

# DESIGN ELEMENTS



## PARKING STRIP OPTION #2

### SAN DIEGO NATIVE

Here is a second option for parking strips, those difficult to maintain areas between the sidewalk and the street. When replacing grass, or other non-native solutions, smaller *Ceanothus*, *Erigeron* and a few other plants can create an attractive, wildlife-friendly way station.

Using mulch of decomposed granite makes for a stylish look and adding in a few larger boulders adds architectural interest.

Since San Diego is one of the most diverse ecosystems in the United States, it is a treat to use our most characteristic plants to create an oasis at the curb. And because these plants are so water-thrifty, you can plant long sections of these plants without worry.

One trick to planting parking strips is to ensure that the plants do not outgrow their narrow beds. Notice the selections here - all are compact in habit. If using substitutions, remember to look for smaller varieties.

The diagram above represents an area of three-and-a-half feet wide by fifteen feet long. This approximates a typical parking strip in a suburban landscape. Adjust to your particular needs and increase or decrease plant materials accordingly.



## CNPS Gardening Committee

California Native Plant Society - San Diego Chapter  
c/o San Diego Natural History Museum - P.O. Box 121390,  
San Diego, CA 92112-1390 - [gardening@cnpsd.org](mailto:gardening@cnpsd.org)

## PLANT TEMPLATE

- A) *Ceanothus*  
'Heart's Desire' (1) 3'x5'
- B) *Baccharis*  
'Pigeon Point' (3) 2'x2'
- C) *Leymus*  
'Canyon Prince' (2) 3'x4'
- D) *Erigeron*  
'Wayne Roderick' (7) 6"x1'

Note: If you don't like grasses, substitute *Artemisia Montara* for the *Leymus*.

## MULCH AND ROCKS

- Mojave Gold Decomposed Granite
- Palm Springs Gold Boulders

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

### WATER:

Year 1: 1x/week 7-10 minutes

Years 2+: 1x/1-2 weeks 7-10 minutes

Dead head flowering perennials and trim back

This is the second in a series of options for parking strips. We will occasionally provide fresh ideas and plant lists, as well as tips on maintenance. All of these options are part of our "Design Elements" series.

Thanks to Morgan Vondrak and Greg Rubin for their ideas and botanical knowledge in the preparation of this brochure.