

HILLCREST SUPPLEMENTAL LANDSCAPING RECOMMENDATIONS

Flowering Shrubs & Accent Plants

These plants provide **structure, color, and seasonal interest** while being drought-tolerant.

Tecoma 'Ball of Fire' (Orange Bells)

- ✓ **Size:** 4-6 ft tall, 4-6 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Deep green, glossy, semi-evergreen
- ✓ **Flowers:** Bright orange-red, trumpet-shaped clusters in warm seasons
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low to moderate
- ✓ **Best Use:** Privacy screen, color accent, hummingbird attractor



Tecoma 'Bells of Fire'

- ✓ **Size:** 4-5 ft tall, 3-4 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Lush green, slightly smaller leaves than 'Ball of Fire'
- ✓ **Flowers:** Reddish-orange, continuous blooms in warm months
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low to moderate
- ✓ **Best Use:** Foundation plant, courtyard accent, pollinator-friendly



Texas Sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*)

- ✓ **Size:** 4-6 ft tall, 4-6 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Silvery-green, velvety texture
- ✓ **Flowers:** Purple, blooming after rain
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Very low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Modern hedge, drought-tolerant privacy screen



Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia species*)

- ✓ **Size:** 5-8 ft tall, 4-6 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Soft green, semi-deciduous
- ✓ **Flowers:** Purple, pink, or white, fragrant, attracts butterflies
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Pollinator-friendly, colorful backdrop



Woolly Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia marrubiifolia*)

- ✓ **Size:** 3-5 ft tall, 3-5 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Silvery-gray, fine-textured
- ✓ **Flowers:** Small orange globes in spring-summer
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Very low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Accent shrub, wildlife-friendly xeriscape



Chuparosa (*Justicia californica*)

- ✓ **Size:** 3-5 ft tall, 4-6 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Sparse, green-gray stems
- ✓ **Flowers:** Red, tubular, peak bloom in fall-spring
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Very low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Naturalistic desert gardens, hummingbird attractor



Red Mexican Bird of Paradise (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*)

- ✓ **Size:** 6-8 ft tall, 4-6 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Feathery, bright green, semi-deciduous
- ✓ **Flowers:** Fiery red-orange with long stamens, summer-fall
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Large accent shrub, tropical desert contrast



Torch Glow Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea 'Torch Glow'*)

- ✓ **Size:** 6-8 ft tall, 3-4 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Dark green, upright habit
- ✓ **Flowers:** Magenta bracts, year-round color in warm climates
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Vertical accent, sculptural form, patio focal point



Ornamental Grasses & Perennials

Perfect for **softening hardscapes and adding movement.**

Regal Mist (*Muhlenbergia capillaris 'Regal Mist'*)

- ✓ **Size:** 3-4 ft tall and wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Fine, arching green blades
- ✓ **Flowers:** Airy pink-red plumes in fall
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Mass plantings, soft texture contrast



Mealy Cup Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)

- ✓ **Size:** 2-3 ft tall, 2-3 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Green-gray, slightly fuzzy
- ✓ **Flowers:** Blue-purple spikes, spring-fall
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Pollinator plant, soft accent in rock gardens



Ground Covers & Sprawling Plants

Use these for erosion control, color drifts, and soft transitions.

Verbena (*Glandularia* species)

- ✓ **Size:** 1-2 ft tall, spreading to 4 ft
- ✓ **Foliage:** Low, green, fine-textured
- ✓ **Flowers:** Purple, pink, or red clusters, nearly year-round
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Ground cover, container plant



Desert Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*)

- ✓ **Size:** 3-4 ft tall, 3-5 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Silver-gray, small lobed leaves
- ✓ **Flowers:** Orange blooms in spring-fall
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Wildflower accent, color contrast



Mexican Evening Primrose (*Oenothera berlandieri*)

- ✓ **Size:** 1-2 ft tall, spreading up to 5 ft
- ✓ **Foliage:** Green, delicate leaves
- ✓ **Flowers:** Pink cup-shaped blooms in spring-summer
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Spreading ground cover, cottage-style desert planting



Plumbago (Plumbago auriculata)

- ✓ **Size:** 3-4 ft tall, 4-6 ft spread
- ✓ **Foliage:** Deep green, dense growth
- ✓ **Flowers:** Soft blue clusters, summer-fall
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Moderate
- ✓ **Best Use:** Flowering hedge, tropical-style contrast



Blue Periwinkle (Vinca major)

- ✓ **Size:** 1-2 ft tall, 3-6 ft spread
- ✓ **Foliage:** Glossy green, trailing habit
- ✓ **Flowers:** Purple-blue blooms in spring-summer
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Moderate
- ✓ **Best Use:** Shaded ground cover, erosion control



Red Lantana (Lantana camara 'Radiation')

- ✓ **Size:** 2-3 ft tall, 3-5 ft spread
- ✓ **Foliage:** Dark green, rough-textured
- ✓ **Flowers:** Red-orange clusters, summer-fall
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Heat-tolerant ground cover, butterfly attractor



Purple Trailing Lantana (Lantana montevidensis)

- ✓ **Size:** 1-2 ft tall, spreading up to 6 ft
- ✓ **Foliage:** Green, cascading stems
- ✓ **Flowers:** Lavender-purple, nearly year-round
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Ground cover, hanging basket, erosion control



Additional Ground Covers

(These are currently not on the LAC planting list)

Kurapia (*Lippia nodiflora* 'Kurapia')

- ✓ **Size:** 1-3 inches tall, spreading up to 6 feet per year
- ✓ **Foliage:** Small, dense green leaves, evergreen in warm climates
- ✓ **Flowers:** Tiny white blooms from spring to fall
- ✓ **Water Needs:** **Very low once established**
- ✓ **Soil Requirements:** Well-draining soils; tolerates a range of soil types
- ✓ **Sun Requirements:** Full sun to partial shade
- ✓ **Drought Tolerance:** **Excellent**—stays green with minimal irrigation
- ✓ **Traffic Tolerance:** **High**—can handle foot traffic and pets
- ✓ **Maintenance:**
 - **Mowing:** Optional; mow every 4-6 weeks for a turf-like appearance
 - **Fertilization:** Minimal—1-2 times per year
 - **Weed Control:** Establishment phase requires some weeding, but forms a dense mat over time



Carpet of Stars (*Ruschia lineolata* 'Nana')

- ✓ **Size:** 1-2 inches tall, spreading up to **1 foot per year**
- ✓ **Foliage:** Small, **tight-growing, succulent-like leaves** that stay lush green year-round
- ✓ **Flowers:** Tiny **purple-pink blooms** in spring and summer (adds seasonal color)
- ✓ **Water Needs:** **Very low** once established (requires **70-80% less water than grass**)
- ✓ **Soil Requirements:** **Well-draining soil** (tolerates sandy, rocky, or loamy soils)
- ✓ **Sun Requirements:** **Full sun to partial shade** (performs best with 6+ hours of sun)
- ✓ **Drought Tolerance:** **Exceptional**—survives with minimal irrigation
- ✓ **Traffic Tolerance:** **Moderate to high**—best for **light foot traffic** (not as resilient as Kurapia for heavy play areas)
- ✓ **Maintenance:**
 - **Mowing:** **Not required**—remains short and dense naturally
 - **Fertilization:** Occasional feeding in spring for faster growth
 - **Weed Control:** Establishment phase requires some weeding, but **once mature, it suppresses weeds well**



Cacti & Succulents (Architectural Plants)

Sculptural, **low-maintenance focal points** for a Desert Modern look.

Peruvian Apple Cactus (*Cereus peruvianus*)

- ✓ **Size:** 10-20 ft tall, 6-10 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Columnar, bluish-green stems
- ✓ **Flowers:** Large white night-blooming flowers, edible fruit
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Very low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Statement cactus, contemporary accent



Parry's Agave (*Agave parryi*)

- ✓ **Size:** 2-3 ft tall, 3-4 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Blue-gray rosette, stiff leaves
- ✓ **Flowers:** Tall flower spike (once in lifetime)
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Very low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Sculptural accent, modern planter feature



Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*)

- ✓ **Size:** 3-4 ft tall, 3-5 ft wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Narrow, arching blue-green leaves
- ✓ **Flowers:** Coral-red spikes in summer
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Very low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Architectural form, poolside planting

