

A vertical photograph of a dirt path winding through a dense oak woodland. The path is dappled with sunlight and shadows from the trees. In the distance, a person is walking away from the camera. The text 'You can HELP!' is overlaid on the top half of the image.

*You can*  
**HELP!**

**Plant in harmony with the  
Montclair Railroad Trail,  
our oak woodland oasis**

**Let's work together** to create and restore a natural environment that improves wildfire safety along the Montclair Railroad Trail.

**Hillside homeowners can help to protect and expand our fire-resistant, woodland trail environs.**

Residential landscaping impacts the trail, both positively and negatively.

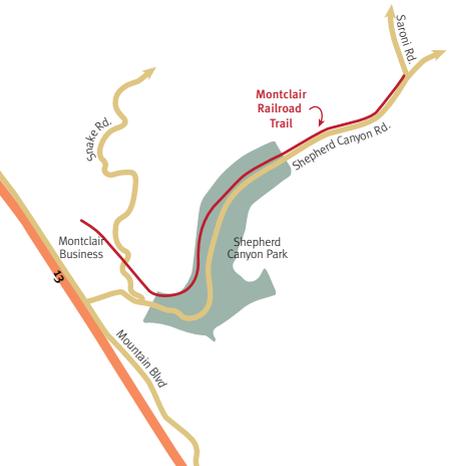
**How can you help if you live nearby?**

- Include native, non-invasive species in your landscaping
- Clear the area around your property borders of non-native plant invaders to reduce fuel load.
- Replace with slower-growing natives or other non-flammable plants.

**Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail** volunteers are actively involved in the maintenance, preservation and enhancement of the wild and natural character of the 1.6-mile trail built upon the rail bed of the historic Sacramento Northern Railway. As an Oakland city park, it is part of the Shepherd Canyon and the greater Sausal Creek watershed and provides access to and from Montclair Village and the residential neighborhoods of Shepherd Canyon and Montclair.

We are working toward several complementary goals.

- Restoring the trail's unique oak woodland plant environment
- Preventing runoff and erosion.
- Improving fire safety



Use this brochure as a starting point for creating your own landscaping ideas.

**Plants to Consider...**

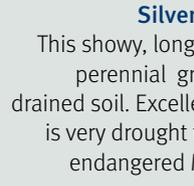
The Montclair Railroad Trail is home to many native species, some of which are quite spectacular if given the space to thrive. These plants, found along the trail, can also be attractive in your landscaped yard.

**The Natives**

☀ Full sun   ☀ Partial sun   ☁ Shade   🦌 Deer resistant



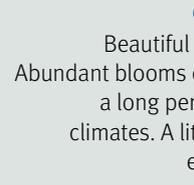
**Sticky Monkey Flower**<sup>1</sup> ☀☀  
A perennial, small shrub that grows well in many types of soil. Attracts butterflies and is pollinated by bees and hummingbirds. Used by Native Americans to promote healing of scrapes and burns.



**Silver Bush Lupine**<sup>7</sup> ☀☀☁  
This showy, long-blooming, 3 to 4-foot perennial grows well in lean, well-drained soil. Excellent for rock gardens, it is very drought tolerant and hosts the endangered Mission Blue butterfly.



**Ocean Spray or Cream Bush**<sup>9</sup> ☀☀☁🦌  
This butterfly and bee attractor produces many fragrant 5-inch flower clusters May–June. Can grow up to 8 feet tall. Flowers and seeds are both edible.



**California Poppy**<sup>1</sup> ☀  
Beautiful lacy blue-gray foliage. Abundant blooms of golden flowers over a long period, especially in mild climates. A little summer water can extend their blooming.



**California Honeysuckle**<sup>1</sup> ☀☀☁🦌  
This semi-evergreen, 3-foot shrub can grow to 20 feet high by twining. Grows well in moist and dry soils. May–June, the flowers attract hummingbirds; in the fall, the red berries attract birds.



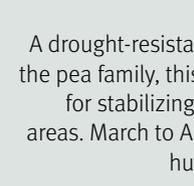
**California Blue-Eyed Grass**<sup>2</sup> ☀☀☁  
Small clumps of grass-like foliage support 1/2-inch spring blossoms ranging from blue to purple to an occasional white. In dry gardens, it goes dormant in the summer. OK in heavy soils.



**Phacelia**<sup>3</sup> ☀  
Bees and butterflies are attracted to the large coils of lavender flowers of this perennial. Grows about a foot tall with clumps of crinkly gray leaves. Needs good drainage. Great for rock gardens.



**California Fuchsia**<sup>3</sup> ☀☀☁🦌  
The red, late summer-to-fall blooms of this 30-inch native are highly attractive to hummingbirds. It spreads by roots and tolerates poor drainage.



**Deerweed**<sup>6</sup> ☀☀☀  
A drought-resistant, 3 to 4-foot shrub in the pea family, this perennial is excellent for stabilizing or restoring disturbed areas. March to August blooms. Attracts hummingbirds and bees.



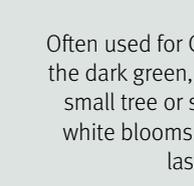
**Foothill Sedge**<sup>4</sup> ☀☀☁🦌  
An adaptable ground-cover grass – its gracefully arching, narrow green foliage is great in borders, mass plantings and as ground cover. Valuable asset in plantings that go in and out of full sun.



**Needlegrass**<sup>3</sup> ☀☀☁🦌  
Clumps of grassy foliage with 1 to 2-feet tall, graceful drooping seed clusters. Grows well in our oak woodlands.



**California Bigleaf Maple**<sup>5</sup> ☀☀☁🦌  
A fast-growing, large, round-topped tree with smooth silver-gray bark and large dark green, lobed leaves. Grows to 30 feet or more. Beautiful fall color. Birds are attracted to the seeds and flowers.



**Toyon**<sup>1</sup> ☀☀☁  
Often used for Christmas decorations, the dark green, leathery leaves of this small tree or shrub offset abundant, white blooms that mature into long-lasting bright red berries.



**Blue Elderberry**<sup>8</sup> ☀☀☁🦌  
Called by Native Americans the “tree of music” as they made flutes from its branches. Creamy yellow floral clusters yield blue berries – tasty for over 43 bird species. Fast-growing, deciduous shrub or small tree 8 to 25 feet tall.



**Coastal Wood Fern**<sup>1</sup> ☀☁🦌  
A bright-green, lacey evergreen fern. It grows especially well as an understory plant in the shade of our oak woodlands. Needs moist soil but tolerates clay.



**Western Sword Fern**<sup>1</sup> ☁🦌  
This versatile fern does well in shady beds, along walls, as large scale ground-cover and in mixed woodland plantings. Best with humusy soil and regular water, but drought tolerant once established.

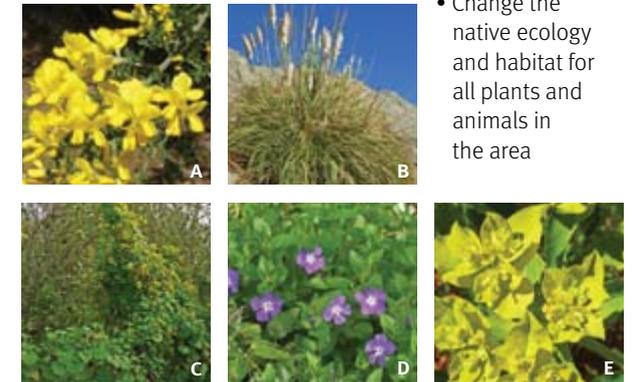
**...and Avoid (even if natives aren't your style)**

**The Big Invaders**

- A** Brooms (Scotch, French, Spanish and Portugese)<sup>1</sup>
- B** Pampas Grass<sup>1</sup>
- C** Ivy (English, Algerian, Cape)<sup>1</sup>
- D** Periwinkle (*Vinca*)<sup>1</sup>
- E** Spurge (*Euphorbia*)<sup>1</sup>

These non-native plants are escapees from landscaped yards or were introduced by early European settlers. The Oakland Fire Department considers them a serious fire hazard. They share these characteristics.

- Spread quickly and easily, opportunistically overtaking native plant communities.
- Create fire hazards, indirectly and directly. Less flammable local natives cannot grow or are smothered, creating woody, resinous dense stands or dry, dead flammable underbrush.



- Change the native ecology and habitat for all plants and animals in the area

Photo credits  
<sup>1</sup>©2007 – 2009 Neal Kramer  
<sup>2</sup>©2002 George Jackson

<sup>3</sup>Gary A. Monroe @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS database  
<sup>4</sup>J. S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS database

<sup>5</sup>©2008 Keir Morse  
<sup>6</sup>©2006 Steve Matson  
<sup>7</sup>©2011 Dylan Neubauer

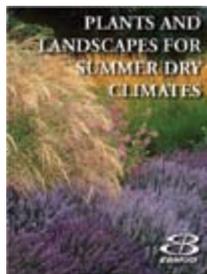
<sup>8</sup>Susan McDougall @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database  
<sup>9</sup>2007 Matt Below

## Shopping List

Instead of...	Select...		
<b>Grasses</b>			
Pampas grass	California fescue	Melic grass	Reed grass
Green fountain grass	Golden yarrow	Purple needle grass	Sedge ( <i>Carex</i> )
Jubata grass			
<b>Shrubs</b>			
Broom	Blue elderberry	Douglas iris	<i>Salvia</i>
Cotoneaster	California lilac ( <i>Ceanothus</i> )	Flannel bush	Silver bush lupine
<i>Euphorbia</i> (Spurge)	California sagebrush	<i>Ribes</i>	Snowberry
Hopseed bush	Clarkia	Manzanita ( <i>Arctostaphylos</i> )	Sticky monkey flower
	Coffeeberry	Ocean spray	Toyon
	Deerweed	Phacelia	
<b>Ground Covers &amp; Vines</b>			
Periwinkle	California blue-eyed grass	California fuchsia	Coast strawberry
Ivy	California yellow-eyed grass	California honeysuckle	Coral bells ( <i>Heuchera</i> )
Juniper	California buckwheat	California poppy	<i>Dudleya</i>
	California buttercup	Coast purple sage	Manzanita ( <i>Arctostaphylos</i> )
<b>Ferns</b>			
	Bracken fern	Western sword fern	Wood fern
	Giant chain fern		
<b>Trees</b>			
<i>Acacia</i>	Arroyo willow	Coast live oak	Western redbud
Cotoneaster	Box elder	Coast silk tassel	Toyon
Monterey pine	California bigleaf maple	Madrone	
Monterey cypress			
Blue gum eucalyptus			

*Italic indicates species names, which may contain different varieties*

## Books for Reference and Information



### Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates

Published by EBMUD

A beautiful full-color book filled with charts, photos and plant information specific to gardens in the San Francisco Bay Area.



### Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens

by Glenn Keator and Alrie Middlebrook  
Landscape design ideas built around California's twelve unique plant communities, e.g., oak woodland and redwood forest. Includes plant lists with color photos, and garden designs.

### Compatible Plants Under & Around Oaks

by Bruce W. Hagen, Barrie Coate and Keith Oldham  
Published by California Oak Foundation

A free, downloadable 2007 electronic edition (PDF format) available at [californiaoaks.org](http://californiaoaks.org)

## Resources and Other Ways to Help

### Websites

#### [MontclairRRTrail.org](http://MontclairRRTrail.org)

Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail website has links to:

Native plant information – other websites, photos and plant ideas

Local native-plant sources – nurseries, organizations and sales

#### [SausalCreek.org](http://SausalCreek.org)

Friends of Sausal Creek website has information about ways to protect the watershed environment and to improve the quality of local creeks.

#### [www.cnplx.info](http://www.cnplx.info)

The California Plant Exchange's website will help you select local native plants for any location in the state and find out who sells them. For each plant that grows wild in California, there is a plant information page.

#### [oaklandnet.com/wildfirePrevention/plants.asp](http://oaklandnet.com/wildfirePrevention/plants.asp)

This is a link to the City of Oakland Wildfire Prevention Department's list of fire-wise and not-so-fire-wise plants.

#### [oaklandcreeks.org](http://oaklandcreeks.org)

The City of Oakland's Public Works Agency has programs to protect watershed areas, including heavily discounted rain barrels for preventing excessive water run-off.

### Volunteering

**Join** Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail volunteers for trail maintenance and planting work parties every third Saturday, rain or shine, 9-11 a.m.

**Provide** other talents and time with the Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail.

**Earn** plants for The Railroad Trail by volunteering at the Friends of Sausal Creek's Native Plant Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park. [sausalcreek.org/volunteer/nursery.html](http://sausalcreek.org/volunteer/nursery.html)

## Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail

Oakland, California

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[MontclairRRTrail.org](http://MontclairRRTrail.org)