

IGNACIO CREEK LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES & REVISED PLANT LIST

APRIL 2014

Ignacio Creek's landscape enhancement and maintenance has drifted over the years since its original design by Lester Hawkins. Original plantings have aged or been neglected. Some plants proved unsuitable or not hardy enough for our conditions. Original plant lists have been lost, and the landscape has been changed gradually by the different tastes and priorities of various landscape committees and landscape management services. The current landscape committee would like to propose a plan that will accomplish the following objectives:

1. Establish a landscape design and revised plant list that are guided by original designs and Lester Hawkins' original plant list, as well as our own experience with plants and conditions.
2. Propose a plan for improvements to existing plantings and landscape infrastructure (irrigation, etc.), that restores plantings to health and beauty.
3. Provide a schedule over the next 5 years to execute the plan within budget constraints.

Ignacio Creek Landscape Guiding Principles

1. **Ignacio Creek's landscape must be compatible with the natural California oak woodland character of the site.**

Implications:

- Give priority to native California oak woodland plant materials.
- Do not maintain the landscape in such a way that endangers established oaks and other native trees.
- Maintain plants for health, but not for highly groomed appearance.

2. **Principles of water conservation must be observed in choosing and maintaining plantings.**

Implications:

- Choose drought-tolerant plants, except for areas where water is naturally available.
- Provide irrigation only as required to start new plantings, or to provide water needs of drought tolerant plants.
- Choose irrigation methods that maintain plantings without excess use of water.
- Keep irrigation components in good condition and properly tuned.

3. **The needs and habits of wildlife have priority over human preferences in choosing plant materials.**

Implications:

- Choose deer-proof, non-poisonous plants.
- Choose plants that provide food or shelter to wildlife while adding attractiveness to the landscape.

- Prevent landscape maintenance practices which endanger wildlife.

4. The safety of residents takes priority in decisions about plant materials and landscape maintenance practices.

Implications:

- Keep pathways and other human access areas free from plant materials which could cause falls or other injuries.
- Choose non-poisonous plants.
- Maintain trees to reduce danger of falling branches and limbs.

5. Ignacio Creek observes the principles of integrated pest management (IPM) in the control of weeds and plant pests.

Implications:

- Choose plants that do not require high maintenance or non-natural control.
- Encourage residents to understand that a certain amount of "untidiness" is expected in a healthy landscape.
- Control weeds and pests by application of natural or organic methods (predatory insects, etc.)
- Control weeds and pests by chemical means only when necessary.
- Choose chemical agents which are biodegradable within a short time, and which do not migrate from their point of application.
- Avoid large-scale application of pest or weed control as a preemptive measure, unless there is evidence of infestation that cannot be controlled by other means.
- Practice landscape maintenance techniques, such as soil improvements, mulching and thinning of shrubs, which reduce the opportunity for pests, diseases or weeds.
- Observe the landscape for signs of ill health and catch problems before extensive measures are required.

6. Landscaping must not endanger the soundness of or present risks to homes and other structures.

Implications:

- Keep plant materials, soil, leaves and other debris away from the sides of buildings or any structural wood.
- Keep ditches, drains and other natural waterways free of debris.
- Keep tree branches sufficiently above roofs and away from siding.
- Choose plant materials that do not interfere with underground facilities such as drains, water lines or other utilities.

7. Landscape decisions will be constrained by budgetary considerations, with the understanding that an adequate and consistent level of funding is required to maintain the landscape.

Implications:

- Annual operational and reserve budgets for landscaping must be provided, with categories for the major expenses projected.
- Purchase of plant materials and contracting for maintenance services must meet landscape guidelines at a highly competitive price.
- Vendors of landscape services must be well managed to ensure that we receive all benefits contracted for.

Ignacio Creek Plant List

Reference column (Ref) gives reference identifier:

- 1) "Su.." refers to the page number in "Sunset Western Garden Book",
- 2) Other identifiers refer to "Water-Conserving Plants & Landscapes for the Bay Area",
- 3) "LH", refers to Lester Hawkins' document "Appendix A - Drought Tolerant Plant Lists".

Trees – Native

Botanical Name	Common Name	Habits, characteristics	Ref
Aesculus californica	California Buckeye	Native, deciduous, small tree, white flowers in spring. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	T2 LH
Quercus	Oak – various	Native, deciduous and evergreen, all sizes. Deer resistant.	T63 T55 LH
Umbellularia californica	California Bay Laurel	Native, evergreen, medium-tall, pungent leaves, insignificant yellow flowers in early spring. Deer resistant.	Su515
Cornus nuttallii	Pacific Dogwood	Native, deciduous, small tree, white flowers in spring.	Su242 LH
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	Native, deciduous, small tree, pink flowers in spring. Deer resistant.	TS15
Arbutus menziesii No longer approved	Madrone	Native, evergreen, medium-tall, red trunk, green glossy leaves. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	Su162
Comarostaphylis diversifolia	Summer Holly	Native (SoCal), evergreen small tree, gray bark, shiny dark green leaves, manzanita-like flowers in spring, berries like madrone in fall.	Su238 LH
Sambucus mexicana	Blue Elderberry	Deciduous small tree, white flowers become blue. edible (jelly) berries. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	Su473 LH

Trees – Acceptable Non-native

Botanical Name	Common Name	Habits, characteristics	Ref
Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple	Deciduous, small tree. New varieties are hardy and drought tolerant in filtered shade.	Su136
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry tree	Evergreen small tree, red-brown bark, dark green leaves, small white flowers become red-yellow fruit resembling strawberries.	TS3 LH
Fraxinus augustifolia	Raywood Ash	Deciduous, fast growth to 25-35 ft. Small, lacy leaves turn red in fall. Moderate water. Deer resistant.	T25 LH
Styrax japonica	Japanese Snowdrop Tree	Deciduous, slow-moderate growth to 30 ft. White flowers in June, red-yellow leaves in fall.	Su497 LH
Cornus florida	Eastern dogwood	Deciduous, 20 ft. Pink or white flowers in May, reddish leaves in fall.	Su242
Lagerstroemia indica	Crape myrtle	Deciduous, small tree. Pink, red, white flowers in July-August.	T32
Koelreuteria paniculata	Goldenrain Tree, Chinese Flame Tree	Deciduous, small tree, yellow, flowers leave lantern-like orange, red, salmon pods in fall. Mod. water, deep roots.	T30 T31
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	Deciduous, moderate growth to 60 ft. Insignificant flowers, fall color. Well-drained soil.	T46
Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud	Deciduous, fast growth to 30 ft. Similar to western redbud but more tree-form.	T13

Genista lydia, G. sagittalis	Broom	Rock garden varieties. Small shrub to 2 ft. Yellow sweet pea shaped flowers late spring to summer. Choose varieties that don't produce seed.	Su304 LH
Grevillea rosemarinifolia No longer approved	Rosemary Grevillea	4-5 ft tall long upright branches, 1" leaves. Red flowers fall-spr. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds. Softer w/ larger flowers than G. "Canberra" now planted at IC.	TS34
Hellium or Hellanthenum	Sunrose	Closely related species of sunrose. Rock garden. Gray-green foliage, yellow flowers w/ dark centers.	Su316 Su318 LH
Ilex crenata helleri	Dwarf Japanese Holly	1 ft. high, 2 ft. wide. Resembles boxwood. Black berries. Deer resistant.	Su329 LH
Leptospermum	Australian, New Zealand Tea Tree	Ground cover to large shrub. NZ types have red or pink flowers. Aust. types white flowers. Deer resistant.	TS41 TS42
Cofrea	Australian Fuchsia	Spreading or rounded forms, red or white flowers fall-winter. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	SS3 SS4
Rhododendron racemosum No longer approved		Various sizes. Pink flowers March-April. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds. Best in part shade.	Su456 LH
Rhododendron (many) No longer approved	Rhododendron or Azalea	Various sizes and colors. High visibility planting at IC. Deer may eat new leaves, buds. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds. Best in shade, regular moisture and fir bark mulch.	Su454
Sollya heterophylla (S. fusiformis)	Australian Bluebell Creeper	Small mounding shrub. Bright blue bells in summer, followed by purple fruit. Deer resistant. Best in half shade.	SS17

Groundcovers, Vines - Native

Botanical Name	Common Name	Habits, characteristics	Ref
Baccharis pilularis No longer approved	Dwarf Coyote Bush	1-2 ft high, 6 ft wide. Dense. Shear annually to keep low. Deer resistant. LH recommended "Twin Peaks #2"	GC6, LH
Arctostaphylos hookeri, A. uva-ursi	Monterey Manzanita	Prostrate, spreading to 15 ft. White flowers in spring. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds. Part shade and monthly irrigation. LH recommended "Radiant".	GC4 LH
Ceanothus	Ceanothus	Various low spreading varieties. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	GC8 - GC11 LH
Ribes viburnifolium	Evergreen currant	Arching to 12 ft. Glossy green foliage, inconspicuous flowers, small red berries. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	GC28

Groundcovers, Vines - Non-native

Botanical Name	Common Name	Habits, characteristics	Ref
Cistus salvifolius prostratus	Sageleaf Rockrose	Spreading habit to 2' by 6'. White flowers w/ yellow spots late spring.	GC15 LH
Cistus skanbergii	Hybrid Rockrose	Gray-green mound 4' by 6', salmon flowers spring. Deer resistant. Ruth's favorite rockrose.	SS2
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow-in-Summer	Silver gray leaves form 4" thick mat. White flowers June-July. Deer resistant.	GC12 LH
Thymus spp. No longer approved	Thyme	Very low to 1 ft. Fragrant. Lavender flowers in April. Deer resistant.	GC33 LH
Rosemarinus officinalis cultivars No longer approved	Rosemary	Narrow 1" pungent leaves. Pale blue flowers. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds. Retaining wall at IC.	GC29

Shrubs - Native

Botanical Name	Common Name	Habits, characteristics	Ref
Heteromeles arbutifolia No longer approved	Toyon, California Holly	Dark green mound. Best in part shade. White flowers produce red fruit in winter. Flowers attract butterflies & hummingbirds. Fruit attracts birds.	TS35 LH
Arctostaphylos (many) No longer approved	Manzanita	Large and small shrubs, small white flowers in early spring, dark red, smooth branches. Deer resistant when established. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds. LH recommended "Howard McMilln"	TS4 TS5 LH
Calycanthus occidentalis	Spice Bush	Deciduous shrub for moist areas. Bright green leaves turn yellow in fall. Reddish brown flowers in April.	Su199
Ceanothus (many)	Wild Liliac	Large and small shrubs, blue flowers in spring. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds. LH recommended "Ray Hartman" (med blue). "Dark Star" is dark blue.	TS11 to TS14 LH
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	Shrub form. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	TS15 LH
Cornus stolonifera	Redtwig Dogwood	Native to moist places. Small white flowers in spring, green leaves turn red in fall. Red branches in winter. Spreads rapidly. Tolerates shade.	Su243 LH
Carpenteria californica	Bush Anemone	3-4 ft. Stiff vertical branches w/ dark glossy leaves. White flowers in clusters from May thru August. Tolerates shade. Deer resistant.	TS10
Eriogonum (many)	Buckwheat varieties	3-4 ft tall, spreading. Gray-green leaves, creamy flowers in summer. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	TS24 LH
Fremontodendron hybrids	Flannel Bush	Dark green 3" leaves. Golden 3" flowers in spring. No summer water after 2 nd year. Deer resistant.	TS31
Mahonia pinnata No longer approved	California Holly Grape	4-5 ft. Spiny green leaflets. Yellow flower spikes in spring. Blue fruit. Deer resistant. Invasive at IC.	TS45
Myrica californica	Pacific Wax Myrtle	Around 8 ft. Glossy green leaves. Deer resistant.	TS46
Rhus integrifolia	Lemonade Berry	Evergreen shrub 3-10 ft. Dark green leaves. White or pinkish flowers early spring. Background. Deer resistant.	TS69
Ribes speciosum	Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry	Nearly evergreen 3-12 ft. Clusters of dark pink flowers hang below branches in winter & early spring. Light shade. Background. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	TS71
Rhododendron occidentale No longer approved	Western azalea	Tall evergreen w/ white thru rose red flowers in April-May. Deer resistant. Does best in shade.	Su458 LH

Shrubs -- Acceptable Non-native

Botanical Name	Common Name	Habits, characteristics	Ref
Chaenomeles cultivars	Flowering Quince	Angular twigs to 8 ft. Red or pink flowers early spring. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	TS16
Cistus (many)	Rock rose	Large mounding shrubs w/ green or grey-green leaves. Flowers white, white w/ crimson or pink. Deer resistant.	TS17- TS19 LH
Cistus skanbergii	Hybrid Rockrose	Gray-green mound 4' by 6'. Salmon flowers in spring. Deer resistant.	SS2
Cotoneaster lacteus	Red Clusterberry	6-8 ft. Gray-green leaves, white flowers in clusters produce red berries in fall. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	TS21
Cytisus kewensis	Kew Broom	Short shrub, spreading to 4 ft. Dense leaves, white flowers in May. No seeds.	SS6 LH
Eleagnus	Eleagnus	Prevalent at IC but not liked. Deer resistant. Should produce fragrant flowers and berries, but not seen at IC.	TS23
Euryops peclinatus	Golden Shrub Daisy	Rounded plant 3-6 ft. Gray-green foliage. Yellow daisies in spring-summer. Deer resistant.	TS28

Perennials, Ferns, Ornamental Grasses, Bulbs - Native

Botanical Name	Common Name	Habits, characteristics	Ref
<i>Brodiaea</i> species	Brodiaea	Bulbs for natural areas. Sprays of bloom in may.	Su190 LH
<i>Calochortus</i> species	Mariposa tulip, lily	Bulbs for natural areas. Tulip-shaped blooms in May.	Su198 LH
<i>Diplacus</i> hybrids	Monkey Flower	Shrubby perennials. Verity hybrids are attractive April-June. Prune after flowering for rebloom.	P19
<i>Heuchera</i> "Santa Ana Cardinal"	Coral Bells	Clumps 3-4 ft. wide, 2 ft stems of rose red flowers. Tolerates shade.	Su322 LH
<i>Iris</i> spp.	California Native Iris & hybrids	Species and hybrids. Spring blooms in many colors. Naturalize in meadows. Deer resistant.	Su334 P29 P30 LH
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus purdyi</i>	Penstemon Beard Tongue	Perennial forming 1-2 ft. clump. Blue flowers April-July. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	P42 LH
<i>Romneya coulteri</i>	Matilija Poppy	8 ft tall stems with large white flowers. Invasive. Plant in open areas and withhold summer water. Deer resistant.	P43
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i> No longer approved	Cleveland Sage	Rounded shrub to 4 ft. Lavender blue flowers in tall spikes May to Aug. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	P46
<i>Zauschneria californica</i>	California Fuchsia	Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	P60 LH
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Western Sword Fern	Clumping fern w/ arching form. Deer resistant. Prefers shade.	F6
<i>Festuca californica</i>	California Fescue	Fine-leaved bunch grass for natural areas. Deer resistant.	OG1
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> No longer approved		Dense clumps to 3 ft. Evergreen in summer.	OG4
<i>Stipa pulchra</i> No longer approved	Needle Grass, Feather Grass	Bunch grass for natural areas. Deer resistant.	OG6

Perennials, Ferns, Grasses, Bulbs - Non-native

Botanical Name	Common Name	Habits, characteristics	Ref
<i>Achillea filipendulina</i>	Fernleaf Yarrow	Fern-like leaves at base of 3-4 ft stems. Yellow flowers summer. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	P2 LH
<i>Anthemis</i>	Marguerite Daisy	Low to medium perennial, white or yellow daisy-like flowers. Regular water.	Su153 LH
<i>Artemisia</i>	"Powis Castle"	Silver-gray mounding foliage. Doesn't like sprinklers. Deer resistant.	P7
<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> (<i>Alyssum saxatile</i>)	Basket-of-Gold, Perennial Alyssum	Loose cluster of 8-12" foliage. Dense yellow flowers in spring.	P11 LH
<i>Dietes vegeta</i>	Fortnight Lily	Sword-like leaves to 3 ft. White w/ purple/yellow flowers in summer. Deer resistant. Very common at IC.	P20
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Fleabane	Small clumps w/ small white daisies. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds. Planted on median.	P21
<i>Erysimum linifolium</i>	Wallflower	Dependable bloomer. Lavender flowers in spring. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds.	P23 LH
<i>Helleborus</i> spp.	Hellebore, Lenten Rose	Long-lived evergreen with simple rose-shaped flower in winter-spring. Deer resistant. Tolerates shade.	Su97 LH
<i>Hemerocallis</i> species	Daylilies	Soft swordlike leaves, yellow to red blooms over long period. Deer resistant.	P28 LH
<i>Lavandula</i> (many)	English, French, Spanish Lavender	Medium clump to 3 ft. Spanish is largest w/ purple blooms. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	P34
<i>Nepeta faassenii</i>	Catmint	Mounds to 2 ft. Gray-green leaves and shoots of 1/2" lavender-blue flowers in June-July. Deer resistant.	P39
<i>Phlox subulata</i> vars.	Moss Pink	Part shade, rock garden plant. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	Su415 LH

Salvia (many) No longer approved	Autumn Sage, Mexican Sage	Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds. LH recommended S. sonomensis.	P47 P48 LH
Saponaria ocyroides	Soapwort	Low-growing rock garden. Trailing habit. Dark green leaves, pink flowers in spring (like phlox).	Su92 LH
Crocsmia crocosmiliflora	Montbretia	Bulb. Sword-shaped leaves to 3 ft. Multi orange-red flowers on stems in summer. Deer resistant. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds.	B4
Narcissus	Daffodil	Bulbs w/ white, yellow blooms early spring. LH recommended large types.	B7 LH
Watsonia pyramidata	Watsonia	Bulb. 3 ft clump of sword-like leaves. Clusters of rose-pink, red or white flowers in late spring.	B10
Nephrolepis cordifolia	Southern Sword Fern	Common fern at IC. Tolerates shade.	F5
Pennisetum alopecuroides No longer approved	Fountain Grass	3-4 ft with tiny pink-white flowers on tall stems. Var orientale is pink. Planted in median strip.	OG5

Implications:

- Annual operational and reserve budgets for landscaping must be provided, with categories for the major expenses projected.
- Purchase of plant materials and contracting for maintenance services must meet landscape guidelines at a highly competitive price.
- Vendors of landscape services must be well managed to ensure that we receive all benefits contracted for.