



Long Beach  
Water Department  
**Parkway  
Program**



**Long Beach Water**  
Exceptional Water • Exceptional Service

# Long Beach Water Department Parkway Program

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1**      **Getting Started**
  - ☞ Benefits of your native plant parkway
  - ☞ How to participate
  
- 2-5**    **Parkway Designs**
  - ☞ Understanding your design
  - ☞ Choosing your design
  
- 6-8**    **Site Prep**
  - ☞ Turf removal
  - ☞ Soil
  - ☞ Irrigation
  
- 9**      **Picking up Your Plants**
  
- 10-11**   **Installation**
  - ☞ Stepping stones
  - ☞ Planting
  - ☞ Mulch
  
- 12-13**   **Long-term Care**
  - ☞ Watering
  - ☞ Mulch
  - ☞ Pruning
  - ☞ Pests



# GETTING STARTED

Thank you for your interest in the Long Beach Water Department Parkway Program (LBWD). By participating, you'll create a home parkway that is not only beautiful but supports pollinators and helps the environment. It's a fun, easy way to make a difference in your neighborhood!

Apply at [lbwater.org/parkway](http://lbwater.org/parkway) or call 562-570-2455.



A blue-eyed grass flower (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) attracts an important pollinator, a flower fly in the family *Syrphidae*.  
Photo: Kris Ethington



California native iris will add color and interest to your parkway.  
Photo: Jim Wadsworth

## The Benefits of Native Plants

Plants selected for the Parkway Program are California native plants, carefully chosen by the California Native Plant Society. These plants are uniquely adapted to thrive in our Long Beach climate and offer the following benefits:

- Support for pollinators and wildlife**  
Our western monarch butterfly and bird populations are endangered, due in part to habitat loss. These native plants can help. In fact, local insects and birds need native plants for their survival.
- Water conservation**  
Once established, many California native plants require little irrigation beyond normal rainfall. Saving water conserves a vital, limited resource and saves you money!
- More time for you**  
While no landscape is maintenance free, California native plants require significantly less time and resources than traditional turf-dominated landscapes.
- Reduced run-off and pollution**  
With native plants, you can skip the harmful pesticides and insecticides. Native plants have developed their own defenses against many pests and diseases.
- A sense of place**  
Create a landscape that celebrates the beauty of California, and allows you the opportunity to connect with nature in your very own yard.

## How to Participate



**1 Apply**  
at [lbwater.org/parkway](http://lbwater.org/parkway) to receive your Parkway Kit Guidebook and plan a pre-inspection with LBWD.



**2 Choose**  
from one of the five parkway designs in this guide.



**3 Prep your site**  
by removing your turf and adjusting irrigation as needed.



**4 Notify LBWD**  
once you have chosen a plan and removed your turf. LBWD will schedule your mulch and pavers delivery.



**5 Pick up your Parkway Kit**  
at participating nurseries once LBWD has notified you that your plants are ready.



**6 Install your Parkway Kit**  
and notify LBWD to arrange for a final inspection.



**7 Display your free Native Plants Live Here sign**  
in your parkway to help spread the word.

# PARKWAY DESIGNS

## Understanding Your Design

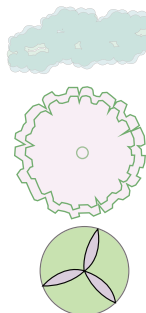
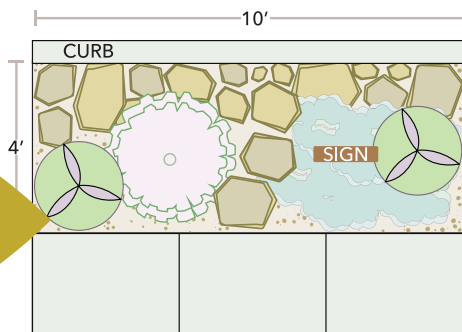
Following a landscape design plan will help you create a beautiful landscape that is appropriate in scale and spacing for your parkway. The five designs in this guidebook are presented in *plan view* ( or bird's-eye view) to help you see how to place your plants. All the designs include an 18" step out area along the entire curbside of the parkway and a path through the parkway every 6', as required by the City of Long Beach. Each plan is designed for a 10' long by 4' wide space. The number of plants and materials you receive will be based on the total square footage of your parkway. If your parkway strip is longer than 10', you will receive multiples of the plan to fit the entire length of your parkway. Other features in these designs include stepping stones for the step-out area and path, mulch, and a "Native Plants Live Here" sign that you will receive when your parkway is completed.

**Keep in mind** that the plant symbols are drawn at the mature growth size of each plant. This will ensure that your parkway does not get over-planted. You will receive young plants so your parkway may look sparse when first planted. However, the plants will grow and fill in the spaces as these designs show.

## Choosing Your Design

Each of the five design plans feature an artful mix of low-growing groundcovers and shrubs with varying textures and colors for year-round interest. Review the plants in the design plans. Then, choose the plan that best suits your aesthetic preference and landscape needs.

Plan 1



Canyon Gray sagebrush / *Artemisia californica* 'Canyon Gray'  
Quantity: 1

Seaside daisy / *Erigeron glaucus*  
Quantity: 1

Ashyleaf buckwheat / *Eriogonum cinereum*  
Quantity: 2



Photo: Pete Veilleux

**Canyon Gray sagebrush** (*Artemisia californica* 'Canyon Gray') is a low-growing groundcover that forms an attractive, compact mat of fine-textured, silver-gray foliage. While its flowers are fairly inconspicuous, its foliage has a lovely aroma.

Approx. Size: 1-8' tall x 4' wide



Photo: Jeff Silva

**Seaside daisy** (*Erigeron glaucus*) is a perennial flower that blooms nearly year-round. Lavender petals surround a golden yellow disc of florets, and stems can have anywhere from 1 to 15 flower heads. Low-growing and evergreen, this daisy also attracts butterflies.

Approx. Size: 0.16' tall x 2' wide

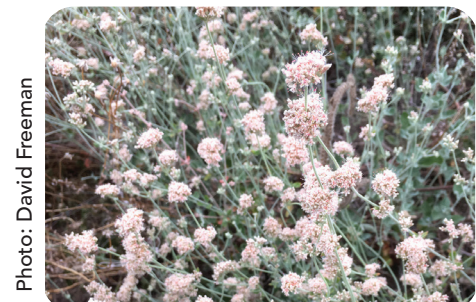
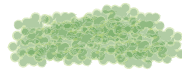
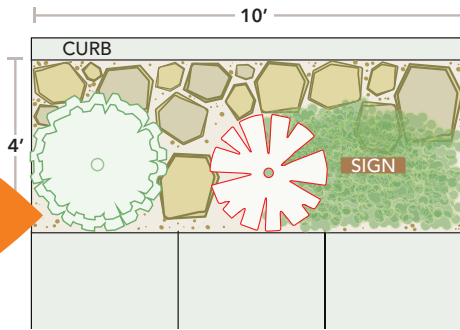


Photo: David Freeman

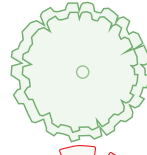
**Ashyleaf buckwheat** (*Eriogonum cinereum*) is an evergreen shrub native to the Long Beach area. It's an important habitat plant that supports many types of butterflies, moths, birds, and bees. The woolly hairs on its stems and foliage give it a light, silvery gray color. Light pink flower clusters stick out from the plant and bloom nearly year round, turning rust-colored in the fall.

Approx. Size: 2-4' tall x 3-5' wide

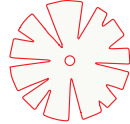
## Plan 2



Pigeon Point coyote brush / *Baccharis pilularis* spp. *pilularis* 'Pigeon Point'  
Quantity: 1



Sea cliff buckwheat / *Eriogonum parvifolium*  
Quantity: 1



California fuchsia / *Epilobium canum*  
Quantity: 1

Photo: Saxon Holt



**Pigeon Point coyote brush** (*Baccharis pilularis* spp. *pilularis* 'Pigeon Point') is a hardy, evergreen groundcover that forms a mound of bright green leaves. It can tolerate both coastal conditions and inland heat but may need occasional summer water in inland locations. Since this is a male selection, it does not produce seed.

Approx. Size: 1.5-10' tall x 12' wide

Photo: Ann Dalkey



**Sea cliff buckwheat** (*Eriogonum parvifolium*) is an important host plant for a number of pollinating insects, including certain endangered species, and the El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides ailyni*). Easy, fast-growing, drought-tolerant, and beautiful, this stunning buckwheat offers both habitat and beauty.

Approx. Size: 1-3.3' tall x 2-3' wide

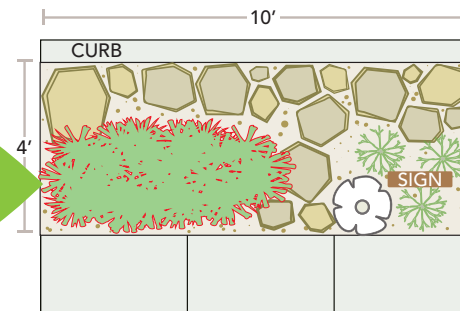
Photo: Calscape.org



**California fuchsia** (*Epilobium canum*) is a perennial known for its profusion of bright scarlet flowers in the summer and autumn - usually the only plant flowering at the height of summer. It's a magnet for hummingbirds and other wildlife. In hotter inland areas, water it once a month in the summer. Prune back after flowering, and it will come back lush and healthy in the spring.

Approx. Size: 0.5-1.5' tall x 2-3' wide

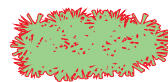
## Plan 3



Yarrow / *Achillea millefolium*  
Quantity: 1



Idaho fescue / *Festuca idahoensis*  
Quantity: 3



Firecracker showy island snapdragon / *Gambelia* 'Firecracker'  
Quantity: 1

Photo: Jim Brugger



**Yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*) is an evergreen perennial groundcover with clumps of small white or yellow flowers. The flowers bloom in the spring and summer, clustering together to create landing pads for native butterflies, moths, and insects.

Approx. Size: 1-3' tall x 0.5-1.5' wide

Photo: Stickpen\*



**Idaho fescue** (*Festuca idahoensis*) is a densely-clumping, long-lived perennial grass. Flower clusters bloom in the summer and have hairy spikelets which produce bristly, inedible fruits. Tomales Bay Idaho fescue is a blue-green, smaller selection with soft foliage and smaller blooms.

Approx. Size: 1-2.6' tall x 0.5' wide

\*Wikimedia Commons

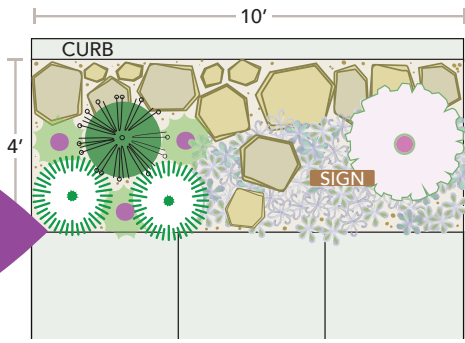
Photo: Stickpen\*



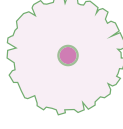
**Firecracker showy island snapdragon** (*Gambelia speciosa* 'Firecracker') boasts bright red flowers and a compact habit. Hummingbirds love this evergreen perennial that grows fast and has a long bloom.

Approx. Size: 3-4' tall x 4-6' wide

# Plan 4



Clustered field sedge / *Carex praegracilis* or  
Sand dune sedge / *Carex pansa*  
Quantity: 2



Red buckwheat / *Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*  
Quantity: 1



Common rush / *Juncus patens*  
Quantity: 1



Point Sal sage / *Salvia leucophylla* 'Point Sal' or  
Silver Carpet aster / *Corethrogyne filaginifolia* 'Silver Carpet'  
Quantity: 1



Blue eyed grass / *Sisyrinchium bellum*  
Quantity: 3

Photo: Stickpen\*



**Clustered field sedge** (*Carex praegracilis*) is an evergreen grass that has an upright, mounding form. It spreads by rhizomes, has a soft texture, and produces flower clusters in the spring.

Approx. Size: 2-3.5' tall x 3.5' wide

Photo: Stickpen\*



**Sand dune sedge** (*Carex pansa*) is an evergreen grass that prefers a sandy soil and grows from a network of thin, coarse rhizomes. Flowers are made up of clusters of several spikes of dark brown flowers.

Approx. Size: 0.7-1.3' tall x 1-2' wide

Photo: Calscape.org



**Red buckwheat** (*Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*) is a matt-forming, evergreen perennial that produces flower stalks with clusters of white, pink, or red flowers. It has a long bloom time through the spring, summer, and fall, making it a favorite among pollinators, especially butterflies.

Approx. Size: 0.7-1.5' tall x 3' wide

Photo: Kristen Wernick



**Common rush** (*Juncus patens*) is a grass-like plant that is tough and easy to grow. It can tolerate both wet and dry conditions, and produces red-brown flower clusters that sprout from the sides of the stems rather than the tips.

Approx. Size: 1-3' tall x 3' wide

Photo: David Freeman



**Point Sal sage** (*Salvia leucophylla* 'Point Sal') is a low-growing groundcover with grayish-green leaves that needs little water and maintenance. Lavender-pink flower stalks attract butterflies and hummingbirds. It can be pruned in late fall to produce a good flush in the spring.

Approx. Size: 1-2' tall x 6-8' wide

Photo: Stickpen\*



**Silver Carpet aster** (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia* 'Silver Carpet') is low-growing and compact with a mounding form, beautiful silver foliage, and pink flowers that last from summer through fall. Keep lightly pruned for best appearance.

Approx. Size: 0.5-1' tall x 3-4' wide

Photo: Calscape.org



**Blue-eyed grass** (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) is an easy-to-grow perennial that reseeds easily, and will help fill in spaces. Its blue-purple flowers bloom in the winter and spring, and provide a pop of color in any landscape. A little extra water in the summer will help this plant look good year round.

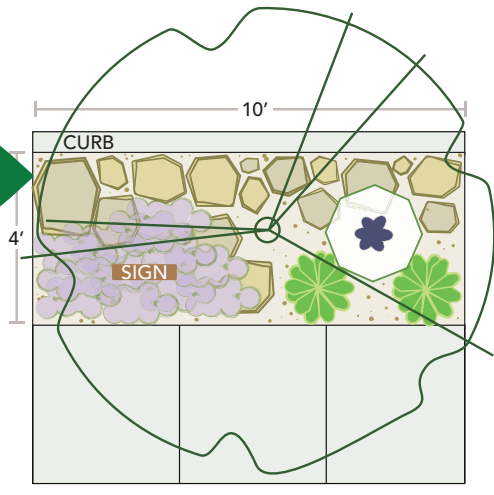
Approx. Size: 1-2' tall x 3' wide

\*Wikimedia Commons

**Right:** California lilac, *Ceanothus* spp.  
Photo: Jeff Silva

# Plan 5

Recommended for parkways with trees.



Yankee Point Carmel ceanothus / *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* var. *griseus* 'Yankee Point'  
Quantity: 1



Island alum root / *Heuchera maxima*  
Quantity: 2



Douglas iris / *Iris douglasiana*  
Quantity: 1



Existing Tree

## Existing Tree or Part/Full Shade

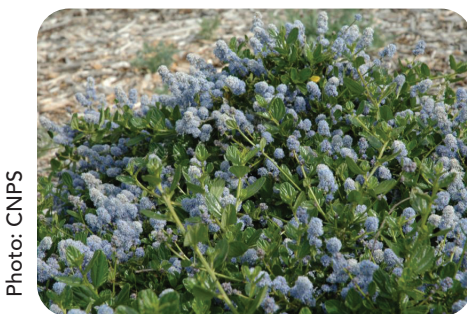


Photo: CNIPS

**Yankee Point Carmel ceanothus** (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* var. *griseus* 'Yankee Point') is an evergreen, spreading groundcover that forms a mound with glossy green leaves. It produces one-inch-long blue flowers the spring and attracts pollinators.  
Approx. Size: 3-15' tall x 4-15' wide



Photo: Calscape.org

**Island alum root** (*Heuchera maxima*) is an evergreen perennial. It has large, multi-lobed green leaves and erect flower stalks with many clusters of tiny pink flowers that bloom in the winter and spring. They are loved by hummingbirds.  
Approx. Size: 1-2' tall x 2' wide



Photo: CNIPS

**Douglas iris** (*Iris douglasiana*) is a perennial herb with a grass-like appearance and beautiful flowers that bloom in the winter and spring. Flowers are typically blue-purple, but the color can be highly variable and many cultivars are available.  
Approx. Size: 0.6-2.6' tall x 2-4' wide



# SITE PREP

## Turf removal

Removing your lawn correctly is a critical step to creating a beautiful and sustainable native plant parkway. There are many effective ways to remove turf, but choosing the proper method for your site will depend on a close analysis of what type of turfgrass you have. In Long Beach, you're most likely to find a mix of perennial grasses and the inevitable presence of different weed species. The best way to identify what you will be working with (or against) is to dig out a sample and take it to a landscape professional to help ID your sample. In addition, visit [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com) to learn more and find resources to help you identify the type of grass in your parkway.



Before you begin to prep your parkway, you should know where any utility or irrigation lines are located. Call **DigAlert at 8-1-1** or go to [digalert.org](http://digalert.org) to place a ticket for utility members to mark their facilities.

In general, cool seasons grasses, such as fescue and bluegrass, are easier to remove. Warm season grass, such as Bermuda and St. Augustine grass, are particularly difficult to eliminate as they have extensive root systems. The presence or absence of these will help determine which of the following methods or combination will work best. Finally, be sure to factor in the time and labor involved in each of these methods, and consider hiring a professional if necessary.



## Sheet Mulching



Cardboard, newspaper, or builder's paper can be used as a weed barrier. Remember to wet it down as you go so that it stays in place. Photo: Kristen Wernick

Sheet mulching has many advantages and is a sustainable approach to removing your lawn. This method minimizes weeds, improves soil structure, increases plant health, eliminates gas emissions, and produces zero green waste by utilizing a layering system. Layers of organic weed barrier (such as cardboard), compost (optional), and a 4"-thick layer of mulch will create a barrier that kills grass, prohibits weeds, and fortifies your existing soil - all without having to haul material off to the landfill. It can be done any time of the year, but is best to do when the lawn is actively growing. You'll typically need to leave the sheet mulch in place for at least 1-3 months for cool season grasses, and 3-8 months for warm season grasses.



**Pros:** Simple and effective. Minimizes weeds, improves soil structure, increases plant health, no gas emissions, and no hauling of green waste. Can be done anytime of the year.




**Cons:** Requires advance planning and takes time.



## Sod Removal


If you plan to remove a large area of sod, you may be able to rent a mechanical sod cutter at a local tool supply house. It requires some strength and control to run, and you may want to hire a professional if your turf area is large enough to warrant its use. If you want to do the job yourself, each motorized cutter comes with its own operation manual that contains specific directions for using that machine. So, always read those directions before you begin and exercise caution and safety when operating.


 **Pros:** Clean and easy

 **Cons:** Uses mechanical petrochemical-based engines. Cut sod and soil will need to be disposed of. May disturb soil and remove important top soil and biology. Not effective for warm season grasses such as Bermuda.

## Solarization

Solarization involves heating the soil by covering it with a clear plastic tarp for four to six weeks during a hot period of the year. The plastic sheets allow the sun's radiant energy to be trapped in the soil, heating the top 12 to 18 inches and killing a wide range of soilborne pests, such as weeds, pathogens, nematodes, and insects.

 **Pros:** Relatively quick and effective. Sterilizes top 1 - 1 ½" of soil, so several years of weed seed bank are destroyed.

 **Cons:** Kills beneficial soil life and doesn't work well in cool climates. It needs direct sunlight in order to raise temperature and requires several months of a plastic-covered yard. Not effective at eliminating burr clover, vetch, sweet clover, nut sedges, Bermuda grass, or bindweed.

Whichever method of turf removal you choose, also **be sure to remove the top 2" of soil.** This allows space for the added layer of mulch and stepping stones to be level with the sidewalk.



## Irrigation

Native plants have adapted to California's unique Mediterranean climate, characterized by hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. That means native plants like to receive the majority of their water in the winter months and require less in the summer months. Once established, native plants need little supplemental irrigation beyond normal rainfall. Keep these adaptations in mind as you consider watering your native plant parkway. Essentially, you want to mimic Mother Nature for your parkway.

Before considering irrigation options, first observe your parkway to see what type of irrigation system you have, if any. Turn the system on to check its condition. You may need to plan for some repairs or changes to your system depending on which watering approach you decide to use.

You'll want to consider the amount of foot traffic and activity your parkway will encounter.

For example, do you see yourself checking on your parkway and observing the plants on a weekly basis? Is your neighborhood a high traffic area where people park alongside parkways and pass through these landscapes on daily basis? These are important factors to keep in mind as you decide which irrigation approach is best for you and your parkway.



California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) is a hummingbird favorite. Photo: Stephen Rosenthal

Photo: CNPS



## Irrigation

### Hand Watering

If you enjoy a hands-on approach to gardening, we recommend hand watering with a soft rain nozzle. This will allow you to enjoy time outdoors, observe the health of the plants on a regular basis, and apply water based on the plants' observable needs. Hand watering the irrigation berms of each plant is especially helpful during first month after planting, as it helps ensure that water is reaching the root zone of the plant.

Photo: CNPS



### Overhead Spray

If "set it and forget it" is your motto, consider an irrigation system to water your parkway. Overhead spray is great for native plants, because it mimics the pattern of rainfall and encourages deep, widespread roots. Be sure to use high-efficiency nozzles to maximize your water savings and minimize runoff. Updating your spray heads with high efficiency nozzles is as easy as screwing off the old nozzle, and screwing on the new nozzle. Tip: Be sure to get nozzles that spray appropriate ranges for your parkway size.

Photo: Tish Berge



### Micro-Spray

Another option is micro-spray. This approach minimizes runoff and overspray, while still mimicking natural rainfall. Micro-spray may not be the best option, however, if you or your neighbors have to travel through your parkway on a regular basis. Be careful to keep tubing away from high traffic areas to avoid tripping and damage.

Photo: Ron Vanderhoff



### Drip Irrigation

Finally, drip irrigation can be used to water your parkway. Drip irrigation does help to reduce runoff and only water where needed. However, it doesn't mimic natural rainfall for the plant roots. It also must be moved away from the crown of the plant as the plant grows larger to encourage wide spread, deep roots. Last, drip systems can pose a tripping hazard in a high traffic area and be easily damaged. Once covered by mulch, it can be hard to see this damage or other problems. If used, be sure to secure the drip line down with garden staples and take a picture of where you laid the line down before covering with mulch.

Check the LBWD watering schedule at [lbwater.org/save-water/water-use-restrictions](http://lbwater.org/save-water/water-use-restrictions).



Learn more about converting your irrigation system at [lbwater.org/parkway](http://lbwater.org/parkway)



# PICKING UP YOUR PLANTS

Before you pick up your plants, consider the weather forecast. The best time to plant California natives is in the fall or winter when temperatures are cool and rain is in the forecast. Plan your project accordingly, preferably on a cool, overcast morning, and if possible, before a rain event. Pick up your plants as close to your planned planting day as possible.

LBWD will notify you when your plants are ready for pick up. Your notification letter will include which of the two participating nurseries you were assigned to and instructions on how to pick up your plants.

## Ricardo's Nursery

6850 Atlantic Ave, Long Beach, CA 90805

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 7:00am - 5:00pm,  
Sun. 9:00am - 5:00pm

Phone: (562) 428-7252

## Garibaldo's Nursery

8834 Rose St., Bellflower, CA 90706

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30am - 4:00pm,  
Sat. 7:30am - 12:00pm, Sun. Closed

Phone: (562) 630-6240



## The best time to plant

California natives is in the fall or winter when temperatures are cool and rain is in the forecast.



El Segundo blue butterfly on its host plant sea cliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*). Photo: Ann Dalkey

## At the Nursery

1. Find the native plant Parkway Program section.
2. Let the nursery staff know you're here to pick up your Parkway Program plant kit.
3. Refer to your design plan in your Guidebook to make sure you have the correct plants

## Step-by-Step Guide to Picking Up Your Plants



Temperatures are cool and rain is in the forecast



Date is close to your planned planting day



Check for your assigned nursery



Bring your Parkway Kit Voucher letter & Guidebook



Find native plant Parkway Program section at the nursery




Refer to design plan to be sure you have correct plants



Sign your voucher at the nursery to receive your free plants

# INSTALLATION

Now it's time to do the fun part – installing your parkway kit! Any major repairs to your irrigation system should be complete. You will receive your mulch and stepping stones in the same delivery, and you will need to pick up your plants separately. The following is a guideline for how to install everything at once, but you can plant and lay out the materials in whichever order is most convenient for you.

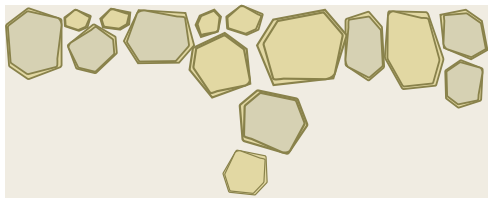


See our quick how-to videos at [lbwater.org/parkway](http://lbwater.org/parkway)

## Stepping Stones

All parkways in Long Beach are required to have an 18" step-out area along the entire curbside of the parkway, as well as a path through the parkway every 6'. Installing your stepping stones can be done in a few easy steps:

1. Create a level surface in the 18" strip of parkway along the curb.
2. Place the stepping stones with 2-5" between each stone. Allow 2-5" between the stones and the curb.
3. Pack the soil around the stones to help keep them from moving in the future.
4. Carefully test each stone to make sure that it is flat and level, and not rocking or loose.



Level the surface in the 18" step-out area.



Pack soil around the stones.

## Planting

Taking the time to plant well will help your new plants get established and thrive in their new home. There are a few important steps to follow when planting California native plants:

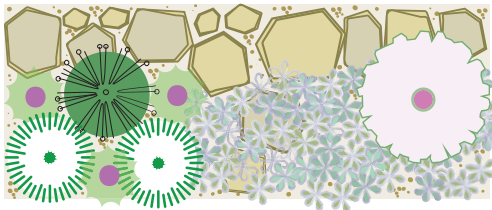
1. Place the plants in your parkway according to the plant in your Parkway Kit Guidebook.
2. Dig a hole where you placed each plant. The hole should be as deep as the soil level of the plant in the can and twice as wide. Place the plant next to the hold so you don't forget where it goes.
3. Fill the hole with water, and let it drain completely. Depending on your soil type, the water may take anywhere from a couple of minutes to a few hours to drain. This important step will help get water into the root zone of the soil for your new plants.



Fill the planting hole with water. Don't skip this important step!

### Planting cont.

4. Once the water has drained completely, check the depth of the hole to see if it has changed. If the depth has increased, take a small handful of soil and backfill so that soil level in the pot is even with the surrounding grade. This will keep the plant from sinking too deeply in the hole. If the hole is too shallow, remove soil from the hole until the soil level in the pot matches the surrounding soil. This will ensure the crown of the plant (where the stem meets the soil) doesn't dry out.
5. With one hand supporting the crown of the plant, gently tip the plant sideways or upside down and remove the can. You may need to gently massage the can to loosen and remove it.
6. Place the plant in the hole and fill the hole with the soil you dug up (backfill), breaking up any large clumps as you go, and filling in the space well to avoid large air pockets or spaces. Be sure that the crown of the plant is level with the grade of the surrounding soil.
7. Once the hole has been filled, gently press the soil surrounding the plant to get rid of any remaining holes or air pockets.
8. Create a berm with the remaining soil 6" away from the crown of the plant. This will help direct water to the plants roots while it is getting established. After the first few months, these berms can be flattened or removed.
9. Water the plant well by filling the irrigation berm and letting the water soak in a couple of times.



### Mulch

After you've placed the stepping stones and planted all your plants, you can lay your mulch. Mulch naturally decomposes over time, recycling nutrients through the soil for the benefit of your plants, and helps retain moisture in the soil.

1. Apply a 2-3" layer to the top of the soil. Ensure that no mulch is spilling over the edge of the sidewalk or curb.
2. Be sure to keep mulch a couple of inches away from the crown of the plant (where the stem meets the soil).
3. Fill in the spaces around the stepping stones with mulch.
4. If you have overhead spray, be sure not to cover the pop-ups to prevent clogging.
5. Give your parkway one last soak with a soft rain nozzle to help everything settle in.



Support the crown of the plant when removing the can.



Create an irrigation berm to direct water to the root ball during establishment.



Fill the irrigation berm with water.



Mulch adds nutrients and retains moisture in the soil.

## LONG-TERM CARE

Now that you have a beautiful native plant parkway, let's review some tips to help your garden thrive:

### Watering

To help your plants get established, water like you're Mother Nature! Water deeply and infrequently. Soil should become moderately dry between watering so the roots are not prone to rot. A general rule of thumb is to water 1x week for the first month, then every other week for the second and third month. By the fourth month, you should only be watering 1x month. After about six months to a year, the plants should be reaching establishment, and you can often wait longer between watering.

Be sure to watch your plants and make sure they aren't drooping or turning yellow. Overwatering and underwatering can show these similar signs. You may need to dig a few inches down into the root zone of the plant to check the moisture of the soil so you know how to adjust your watering.

Remember that native plants are adapted to winter rainfall and summer dry periods. If summer watering is really needed, water only once a month with a deep soak on a cool day.



Check the moisture of the soil if plants are drooping or turning yellow.

**A general rule of thumb** is to water 1x week for the first month, then every other week for the second and third month. Review the LBWD watering schedule at [lbwater.org/save-water/water-use-restrictions](http://lbwater.org/save-water/water-use-restrictions).

Native plant garden. Photo: Megan Wolff



Photo: Kristen Wernick



Photo: CNPS



Photo: Kris Ethington



## Mulch

As needed, replenish mulch to create a 2-3" layer. You should only need to do this about once a year. Long Beach Office of sustainability offers free mulch to Long Beach residents. The mulch yard is located in the Willow Springs Park parking lot at 2755 Orange Ave. Visit [longbeach.gov/sustainability](http://longbeach.gov/sustainability) for more information or to request a delivery.

If you prefer a more decorative aesthetic, local garden centers offer a wide variety of options. Avoid synthetic rubber mulches or varieties that have been dyed, as they may contain harmful chemicals or materials.

## Pruning

Native plants require minimal pruning if the garden is designed well and plants are spaced appropriately. If necessary, most trees and shrubs may be pruned right after flowering. Remove no more than 10 - 25 percent of live foliage at a time. Pruning young trees can establish good structure later, but try to preserve the fruits for decoration – and for wildlife. You will need to trim back plants if they spill over onto the sidewalk or street.

## Pests and weed control

Healthy native plants have fewer pests than traditional landscaping plants. Learn to recognize good pests from bad pests, and practice integrated pest management to help you choose the best pest control method. Remember that a munched leaf is not necessarily a bad thing. It can be a sign you are feeding local insects, like our western monarchs, that depend on native plants for their survival. Visit [CNPS.org](http://CNPS.org) to learn more about pests and how to support beneficial insects in your garden.

Point Vicente Garden. Photo: Megan Wolff





Purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*). Photo: David Freeman



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