

PLANTING DESIGN FOR THOUSAND OAKS HILLSIDE

Chan Nguyen • Landscape Design 5 • Steve Davis, Instructor • May 20, 2022

The Site

The site is located in a **quiet**, single-family residential development in Thousand Oaks, near Wildwood Regional Park.

The site is comprised of **slopes** flanking West Janes Road. From the street, the slope gradient on both sides is 2:1 until it reaches a concrete "V" drainage ditch (36" wide x 12" deep), after which the slope is 4:1 until it joins the existing **natural coastal sage scrub** area.

The area is **sunny and exposed**, absent of any tall buildings. Wildlife include birds (including the cactus wren, a California state species of special concern), coyotes, snakes, rodents, and deer.

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Design Narrative

The design goal for this hillside site was to celebrate the beauty of California's native plant species. With our climate crisis, it is important to show how California native plantings can be integrated into, and complement, our urban and domestic settings.

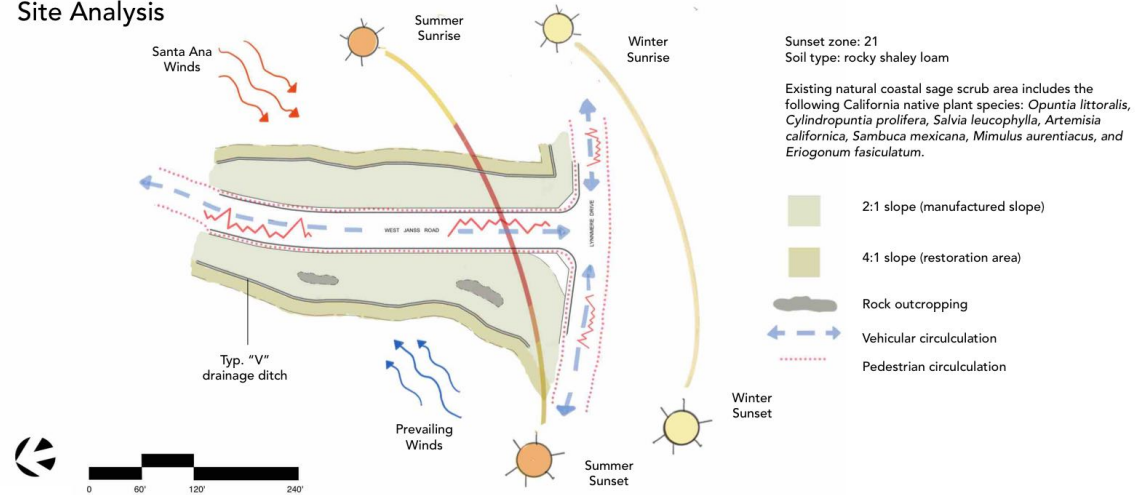
In total, **25 plant species** were used, 24 of which are native. The native species include **iconic trees** like *Quercus agrifolia* and *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, and **spiky succulents** like *Opuntia littoralis* and *Hesperoyucca whipplei*, to **flowing grasses** like *Muhlenbergia rigens* and *Boutaloua gracilis*, and **classic, flowering combos** *Lupinus succulentus* and *Eschscholzia californica*.

The lone non-native, *Pistacia chinensis*, is used as a street tree and provides cohesiveness with the rest of the neighborhood. It has similar low-water requirements as the other plants, and is a reminder that a drought-tolerant landscape is not always a native plant only, all-or-nothing endeavor.

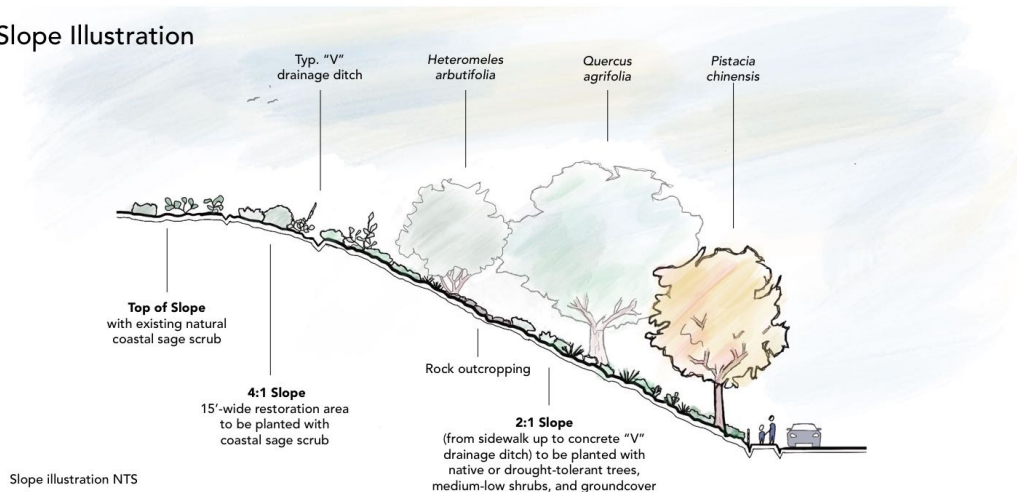
While the design will primarily be viewed by people in cars, those on foot will be rewarded with up-close views of seasonal bulbs, as well as one of Thousand Oaks' endemic species: *Eriogonum crocatum*.

Planted in a 'natural' way to mimic the **irregularity, clustering, and randomization** that happens in nature, I hope this design celebrates California's plant diversity and the viability of our place in the intermingled landscape.

Site Analysis



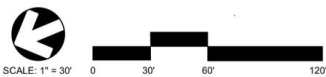
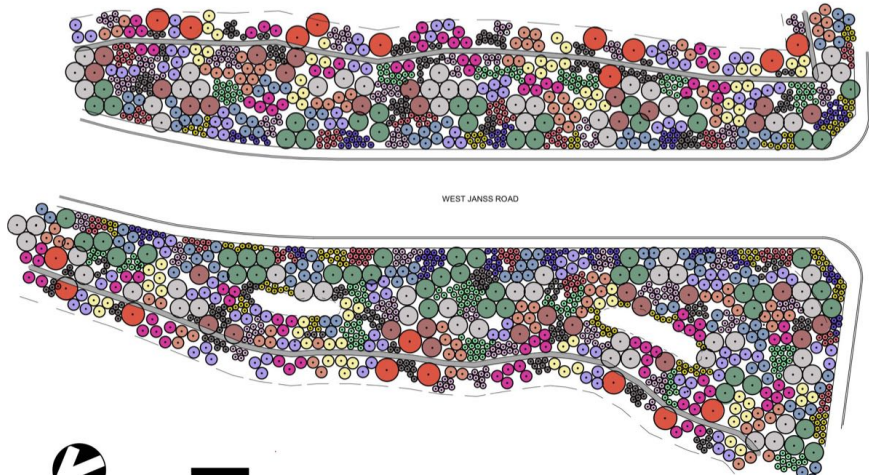
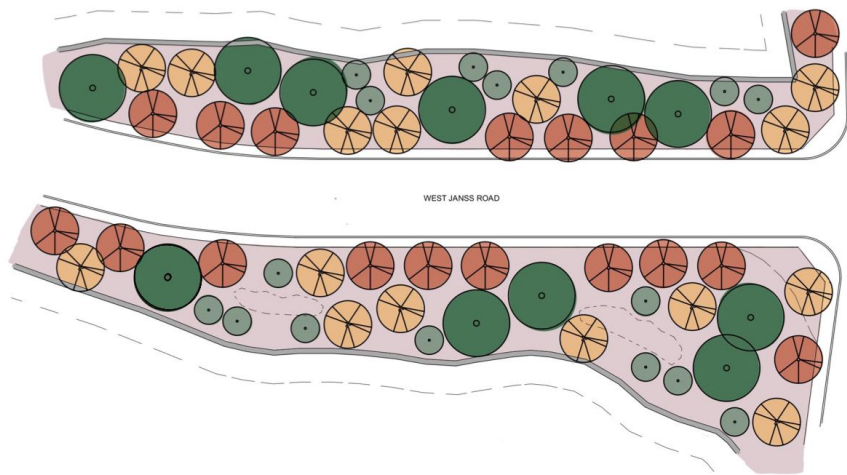
Slope Illustration













Slope illustration NTS

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Trees and Hydroseeds *

Trees	Hydroseed Mix	% of mix
 Quercus agrifolia Coast live oak 35" H x 35" W Yellow-White; Winter-Spring WUCOLS: Low	 Mulinbergia rigens Deer grass 3' H x 3' W Grass spikelet WUCOLS: Low	20%
 Pistacia chinensis Chinese pistache (Origin: China) 25 H x 25 W Inconspicuous flowers WUCOLS: Low	 Stipa pulchra Purple needlegrass 3 H x 3 W Grass spikelet WUCOLS: Low	15%
 Aesculus californica California buckeye 25 H x 25 W White; Spring WUCOLS: Low	 Bouteloua gracilis Blue grama 3 H x 3 W Grass spikelet WUCOLS: Low	15%
 Heteromeles arbutifolia Toyon 12 H x 12 W White; Summer WUCOLS: Low	 Lupinus succulentus Arroyo lupine 3 H x 3 W Blue; Spring WUCOLS: Low	20%
	 Achillea millefolium Common Yarrow; White Yarrow 3 H x 1.5 W White; Spring WUCOLS: Low	15%
	 Eschscholzia californica California poppy 3 H x 1 W Orange; Spring-Fall WUCOLS: Low	15%

* All tree and seed species are California natives, except for Pistacia chinensis, which is native to China.

Shrubs **

In order from restoration area down to street level (roughly):

 Opuntia littoralis Coast prickly pear 3 H x 6 W Yellow-Purple-Red; Spring WUCOLS: Very low	 Mimulus aurantiacus Sticky monkeyflower 5 H x 5 W Orange-Yellow; Winter-Summer WUCOLS: Very low	 Calliandra eriophylla Fairduster 3 H x 3 W Pink-Purple; Winter-Spring WUCOLS: Low
 Cylindropuntia prolifera Coastal cholla 10 H x 5 W Purple-Red; Spring-Summer WUCOLS: Very low	 Sambucus mexicana Western elderberry 12 H x 12 W Cream; Spring-Summer WUCOLS: Low	 Eriogonum crocatum Concho buckwheat 2 H x 3 W Yellow; Spring-Summer WUCOLS: Very low
 Salvia leucophylla Purple sage 6 H x 6 W Pink; Spring WUCOLS: Very low	 Hesperoyucca whipplei Chaparral yucca 12 H x 3 W Cream-Pink; Monocarpic WUCOLS: Very low	 Calechortus plummerae Plummer's mariposa lily 2 H x 2 W Pink-Yellow-Lavender; Spring-Fall WUCOLS: Low
 Eriogonum fasciculatum California buckwheat 6 H x 3 W White-Pink; Spring-Fall WUCOLS: Very low	 Salvia apiana White sage 5 H x 8 W White; Winter-Summer WUCOLS: Very low	 Conocephalus glaucus Anchor Bay 2 H x 6 W Blue; Spring WUCOLS: Low
 Artemisia californica California sagebrush 6 H x 4 W Cream-Yellow; Spring-Fall WUCOLS: Very low	 Arctostaphylos densiflora Howard McMillan manzanita 6 H x 8 W Pink; Winter-Spring WUCOLS: Low	 Baccharis pilularis Pigeon Point 2 H x 8 W Cream; Summer-Winter WUCOLS: Low

** All shrub species are California natives