

City of Mountain View Green Garden Showcase

96 Eldora Drive

Completed in 2009, the garden at 96 Eldora was designed to complement the newly-constructed award-winning green home. Despite its recent completion, this garden has already developed into an attractive landscape.

A Focus on Natives

With the exception of a few drought-tolerant perennials and edibles, the garden is composed almost entirely of California native plants. With so many natives, it attracts wildlife like a magnet.

Abundant Wildlife

Hummingbirds cruise over the decomposed granite pathway, passing the wispy seed-heads of the *Festuca californica* grass bunches, aiming for the vibrant California fuchsia. Hummingbirds also enjoy the *Penstemon heterophylla* "Blue Spring" which produce a profusion of tubular blossoms throughout the front yard. Hopping from monkey flower to salvia, all things that buzz seem to move in by early spring. Ceanothus, Manzanita, and Redbud provide refuge for nectar-foraging wildlife and serve as the structural anchors in the midst of colorful perennials.



An On-Site Water Supply

Beneath the flagstone patio a 20,000-gallon tank stores rainwater collected from the house roof. A pump pulls up stored water to irrigate the garden. The long-term goal of irrigation independence for most of the plantings will be reached once they become well established and with gradual removal of the drip irrigation. Eventually, the small native bentgrass lawn, irrigated with efficient rotator spray heads, will remain as one of the only plants with significant water requirements.

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Benefits & Challenges

Benefits of having a native garden include a minimal need for maintenance. Rather than the frequent “mow and blow” up-keep required of other landscapes, quarterly maintenance suffices for this garden. Well-replenished mulch and the competitive pressure of the cultivated plants help to minimize weeds. However, much like any other garden, plants do die, weeds do grow, and work needs to be done, but this garden helps make the work itself enjoyable.

