

The Making of Granada Native Gardens

Funding for Granada Native Gardens was contributed by the
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
and General Electric and sponsored by Friends of the Arroyos

Louann Tung

April 2005

BEFORE: Oct, 2003, the Livermore school district just sprayed herbicide on this 1/3 acre vacant lot



Chipped tree material that would have gone to the dump was used as mulch.



Starting in Oct. 2003, 15 volunteers working 6 hrs on 8 Saturdays spread the mulch (720 hours!)



Alrie Middlebrook (designer) and Paul Santucci (dirt sculptor extraordinaire) discuss the grading plan



After the rains had slowed, Rhodes and Jamieson donated dirt to build the berm on March 14, 2004



Doug Graver learned on the job bobcat training to build the dry creek bed from rocks donated by a Saratoga homeowner



Hardscape design crew of Patti, Keith, Margot, Spencer and Barry on March 27, 2004



Dry creekbed, paths and picnic area finished.
Gravel donated by RMC Pacific Materials and
Rhodes and Jamieson



Another bobcat driver (the author) in training



Planting day April 3-4, 2004 with 20 volunteers



Two of the 3 outdoor panels completed and installed April 8, 2004



Pedestals of the picnic table were built of recycled concrete “urbanite” used like bricks



Troup 919 built the tables and benches for an Eagle scout project lead by Trent Egbert



Forms were built on site for the concrete table tops that were 5 ft in diameter



Rudie from Middlebrook Gardens instructed the scouts on how to do the work



Lots of rebar was added to make the 4 " thick tables



By April 24, 2004, three tables and some of the benches are finished using 15 volunteers over two days



Christina from Middlebrook Gardens instructs how to put mosaics on the tables: first break and glue tile pieces (from donated pool tiles)



Meanwhile the big guys finish the two berm benches made of free urbanite and donated flagstone



Burrowing owl table is taking shape showing the sun, Livermore hills, poppies and owl and burrow (tables designed by Alrie Middlebrook)



Even the kids helped with grouting the owl table



Finished owl closeup



Burrowing owl table finished May 8th. The three table mosaics represent species that were once prolific but are now threatened in our area



Tiles for the steelhead trout table are glued in place



By May 16th the steelhead trout are jumping in the night sky



Two sisters glue the frog table



Maren, Rick and Christina finish gluing the table



Frog table is grouted on May 22, 2004



Three-year old Marcus admires the frog table (note marker flags and new plants in background)



Spencer, Patti, Keith and Margot lay pipe to improve water pressure at the north end. To hand water we unrolled 200 ft of fire hose and 600 ft of garden hose each week.



August 2004 view of the Granada Native Gardens



Hummingbird fuschia and deer grass August 2004



Hummingbird fuschia
Epilobium canum 'Everett's Choice'



The grasses are filling in the meadow



Aug. 12, 2004



April 18, 2005

Before and after with view looking south –
Murrieta Blvd on left and bike path on right



Dec. 5, 2002



April 18, 2005

After weekly watering was over in 2004, we have had monthly maintenance work parties and always need more volunteers!

This year we will water every other week then maybe once the next few summers



GE ELFUN volunteers

Please contact Louann at 925-455-8823 or Istung@pacbell.net to volunteer



Friends of the Arroyos



Granada High students