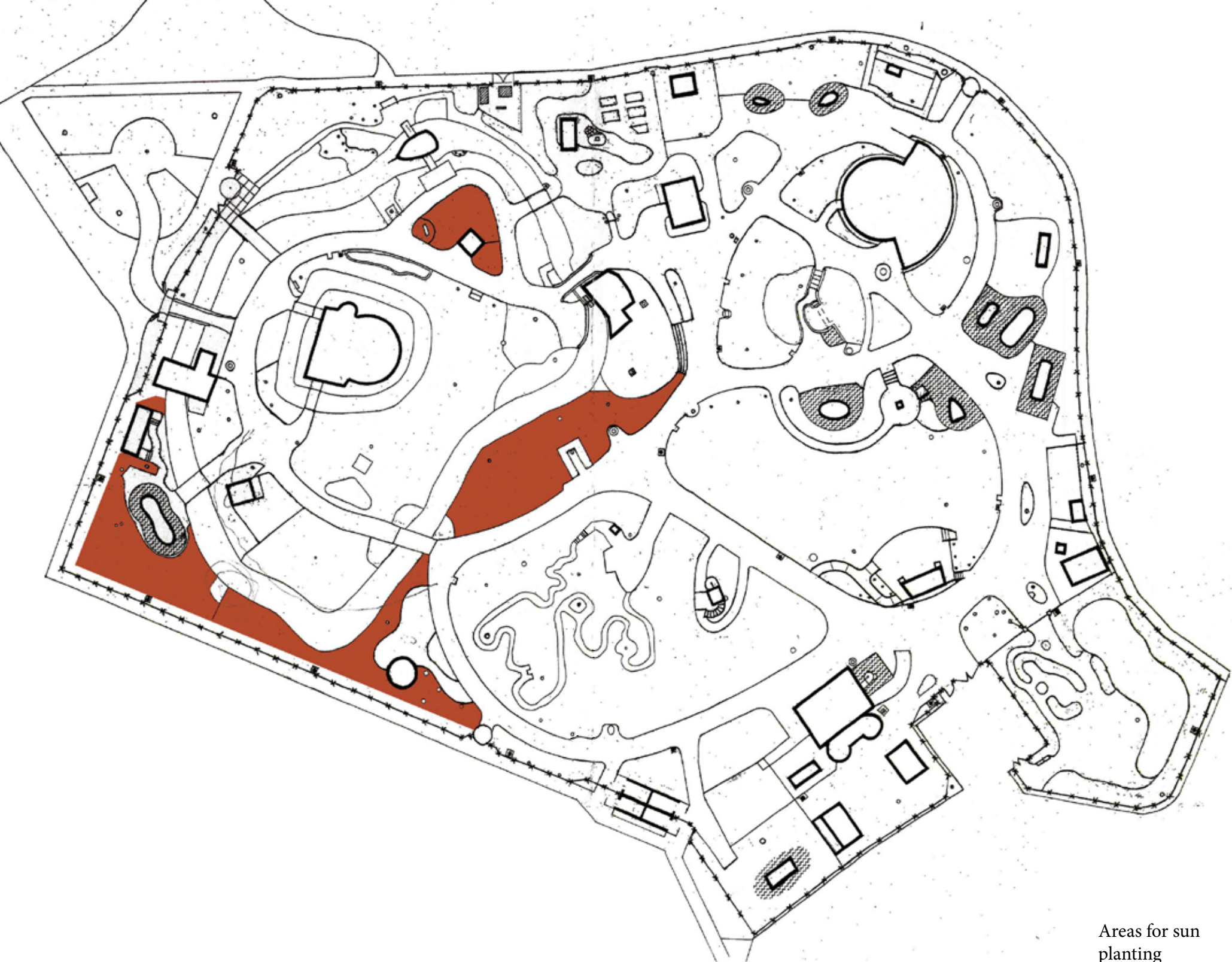
These grasses are chosen for their ability to soften the area as they blow in the wind.

Bouteloua gracilis: Blue Grama

Festuca californica: California Fescue

Koeleria macrantha: Junegrass

http://calscape.org/search/?customsearch=1&usr_loc_name=California&plant



Areas for sun planting

Plants for Sun

These plants are selected for their very low water needs and ease of maintenance. Most are evergreen for year round color and all have a great bloom with different bloom times. For further detailed information about these plants, please follow the hyperlink to acquire a fully detailed spread sheet.

Arctostaphylos spp.: A wonderful choice of plant with very large variety of genera to choose from that can fit any parameters. See the Japanese garden for examples of specific species selected.

Ceanothus spp.: Ceanothus have such a bright and bold color and like the Archtostaphylos there are many varieties with different colors and growth habits to choose from that can fit the sites character. See the Japanese garden for examples of specific species selected.

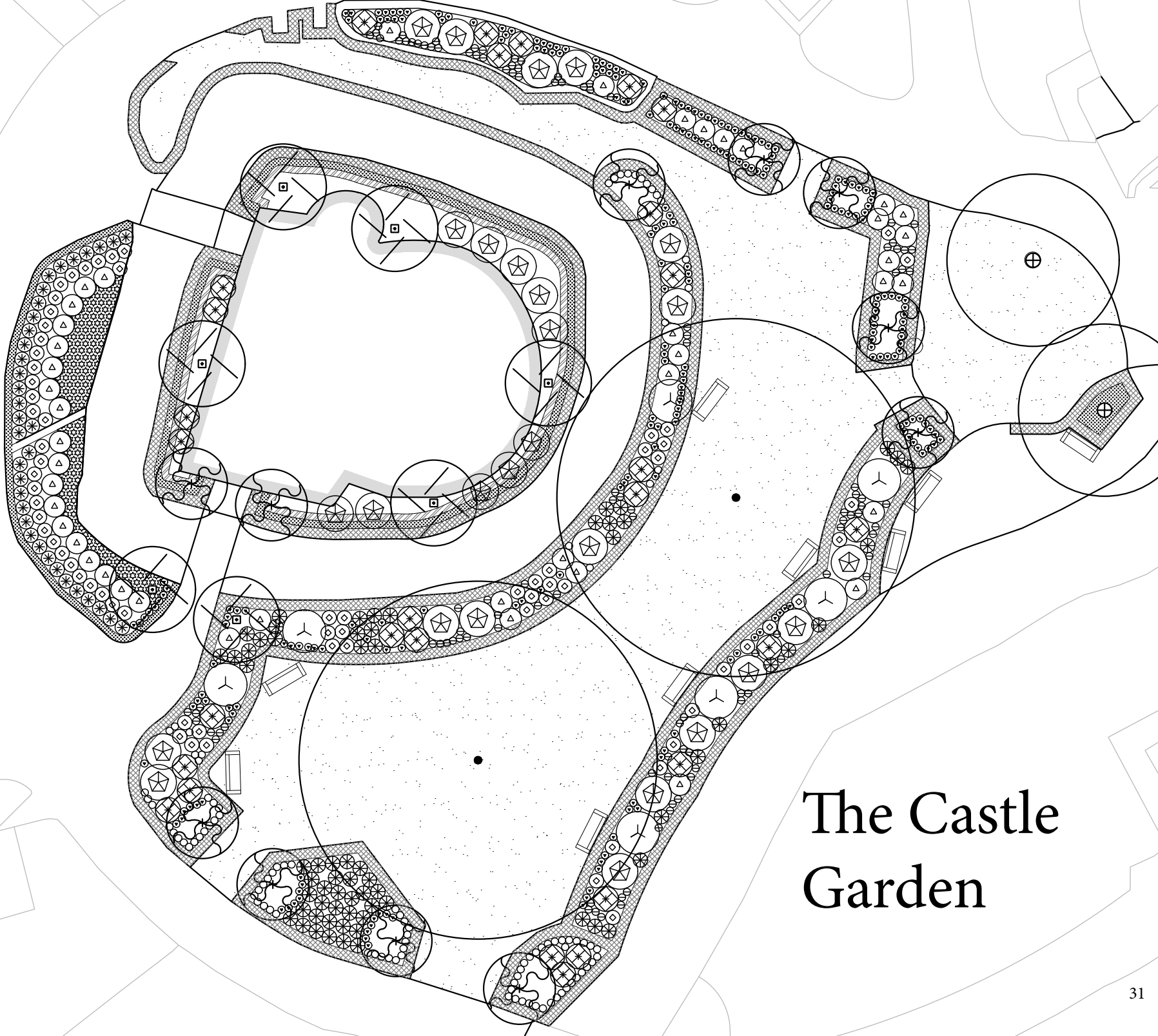
Eriogonum spp.: Buckwheat's add a soft contrasting foliage that work well with others in this category. Evergreen and with a range of colors, these plants can help fill any gap in the landscape.

Salvia spp.: Salvias are have such a wide range of colored foliage and with its diverse flower colors, the plant is a for sure choice for any garden.

Malva assurgentiflora: An evergreen shrub that can be trained as a tree, the flower color is a deep and vibrant magenta pink that is sure to catch the eye of anyone.

Penstemon spp.: Penstemon has a nice array of colors that form on a long spike of flowers. This plant is great for ground covers and perennial color.

http://calscape.org/search/?customsearch=1&usr_loc_name=California&plant



The Castle Garden



East entry into the castle



Grass area behind the castle



Planting area around the castle



Existing seating area behind castle

The Castle Garden Proposed Design

The new castle garden takes vacant bark mulch areas and existing planting spaces, a large expanse of turf, and a raised pollinator garden and brings them into one cohesive design.

The pollinator garden idea is expanded throughout the site by using plants that fit the desired fantasy theme but also can act as pollinator habitats.

All turf is removed and replaced with decomposed granite with a tightly manicured *Archtophylos* hedge formed to contain the layers and pops of color inside the hedge.

By removing the turf and defining the space with plants, a new thoroughfare or place for seating has been created. The plants chosen for this area needed to meet the criteria of having a fairytale like characteristic while also able to fit into the European garden styles.

Trees, like the *Cercis occidentalis*, are used as ornamentals for their bright spring color and architectural branch structure while also softening the castle walls. *Garrya elliptica* are placed at entry points for their evergreen foliage and long pendulous white blooms creating a beaded curtain guests will have to move through to enter the garden. New *Quercus agrifolia* are used for their giant canopies and woodland feel. While *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* are trained into trees for shade and bright blooms that will create a magical canopy of blue flowers during the spring time.

All the plants chosen in this design embody the needs for low maintenance, low water needs, year round color, colorful blooms, and unique forms. These plants will be expressed in more detail in the upcoming pages.

The Trees

Quercus agrifolia
Coast Live Oak



The Coast live oak is being selected for its large evergreen canopy. This tree will provide shade for guest behind the castle as they walk through or sit in the new garden area.



Cercis occidentalis
Western Redbud



The Redbuds beautiful spring bloom acts as a lovely living sculpture to highlight the castle architecture and serves as a welcoming sentries for the castles side entrance.



Ceanothus thrysiflorus
Blue Button Ceanothus



Big bold blue blooms erupt from this tree as it serves as an excellent shade tree while its amazing color is almost too good to be true.



The Shrubs

Rosa californica
California Wild Rose



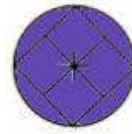
The rose is a classic symbol in fairytale stories so when it was found that California had its own special native, it had to be chosen! Not just for its Beauty and the beast symbolism, but for its beautiful light pink color that adds to the wonderful soiree of colors.



Lupinus albifrons
Silver Lupine



The silver lupine is a wonderful piece with its evergreen grey foliage and fantastic blooms of spike like flowers that range from blue to purple. Boasting the royal feeling to this area. A strong performer even after the other flowers have died back.



Mimulus aurantiacus
Sticky Monkey Flower



With a name like “sticky monkey flower” how can this plant not be included in a childrens park? Not to mention the bright and full blooms of yellow flowers that are sure to brighten up the space along with the mood of any who see it!



Bright Whites

Philadelphus lewisii
Mock Orange



Mock orange, has a wonderful eruption of white flowers that will be used as a great accent to make the colors of its partners pop even more. But that is not all that makes this plant special. It's a deciduous plant with bright red new growth, and those white flowers have a sweet scent similar to orange blossoms with a hint of pineapple!



Garrya eliptica
Silk Tassel



With a wonderful weeping white flower, the Silk tassel is a great choice for marking the entrance to the gardens center. A true fairytale style plant.



Huechera maxima
Island Alum Root



The Alum root plant is an excellent plant for adding a soft white and pink flower that grows as a soft spike that will add a delicate color over the finely clipped manzanita hedge and provide a great compliment to the other colors in the garden!



Pops Of Color

Lilium humboldtii
Humboldt Lily



Humboldt lily provides pops of color throughout the garden with its yellow red blooms. The flowers unique shape looks almost like little fairies flying around the garden!



Epilobium canum 'Silver Select'
Silver Select California Fuchsia



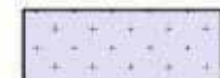
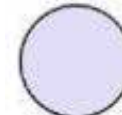
Epilobium's bright red flowers practically glow off the silver foliage. With its remarkable colors this plant adds a bright highlight to all plants around it.



Penstemon heterophyllus
Penstemon Heterophyllus



Not only is this plant showy with its bright colors, its flowers a unique feature that are sure to attract the interest of kids.



Form

Iris douglasiana
Douglas Iris



The douglas iris has a pretty multi-colored flower with blue/purple as the dominant. Its upright form helps add height above the manzanita hedge with hits pretty flower!



Calamagrostis folisia
Reed Grass



This grass adds an airy contrast of texture with its long fine blades and poofy white flower. It will provide a nice whimsical movement when the wind blows through it causing it to dance with soft joy.



Arctostaphylos densiflora
'Howard McMinn'
Howard McMinn Manzanita



This manzanita is an excellent choice for mimicing a boxwood style hedge commonly seen in a formal garden



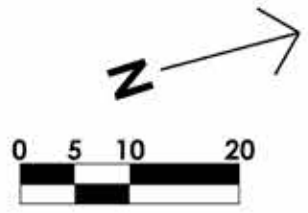




Castle


A


A





Colored castle plan



Design Intent


 *Garry elliptica* is used for its soft weeping white flowers at the entrances to the garden.


 *Quercus agrifolia* were chosen to provide shade for guests as they sit for a moment to rest or eat. Silk tassel marks the lower entrance with its pendulous form.


 To mimic the classic low boxwood hedge, *Arctostaphylos densiflora 'howard mcminn'* was chosen. This plant, unlike the boxwood, has a small white to pinkish flower that will bloom adding extra character and charm.


 *Rosa californica* are chosen to represent the rose gardens seen in the European royalty private estates and manors.


  Pops of color explode and fill the air with the use of the *Lilium humboldtii*. Its interesting form gives the illusion of fairies in the air!


 *Lupinus albifrons* is chosen for its evergreen silver-grey foliage and royal blue to purple blooms.



 *Philadelphus lewisii* is placed for its white blooms to accent the colors that surround it along with adding a pleasant scent to engage more senses.


 *Mimulus aurantiacus* adds a brightness to the space with its vibrant yellow flower that has a very unique shape that is sure to draw the attention of the children.

 *Ceanothus* is used as a shade tree here and is chosen for its brilliant blue blooms that help hit all the colors.



 *Calamagrostis foliosa* in the front provides an evergreen foliage with a white bloom to accent the colors in front and behind it while also bringing an airy feel with its foliage.

 *Iris douglasiana* gives evergreen foliage and vertical blooms of blue foliage.

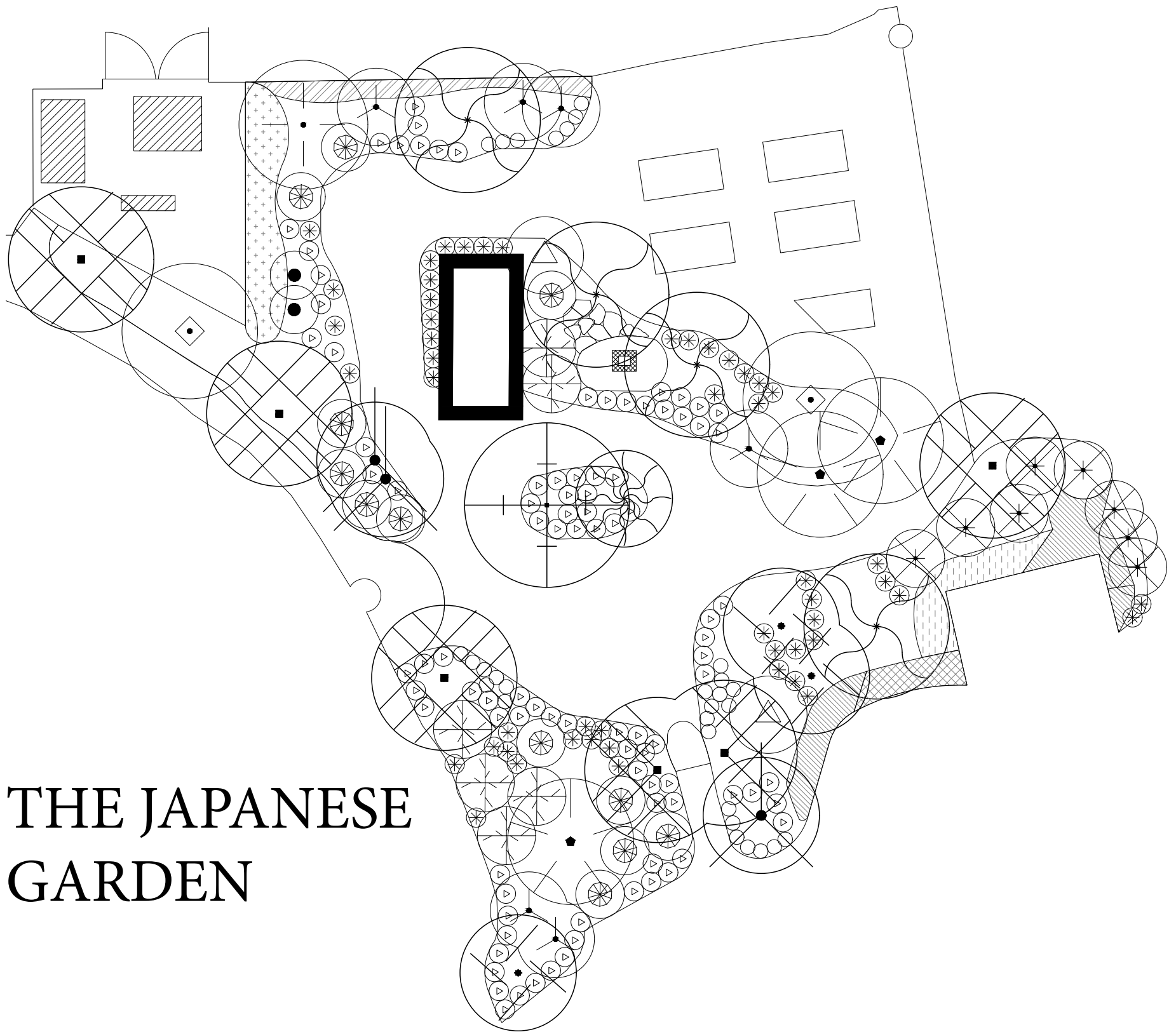
  *Huechera maxima* adds a soft texture and accent color with its white to pink fragile blooms.

 *Cercis occidentalis* are excellent specimen trees to be a living sculpture and provide prolific bloom to draw attention to the castle.

 *Epilobium canum*'s bright red flower and silver foliage add vibrance to the garden and look great next to anything.

  *Penstemon heterophyllus* is used for its soft brightness and wonderful color.

THE JAPANESE GARDEN

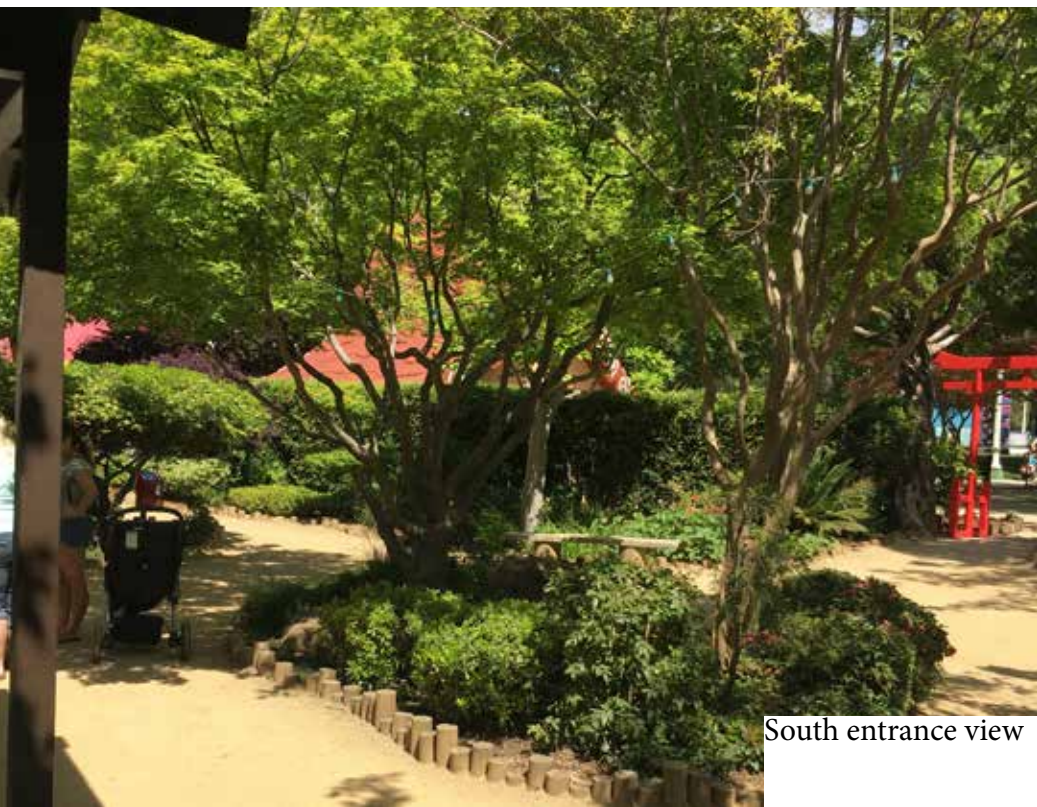




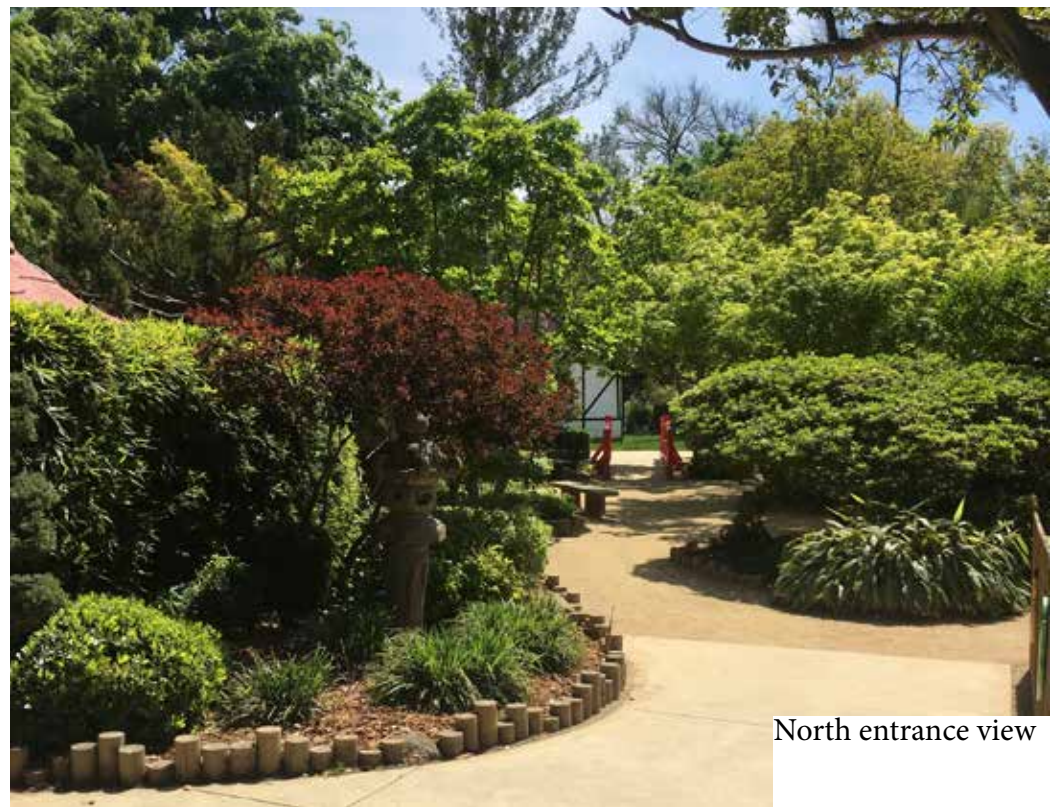
Torii gate



Koi pond



South entrance view



North entrance view

The Japanese Garden Proposed Design

The Japanese garden exhibits a strong character with the current palette and pruning of plants. Existing elements common to Japanese landscape design can be seen throughout the site and include: stone lanterns, a koi pond, and the torii gates at one of the entrances to the garden. These 3 elements will remain in the design with only the vegetation to be replaced by a native plants.

This garden also shares real estate with an “alphabet” garden intended to teach children plant names. My design removes this garden completely. McGregor’s garden, five wooden planter boxes, are right behind the middle planting island in the area. Those have been left untouched.

The Japanese style of landscape design is an intricate style with a very unique view on the landscape. Described next will be a list of principles found through research and are applied to the design area.

- Datsuzoku: unbounded by convention, free; Breaking away from the expected plant palette.
- Fukinsei: asymmetry, irregularity; Plants used in this design have no symmetrical qualities within it.
- Kanso: simplicity;
- Shiki - the four seasons, the beauty of the changing seasons, ephemeral beauty

- Shakkei - borrowed scenery

This is accomplished by linking a distant view of the landscape in the background to create a single scene through the skillful arrangement of a middle-ground feature such as a wall or hedge. The result is a living painting intended to be seen from a particular point within the garden.

- A simple palette.

Within the plant palette, there are only 18 plants used with 3 varieties for 2 of the plants (Ceanothus spp. And Arctostaphylos spp.)

- Specimen trees.

Paired with ‘Fukinsei’ specimen trees are only in view when guests move throughout the garden.

The trees aside from being framed are highlighted with complimentary colors from the foliage or blooms of the plants around the specimen.

- Flowering plants are included for their ephemeral beauty and seasonal significance.

(Suga) (Peters)

Living Sculptures

Pinua radiata
Monterey Pine



The pine in Japanese landscape design is a classic specimen tree. This pine is included because of its strong architectural form. Entry points to the garden are marked with these trees to symbol the distinct transition into a different feeling altogether.



Cornus sericea
Western Dogwood



With beautiful flowers in the spring but even more interesting red twigs in the fall and winter times, the western dogwood is excellent for showcasing “Shiki - the beauty of the changing seasons” with its year round changing of colors!



Prunus andersonii
Desert Peach



The Japanese Cherry tree (*Prunus serrulata*) are always a landmark specimen known to be in a Japanese Garden so I felt it right to use a member from its family to pay homage to the design style. There is only one to emphasis the beauty of this plant holds.



Acer circinatum
Vine Maple



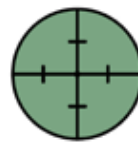
“Fake it till you make it” a classic saying that holds true with this fine substitute of for a japanese maple. The vine maple has gorgeous fall color and architectural branches that help create the classic Japanese Garden feel.



Chilopsis linearis
Desert Willow



The dessert willow used in this design is a single shade tree. The unique big bloom of white with touches of color flowers adds to the ephemeral beauty of the garden.



Cercis occidentalis
Western Redbud



A wonderful specimen tree, the redbud explodes with color in the spring that plays off the evergreen foliage of manzanitas and ceanothus plants. When paired together, they can create a bright wall of flowers used to help hide views but evoke interest to see what is on the other side.



Grasses

Festuca idahoensis 'siskiyou blue'
Siskiyou Blue Fescue



Year round color with a unique blue color paired with its white flowering bloom, the Blue Fescue is a great specimen grass.



Calamagrostis foliosa
Leafy Reed Grass



Adding volume with out creating a dense feeling, the airy-ness of the Leafy Reed Grass is excellent for softening up manzanita mounds, or making the blue of a ceanothus flower pop more with its white bloom.



Carex tumulicola
Foothill sedge



With its soft and evergreen foliage, the Foothill Sedge acts great as a way to define planting borders. The plant is soft and acts as a great contrast to any of the more course plants that will be found within the space.



Walls

Heteromeles arbutifolia
Toyon



Used as a hedge, Toyon acts as a great screen with its dense foliage but breaks the monotony when its red blooms erupt in the summer.

Rhododendron occidentale
Western Azalea



Azaleas are classic plants associated in a Japanese garden design. Their beauty is well known and strong. The azalea doubles as a wall of flowers in the spring to early summer, or a statement piece when used as a single that pairs nicely with its surroundings.

Philadelphus lewisii
Mock Orange

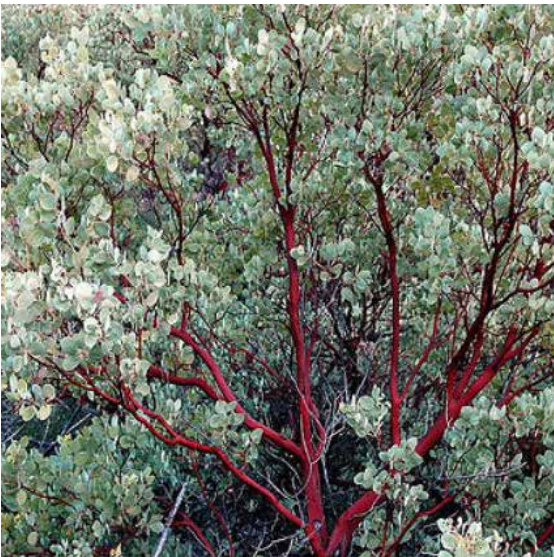


Mock Orange is used in this part of the park as a way to screen out the parking lot that is directly behind the garden. With its white flowers or deep green foliage, plants around will surely pop and be complimented with this plant near it.



Arctostaphylos

Arctostaphylos glauca
Big Berry Manzanita



Arctostaphylos glauca has the double benefit of being utilized as a hedge or in individual plantings for its complementing foliage color.



Arctostaphylos densiflora
Vine Hill manzanita



Arctostaphylos densiflora is used for its sculptural ability, evergreen foliage, and bright white bloom.



Arctostaphylos pumila
Dune Manzanita



Arctostaphylos pumila's grey green evergreen foliage and white flowers are used as an accent plant and for its moldable form.



Ceanothus

Ceanothus 'Concha'
California lilac



Ceanothus 'Concha' is chosen for their mounded form and bright bold blue bloom.



Ceanothus integerrimus
Deerbrush



Ceanothus integerrimus helps shield the koi pond, with its evergreen foliage and white bloom.

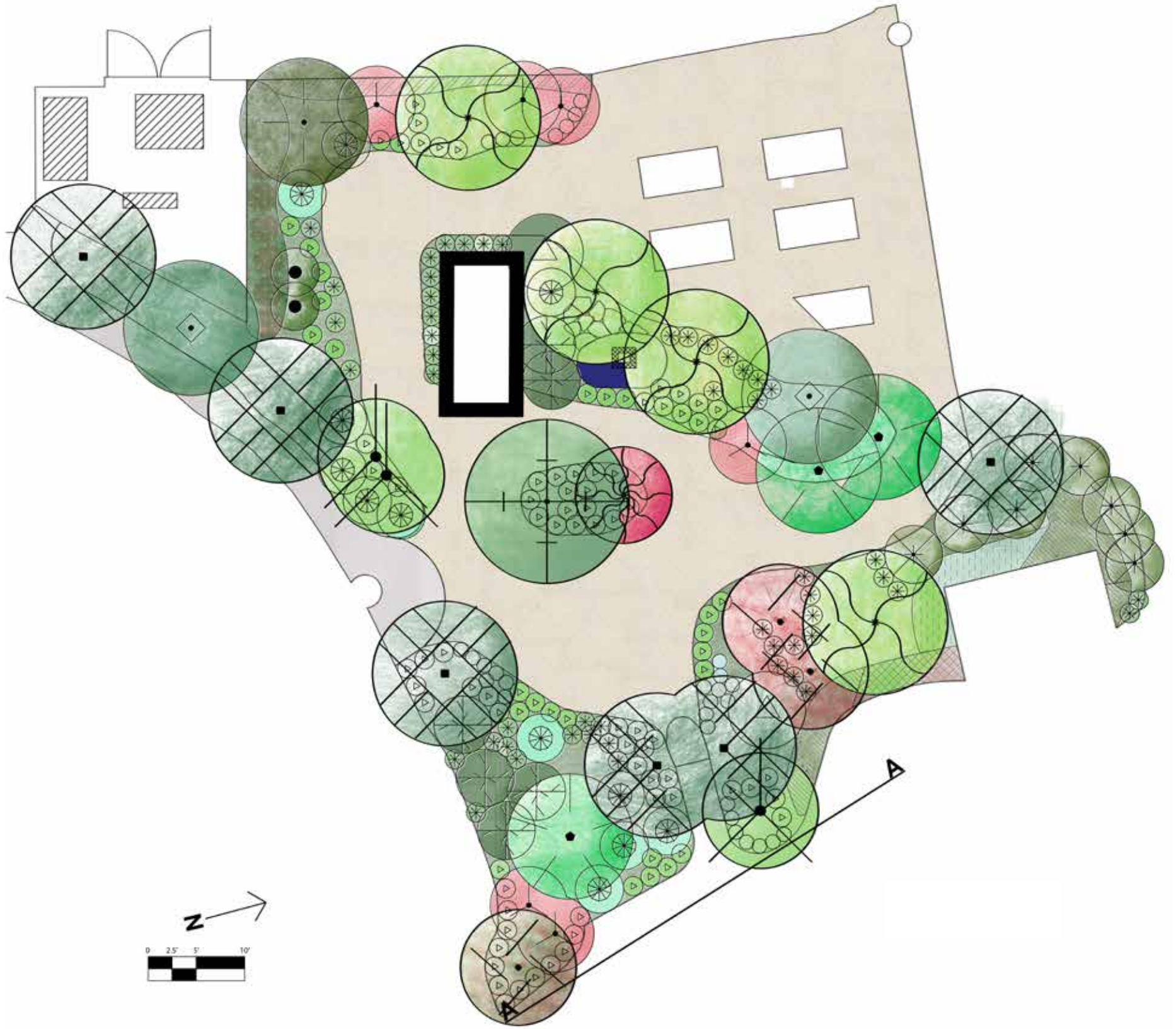


Ceanothus thyrsiflorus
Blue blossom Ceanothus


























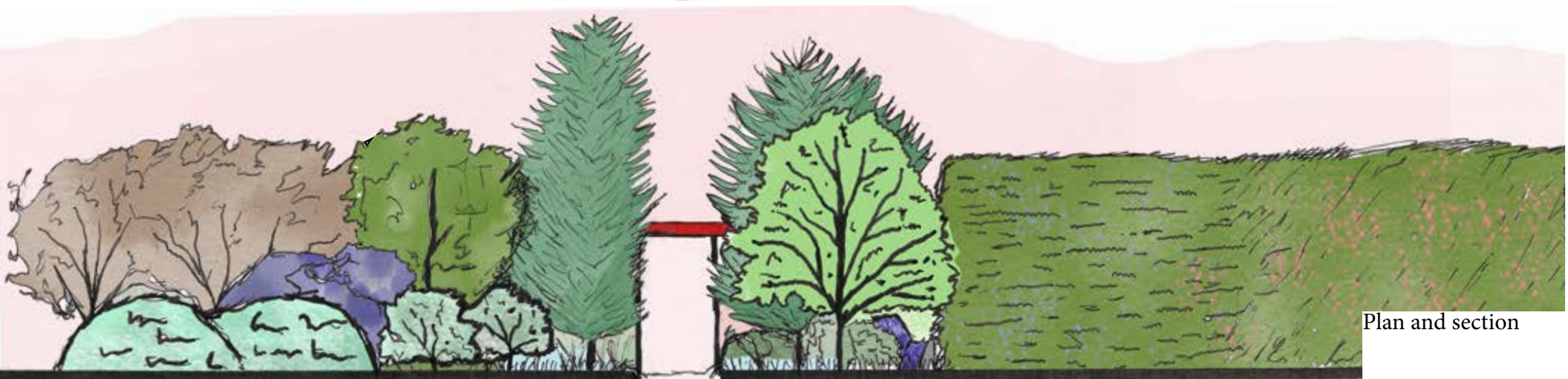
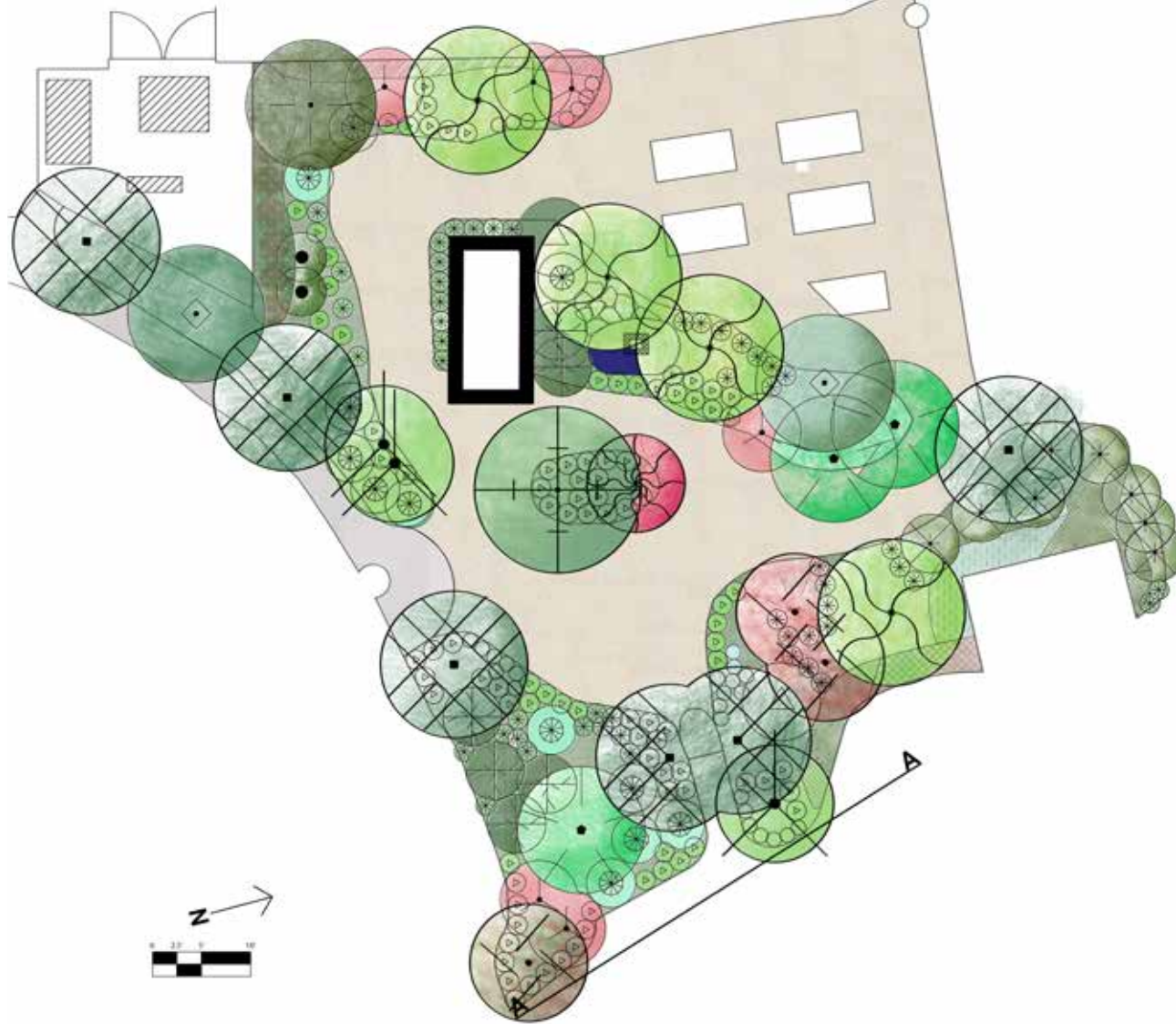
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus is used for its screening abilities and standalone ability as a single specimen to create a color contrast with the toyon hedge that screens out the utilities gated area.





Design Intent

-  *Pinus radiata* mark the entrances to the garden as the sentinel specimen trees.
-  *Cornus sericea* are placed for their four seasons of color and architectural form.
-  The *Acer circinatum* mimic their cousin, the Japanese maple, to be a living sculpture and for their fall color.
-   *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* acts as a wall to help enclose the space and "hide the outside world".
-   *Rhododendron occidentale* mixes in with the blue blossom to help aid in the living wall with its complementary white blooms.
-   *Arctostaphylos glauca* mixes into the azaleas to act as a nice silver backdrop for the maples in front of it.
-  *Prunus andersonii* pays homage to its Japanese cherry cousin with peach blossoms in the spring.
-  *Festuca idahoensis* 'siskiyou blue' add a contrast in color and evergreen foliage on the ground plane.
-  *Ceanothus integerrimus* is used for its evergreen foliage and white blooms.
-  *Arctostaphylos pumila*'s ability to be shaped and form serve the finely clipped forms of plants in Japanese gardens.
-   *Philadelphus lewisii*'s eruption of white scented flowers will help fill the air with scent and brighten the area in the back where its used as a screen.
-  *Ceanoths Concha* is used for pruning into a mound and bold flower color.
-  *Calamagrostis foliosa* is used for its fine texture and nice spreading form for uncluttered volume.
-  The *Chilopsis linearis* acts as a central shade tree with its big bloom and deciduous foliage.
-  *Carex tumulicola* fills in the ground plane with its soft arching form and excellent evergreen foliage.
-   *Heteromeles arbutifolia*'s quick growth, evergreen foliage, and red berry acts as an excellent wall to screen out an existing fence and add vibrant color during the summer season.
-  *Arctostaphylos densiflora* acts as a great evergreen shrub with bright white blooms throughout the area.
-  The *Cercis occidentalis* is used as a visual screen to hide and for its wonderful bright spring bloom.



Plan and section

Conclusion

As climate change continues, California is progressing into more conservative landscape practices. It was shown here that it is not the plants that make up a style of design, it is how the plants are used. Understanding the theme of the site dictates what a designer should look for in plants to create the desired look, not relying on a specific plant to fit an image.

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