

1. Old City Hall Gardens
2. Bell at Bedford Garden
3. Ore Cart Garden
4. Flag Pole Garden
5. Country Cottage Garden
6. Ivy House Park
7. Creek at Clay Project
8. Redwoods at Broadway
9. Soda Works Garden
10. Chamber Garden
11. Bell Tower Garden
12. Snowshoe Thompson Mural
13. Art in the Garden
14. Gateway to the Sierra
15. Welcome to Placerville
16. Fox Lot Garden
17. Gold Bug Garden
18. Hangtown Creek Project
19. Adopt-A-Hwy Project
20. El Dorado Trail Garden



City Gardens, Work Projects & Public Art

Field Notes

Project *"A Walk in the Garden"*

Location *Placerville, California*

Event *Historic Main Street Gardens Self-guided Walking Tour Celebrating Placerville's 150 Year Golden Past*

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
of El Dorado County

P. O. Box 62, Placerville, California 95667

Research, Documenting & Consulting

PLACERVILLE

A VILLAGE OF GOLD

By Marilyn Ferguson

Since the first deposits of placer gold were found on the banks of Hangtown Creek in 1848, Placerville has been the center of activity in the region of California known as the "Central Mines." Men from every part of the world flocked to Placerville; Georgians, Chileans and Sonorans were the first miners who came with knowledge of mining methods. Great gold deposits were mined and some 49'ers returned home rich, while others stayed to become the founding fathers of the town; others died alone and penniless, lost to their loved ones.

In 1850, the village was officially called Placerville in remembrance of the huge placer gold deposits found here. Incorporation came in May of 1854. In five short years, Placerville had grown from a mining camp, to a village, to a city. In 1857, Placerville, by popular vote, became the county seat.

Placerville earned the nickname of "Hangtown" when in 1849 a big oak tree in the middle of the camp was used to mete out quick justice to wrongdoers. The nickname stuck and persists to this day, to the pleasure of some and the displeasure of others.

The strategic location on the early emigrant route made Placerville an important supply center. In 1859 when the great Nevada silver deposits of the Comstock Lode were discovered, long lines of supply wagons threaded their way east over the Sierras, carrying needed provisions, and returned with the rich ore from the mines heading for the Mint in San Francisco.

Many miners prospered from their gold finds, and seeing ample opportunities, opened businesses, supplied goods and services, developed a huge lumber industry, built great water and road systems, and established vast acres of agricultural lands.

Located at the intersection of State Highway 50 and State Highway 49, modern Main Street shows a busy, growing town. But under the layers of facade, stand rhyolite stone buildings (c. 1853-1858), reminders of the citizens who, by their enterprise and hard work, left us the legacy of a permanent city.

GARDEN #1

Old City Hall Gardens

By Josette Johnson & Keith Johnson



Planted in an alpine mountain meadow theme, the garden of miniature pine trees and forest groundcover surrounds a stately clock that originally stood on the south side of the street in front of the old Bank of America building. Placerville City offices are housed in two historical buildings. The building next to the clock garden was built in 1860 by the Confidence Engine Company #1. The building to the east was built in 1859 for Jane Johnson from Carthage IL, a prosperous Placerville business woman, who later remarried and moved to San Francisco. The City Government made the Confidence Building their home in 1907. In 1957, they acquired the Johnson Building to expand their offices.



The Old City Hall gardens include the clock garden next to City Hall, the fern garden along Hangtown Creek in the back next to the Oddfellows building, the boxwood, and the conifer gardens in the alley next to the Court House. The gardens include an assorted fern and species bulb garden, low-growing conifers, Flameglow & Laceleaf Maples, an alpine garden reminiscent of a cool green, black & blue meadow. The park bench donated by El Dorado Transit is a popular resting spot for pedestrians.



GARDEN #1 *cont.*

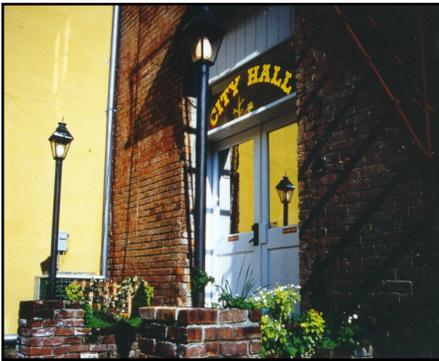


Old City Hall Gardens

By Helen Ramstad

The raised native stone planter box features alpine conifers, delicate ground cover plants and summer annuals. This garden surrounds the stone monument in memory of Deputy Sheriff Joseph Staples. The stone monument

commemorates the famous Bullion Bend Robbery in which Deputy Sheriff Joseph Staples was killed in a gun fight at the Somerset House by the gang who held up the stage at Bullion Bend. The large city parking lot was the site of the C. W. Mountjoy's Keokuk House. After the devastating 1856 fire, the hotel was rebuilt and called the Mountjoy House. In 1866 Thomas Alderson bought the hotel and renamed it the Central House. Fire destroyed the three story hotel in July of 1913, removing one of the last monuments of an early pioneer family of Placerville.



Helen's gardens at the monument and back door flower boxes have Victorian flowers & vines. The maples are bloodgood, laceleaf and continue our repeating maple theme along Main Street. Other maples that can be found are black maple, flameglow and big leaf maple. At right is a pink dogwood.



GARDEN #2

Bell at Bedford *By Steve Pace*



When Placerville was young, this area was known as "Stoney Point." Walking east from the Bell Tower, as you approach City Hall, you will notice that you are walking up a very gentle slope. As you cross Bedford Avenue and proceed east, you then walk down the slope. This formation is the Melones Fault. An excellent view of the fault can be seen at the back of the parking lot at Bedford and Main Street. For many years Stoney Point was a point of reference in the streetscape of Placerville. The garden is in the city park that was gifted to the City in 1926, to be set aside for the use and enjoyment of the citizens of Placerville. For many years the Native Sons of the Golden West had a small museum building on the site which housed their Concord Coach. The coach can now be seen at the El Dorado County Historical Museum. The bell was purchased in 1865. It hung for a time in the bell tower on the Plaza to call the citizens to battle against the dreaded danger... Fire! After the bell developed a crack, and a few attempts to repair it failed, the bell was finally retired.



A granite moss rock garden. This garden has an alpine look with plants that have small leaves, silver, purple and green foliage and pink and purple blooms.



GARDEN #3

Ore Cart Garden

By Mayor Kathi Lishman, Sharron Beckley & Perry

Located on the north side of Highway 50 at the entrance of Bedford Avenue (Log Cabin Ravine), the garden surrounds the sign to Hangtown's Gold Bug Park. The City-owned park consists of 61 historical acres and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tour the Gold Bug Mine, the Hattie Museum, and the Hendy Stamp Mill Museum. Bring a lunch, enjoy the picnic areas and explore the hiking trails. The Ore Cart Garden thrives at the entrance of Bedford Avenue. During the late 1800's the residential neighborhoods developed around Main Street, like the spokes of a wheel. The founding fathers built their homes close to their businesses, filling the ravines and hillsides with homes, from small cottages to elegant Victorian mansions. Many of those homes have been lovingly restored by the owners and can still be seen.



Golden California poppy, yellow daffodil, pink quince, blue morning glory vines, yellow forsythia under a pink flowering crabapple, with annuals and perennials, create the look of a "river of gold" spilling out of the ore cart & mine shaft. One of our first projects. Landscape and irrigation design of this garden by Carol Patton and Rich Zito.



GARDEN #4

Flag Pole at Town Hall Garden

By Ron Mueller and Bob Pyne



The Flag Pole Garden graces the front of the old Purity Market Building. In 1968, the County of El Dorado moved the main branch of the library into this building. After the new county library opened on Ray Lawyer Drive, the City established Town Hall as a city facility. The lot to the west of Town Hall is the site of H. L. Hind's blacksmith shop. In 1853, John Mohler Studebaker arrived in Old Hangtown in a wagon that he and his brothers Henry and Clem built in their modestly successful blacksmithing and wagon-building business in their home town of South Bend, Indiana. Realizing the business could not support all of the family, John, then 19 years old, decided to go to the gold fields. He arrived in Placerville, with just fifty cents in his pocket and was offered a job in the Hinds blacksmith shop making wheelbarrows. Wheelbarrows were an important tool in the miners quest for gold. After making a few practice samples, John perfected sturdy wheelbarrows that were sought after in the diggings, gaining him the nickname "Wheelbarrow Johnny." John spent five happy years in Old Hangtown, and in 1858 he returned home with \$8,000 in his pocket. The success of the Studebaker Corporation is another story in American History. In 1913, John, then the Chairman of the Board of the Studebaker Corporation, returned to Placerville to renew old and cherished friendships. The whole town turned out to welcome him with signs in every store window stating "WE ARE GLAD YOU CAME BACK." The day was filled with stories and laughter. A dinner ended the celebration when the old friends joined hands, sang "Auld Lang Syne", and parted, some never to meet again.



Colorful flower bulbs of lilies and low growing evergreen groundcovers are at the base of the Town Hall flag pole. This garden adds a color spot to the Town Hall parking lot. Downtown plans for this area include adding gardens at nearby crosswalks.



GARDEN #5

Country Cottage Garden *By Mo Daly*



At the intersection of Main and Cedar Ravine Streets, this raised Planter garden is on the site of the Ivy House Hotel. The history of Placerville is a mining history, with its beginnings along Historic Hangtown Creek. First explored in 1848, shortly after the discovery of gold at Coloma, the creek yielded \$1,800,000 from the center of town to Cedar Ravine. By the fall of 1849, three to four thousand men worked every ravine, gulch and hillside where gold was to be had. Still, the golden lode laid untouched. In 1851, huge veins of goldbearing quartz were discovered and hard rock mining started in the area. Although the face of Placerville has changed, the creek, whether dry, flooded, diverted, deepened, or manipulated to serve the needs of the day, has remained the one constant feature of the landscape.



Grown with organic fertilizers, (a “Use No Spray” zone) containing a rich and diverse plant population, this natural garden provides a most wonderful range of plants. Under the Cork Oak tree is a lush cottage garden with flowering perennials, bulbs, evergreens and grasses as you would find along a country drive. Visually extending the “creekscape” nearby to Main Street, this city garden adds a rural ambiance to the downtown area.



GARDEN #6

Ivy House Park *By Cindy Podsiadlo*



This is the site of the Central House, a splendid three-story brick hotel on Main Street. Built by E.H. Parker in June of 1864, the hotel was a busy place until 1871 when E.H. Conklin purchased the building and opened the Placerville Academy. The Academy was widely known for its high educational standards and strict discipline and morals. Conklin was the headmaster until Professor George Tindell gained ownership in 1881. Under Tindell’s leadership, additions were made to the three-story brick building to include fifty rooms, a gymnasium, gardens, walkways, and croquet grounds. In 1898, the Academy closed, and J. A. Raffetto acquired the property, opening the Ivy House Hotel. The Ivy House stayed in business for sixty-six years. In June of 1964, the building was condemned, and after 100 years of being an important part of Placerville, demolition began and the Ivy House was gone. Garden #6 is located at the south side of the creek on Clay Street (Clay Ravine and Clay Hill). This area was heavily mined during the early 1850’s and 1860’s. At the turn of the century the area developed into one of the original residential streets. The James B. Blair House can be seen just north of the project. This house has been restored and cared for by many owners over the years. The Blair Brothers arrived in Placerville when the mining camp was teaming with gold seekers. Realizing the need for lumber, they began a lumbering empire that lasted over 130 years. Many of our historic Victorian homes were built with Blair Company lumber. Many of our historic Victorian homes were built with Blair Company lumber.



Built with a grant written by the Creek Committee and the City, this park is being revitalized by Community Pride. The only developed creekside park using all native landscaping, plants included in this project are: big leaf maple, oak, cedar, grasses, coffeeberry and California rose.



GARDEN #7



Creek at Clay

By Keith Johnson & Josette Johnson

This Community Pride urban forest restoration garden project includes indigenous plants that are beneficial to indigenous wildlife and provides erosion control and shading for Hangtown Creek which is a class 1 rainbow trout fishery. The wildlands look compliments the developed Park across the steam, includes examples of native plantings, introduces children to natural spaces within the city, and improves visual quality at this location. Adjacent to the El Dorado Trail and greenway, Community Pride sponsors work days centered around Earth Day to help Placerville Girl and Boy Scout Troops earn their Eco-action badges for community service. In addition to schools & scouts; the Hangtown Creek Stewardship Committee, Trails Now!, the CA Native Plant Society, volunteers Steve Dowty, Jim Donaker, and the American River Conservancy have creek work days at this location. This organic landscape is a



*UNLESS someone
like you
cares a whole
awful lot,
nothing is going
To get better.
It's not.
The Lorax, by
Dr. Seuss*



GARDEN #8

Redwoods at Broadway

By Judy Davis and Family



At the confluence of Emigrant Ravine and Historic Hangtown Creek, this area was once known as Upper Placerville. This center of the town, at "The Corners," had eleven stone or brick buildings. Before this section of Uppertown was established, Emigrant Road ran along the creek for several miles. The first sight the exhausted travelers saw as they rounded the bend into Hangtown was a row of miners panning out gold, with their shirttails flapping in the breeze. When they got to "Shirttail Bend" their journey was over. Today the term is still used by older residents who were born and raised in Uppertown.



A large redwood tree marks the corner of Main Street at Broadway and Mosquito Road. The understory of this garden has dogwood and smoke trees. The slope is a spring spectacular with daffodils covering the hillside. California Poppy, lupine and California fuchsia line the edge of the road with summer color. This garden is a "Use No Spray" zone. Lilies and guara can be seen on the west side of the garden. Every year Community Pride adds wildflowers and daffodil bulbs to this garden spot.



GARDEN #9

Soda Works Garden

By Nancy Martino and Cheryl Tubb



The garden sits on the site of the Cedar Ravine Livery Stable building. The one story stable building, like the Pearson building, is of very early construction (circa 1861). George Freeman owned the Cedar Ravine Livery Stable. The stone building housed the horses (note the small openings in the west wall). In the days when a "good horse" was man's prize possession, this building was alive with the activity of caring for the needs of both the family horse and the horses that pulled the sleek Concord Coaches, the wagons laden with silver from the Comstock, and the wagons of the lumber companies. During the transition from horse power, to gas power the most dangerous traffic hazard on the streets of Placerville were the runaway animals spooked by the loud and frightening noise of the new gasoline machine. The John Pearson Soda Works Building, to the east of the garden, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. From the day it was built, it has been a point of reference on the streetscape. In 1859, John McFarland Pearson built the lower portion of what became the famous John Pearson Soda Works. Pearson was at first an ice merchant and the first person to cut and haul ice down from the high mountain area known as Ice House. Over the next 50 years the business grew. In 1884, an item appeared in the local newspaper entitled "A Gentleman here from Chicago." This item was about a man who traveled for a large drug company and declared that Pearson's creme soda was the best in the United States. Pearson was also the agent for Pabst and Wieland beer. In 1891, John Sr. died and his sons John and William took over the business. In 1897, they added the second story that served as a bottling room, and installed a hydraulic powered lift to transport the bottles between floors. In 1972, Roger Douvres purchased both the Soda Works and Stable properties and the Douvres family began restoring the two old buildings. With faithful devotion to detail and authenticity, they made history come alive again. In 1975, Mr. Douvres succumbed to a long illness, but his love for Placerville and its history will remain with us through the Soda Works and the Stable Buildings.



Red maples line the sidewalk

and shade pedestrians on hot summer days. This garden includes an understory of shrubbery that turns red in the fall, evergreens and spring flowers along a dry streambed. Mr. & Mrs. Garry Smith established the maple theme that can be seen in our gardens.



GARDEN #10

Chamber Garden

By Deborah Morgan and Christine Thiel



The Kossuth House was the first business to occupy this site. The owner Reverend Professor P. L. Platt built a spacious hotel in 1852, advertising comfortable sleeping rooms, and a commodious dining room and bar room with a never-fail spring. The next year Rev. Platt died and his wife ran the business until she sold the hotel to Anna Clark in 1856. After World War I, El Dorado County purchased the property from Judge Marcus P. Bennett. The Board of Supervisors voted to erect a memorial building to be used by The American Legion El Dorado Post #199. The building was dedicated in 1923 by the citizens of El Dorado County to her sons and daughters who responded to the call to arms, and died in the defense of their country.



The theme for this garden is "green & gold." Our most recent addition to Community Pride gardens and includes Dark green Alberta spruce, bright green baby tears, yellow pansies, golden yellow coreopsis, and accents of blue pansies, blue salvia, black mondo grass and candy pink million bells. When mature, this garden will have a strikingly beautiful contrast of colors.



GARDEN # 11

Bell Tower Garden *By Dennis Look*



The Bell Tower stands as Placerville's most important landmark. In 1865, the Common Council voted to erect a tower on the Plaza and install a fire bell at the urging of the Placerville Volunteer Fire Brigade. A bell was ordered from England, the wooden tower built, and the fire bell was installed. In 1878, the first tower became so unstable that it was torn down, and a second wooden tower was constructed. In 1898, a steel tower was designed with a drinking fountain and horse trough. It was capped with a miniature bronze statue of a fireman holding aloft a red globe containing an electric light. A number of changes were made to the tower in the following years. In the 1940's and 1950's, the Police Department, consisting of five officers, parked their one squad car under the tower, and answered their police calls from a telephone mounted on the tower. In the 1970's, there was a citizens' movement to improve the looks of the tower, and a new design plan was implemented. The platform was built and faced with native cobblestones, a floor of textured concrete, rails of ornamental wrought iron, and a roof of aluminum shakes. And so the 1898 tower was saved, and given a new look.



The Bell Tower flower boxes are planted

with low-growing and trailing flowers and ground covers. Community Pride raised the funds for the ornate wrought-iron railings when the Tower was restored in 1995.



GARDEN #12

Snowshoe Thompson Mural *By Community Pride*



Snowshoe Thompson: "The Hero of the Sierra" In 1853, Cyrus Bayles bought the property at the corner of Main and Sacramento Streets and built a one-story fireproof building. The roof is flat, made of brick and "hydraulic cement," and was used as a water reservoir as fire was an ever present danger, Mr. Bayles was ahead of his time when the whole town went up in smoke in 1856. The Bayles Building survived that fire. The Bayles Store went to sheriff's sale in 1855 and Thomas Alderson and nine other businessmen purchased the building and established a post office with A.W. Thatcher as postmaster. The legend of SNOWSHOE THOMPSON began from this building. Born in Norway in 1827, Jon Torsteinson Rui (John Albert Thompson) came to America with his parents when he was 10 years old. As a grown man he came to California, then went over to Woodfords, Nevada. In 1856 he read an ad in the newspaper that a George Chorpenning was looking for someone to carry the mail across the Sierras during the winter. He got the job and fashioned a set of "snowskates" 10 feet long and 4 inches wide. He traveled from Placerville to Genoa, Nevada, and back in the harshest of winter conditions. His feats of strength, courage and endurance earned him the title "The Hero of the Sierra." Snowshoe lived in Diamond Valley, Nevada for many years, and on May 15, 1876, he passed away at his ranch from a sudden attack of appendicitis. He is buried in the Genoa, Nevada, cemetery.



The mural was sponsored by the City of Placerville's Community Pride under the auspices of the owner of the building, Pat Blackwell. The art work was done by the young and talented Muralist, Oren Miller. This is Community Pride's first public art project.



GARDEN #13

Art in the Garden

By Mo Daly



This small sidewalk garden is in the area known as “Lower Main between Spring Street (Hwy 49) and the Gateway Garden. The Placerville and El Dorado Turnpike Road entered into Placerville at the toll gate in front of Michael O’Keefe’s house (82 Main St.). If you had traveled the road in a one-horse buggy it would have cost you 25 cents each way. This part of town was the early industrial area. Predmore & Company’s Excelsior Sawmill, the Mountain Brewery, one of the Pacific Mine Stamp Mills, and the Placerville Foundry all operated in this area. H. L. Hinds started the foundry, and in 1870 it was purchased by H.S. Morey. The foundry became nationally known for its superior ore cars, pelton wheels, riffles, and hydraulic monitors. Many of Placerville’s young men got their start at the Morey Foundry, learning a craft in iron that would last a lifetime.



“Art in the Garden” is an annual and perennial garden that gives the highway 49 time traveler a taste of what was once here: an old homestead. There is a trellis with purple flowering vines, and evergreens pruned into topiaries. This garden is bordered with an river rock wall on the other side of the sidewalk where the old house once stood and has a brick walkway at the crosswalk.



GARDEN #14

Gateway to the Sierra Garden

By Dennis Look

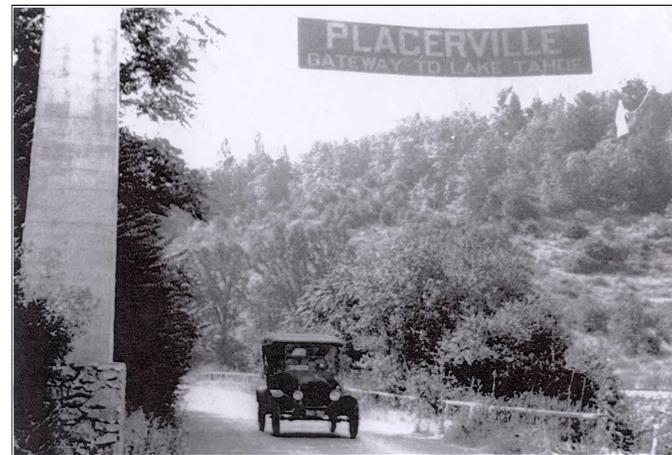


The gateway garden sits on the old Southern Pacific Railroad right of way, and if you walk west along the banks of Hangtown Creek, you will see the 1906 cement form bridge that is the oldest one of it’s kind west of the Mississippi.



The Gateway garden was the first of our three Caltrans Adopt-a-hwy projects. We worked with the Placerville Rotary Club in establishing this Mountain Theme garden at the entrance to our historic downtown area.

The garden has dogwood, aspen, pine and Alberta spruce trees with seasonal flowers and a drought tolerant lawn.



Old Gateway photo (provided by the Winji family) Shows the original “Gateway to Lake Tahoe” taken at Forni Road and lower Main Streets near our “Gateway to Sierra” garden. (below)



GARDEN #15

Welcome to Placerville Garden

By Debra Power



The goal of this project is to preserve the creek as a viable trout stream, restore riparian vegetation and improve water quality. Working with the California Department of Fish & Game, students who are enrolled in environmental science courses conduct fish counts. In 1952, the State of California decided to upgrade Highway 50. The route chosen cut through the heart of Placerville. Many businesses and family homes were destroyed and much land was taken for the construction of the highway. The land that the highway occupies was the site of the Placerville Train Depot. At 11:45 A.M. on March 29, 1888, the first train pulled into Placerville with its two engines and seven coaches. The whole town turned out for the occasion. There were many speeches made that day, including one by Governor Robert W. Waterman, who told of his arrival to Hangtown in 1850. The train depot was located between the creek and Canal Street. Off of the main line, spur tracks served the Earl Fruit Company, the Stewart Fruit Company, and the Phoenix Milling Company. In 1952, the depot was moved to a spot above Mosquito Road, and in 1978 the building was torn down.



The “Welcome to Placerville” garden is used as an outdoor classroom & “nature study area” for El Dorado High School students to research their environment. EDHS students have documented water, air & soil quality at this location since 1993. Wildlife, such as trout, macroinvertebrates, and wood ducks, has also been monitored. Protecting this “outdoor classroom” for our high school students is essential. Planter box flowers are donated by the Placerville Rotary and the Resource Conservation District provides grant funds. To protect wildflowers, amphibians, migratory songbirds and our rainbow trout bearing stream, this is a “Use No Spray” zone.



GARDEN #16

Fox Lot Garden

By Manny DeAquino and Family



John Fox, the patriarch of the Fox family, arrived in Placerville in 1852. A blacksmith by trade, he mined for a while and then opened a blacksmith shop on Main Street which he operated for over fifty years. His sons Jay and Albert owned and operated the Fox drug store. In 1898, the first telephone exchange was housed in the drug store with Jay as the first telephone operator. In 1966, the City purchased the property to be used as a municipal parking lot and named it the Fox Lot. The lot seems to always have been connected with transportation. Over the years, Stephen's Livery Stable, Hatch Chevrolet and Patterson Motors have occupied the property. The area around the Fox Lot was known as "Four Corners," located at the intersection of Canal Street (on the north), Charles Street (on the south) and Main Street. In 1952, when the new highway was built, Canal Street was re-aligned. In the 1970s, the City extended Pacific Street using the roadbed of Charles Street. "Four Corners" was a busy place, with a gas station on each corner. The Beach Box Factory and Lumber Yard was located on the south side of Main Street. Beach was the only competition the Blair Bros. had. Beach also furnished lumber for many of the Victorian houses in Placerville.



Community Pride and the City planted enough trees to one shade this parking lot! Colorful and contrasting groundcovers compliment the colors in the trees and the gardens underneath. Revitalization funded the old-fashioned streetlamps. This garden spot is a “Use No Spray” zone (herbicide and pesticide free organic landscape).

END OF WALKING TOUR. And so ends our walking tour of the public gardens & projects. We hope you have enjoyed exploring our town. For more Plant & Public Space or Volunteer information contact: josettej@comcast.net
For more Historical Source information contact: mfergie@d-web.com

GARDEN #17

Gold Bug Park Garden

By Lewis & Elizabeth Zacharias and Ellery Zacharias



The main feature of the park is the Gold Bug Mine, originally the Hattie, opened by William Craddock and John Dench in 1888. The mine exemplifies a typical neighborhood hard rock mine of the Mother Lode. Sold in 1926 to John McKay, the name was changed to the Gold Bug Mine. The 352-foot drift has wooden flooring and electric lighting to accommodate the public. The air shaft at the back of the mine provides clean, cool air at the temperature of 52-57 degrees all years long. Hard hats are provided.



This garden was designed to look as if it “spilled off the hill” and used to educate visitors about California native plants. There are seven dogwood trees planted in memory of the children of the mine owner. The upland area is planted with native grasses & wildflowers. The Big Canyon Creek area has riparian plants near a small pond at the entrance of the museum.



GARDEN #18

Hangtown Creek Watershed Master Plan

By Debra Power and Josette Johnson



Debra and Josette (Hangtown Creek Stewardship Committee and Community Pride) have spent 10 years preparing the Hangtown Creek Master Plan. They were given authority by the Placerville



City Council to form the Master Plan Committee. The Plan establishes baseline conditions for the Hangtown Creek Watershed and provides recommendations for holistic measures that will sustain Hangtown Creek as a Class-1 Rainbow Trout Fishery. Debra conducts environmental studies with her EDHS students (documents water, air, and soil quality, studies macroinvertebrates, performs water fowl & fish counts, and develops design standards). The watershed matrix, plant palette, beneficial & bloom table, public space inventory, and goals & policy measures were developed by Josette. The Creek Watershed Master Plan Committee is comprised of Community Pride and Hangtown Creek Stewardship Committee members. Marilyn Ferguson, Cindy Podsiadlo, Steve Dowty, Mark Egbert, & Bob Smart worked on the popular and ancient history, maintenance, & executive summary. Mary Kearney reviewed, and Helen Ramstad worked on the bibliography. Pierre Rivas documented existing conditions from the headwaters at Smith Flat to the Weber Creek confluence. This project is funded by Hangtown Creek Stewardship Committee volunteers.



...a ditch somewhere — or a creek, meadow, wood lot, or marsh.. These are places of initiation, where the borders between ourselves and other creatures break down, where the earth gets under our nails and a sense of place gets under our skin. ...Everybody has a ditch, or ought to. For only the ditches and the fields, the woods, the ravines — can teach us to care enough for all the land.

Robert Michael Pyle, The Thunder Tree, 1993

PLANT PALETTE *upland to riparian*



Hangtown Creek Plant Species List for The City of Placerville

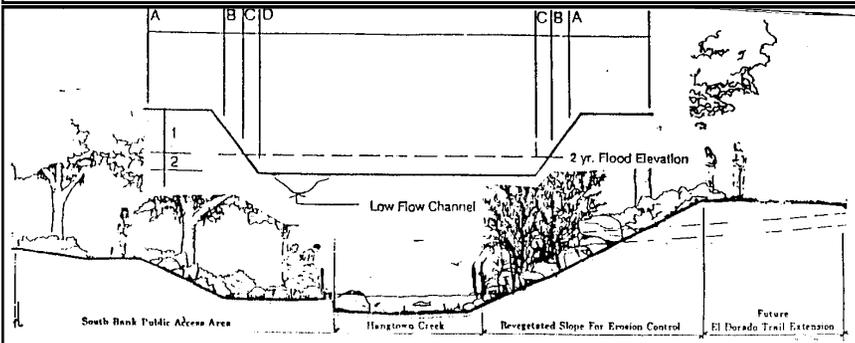
Adopted by: Community Pride and the Hangtown Creek Stewardship Committee 11/95

Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name
A. Top of Bank		C. Lower Bank	
Woody Plants		Woody Plants	
Quercus wislizenii	Interior Live Oak	Alnus rhombifolia	White Alder
Quercus kelloggii	Black Oak	Populus fremontii	Fremont's Cottonwood
Arbutus menziesii	Madrone	Fraxinus dipetala	California Ash
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	Acer negundo	Box Elder
Ceanothus sp.	Ceanothus	Willows Salix sp.	Willow shrub and tree
Umbellularia californica	California Bay	Sambucus mexicana	Blue Elderberry
Aesculus californica	Buckeye	Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry
Styrax officinalis	Snowdrop bush	Rosa californica	California Rose
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	Nitisa californica	California Grape
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	Acer macrophyllum	Big leaf maple
Grasses and Wildflowers		Herbaceous Species	
Nasella cernua	Nodding Needlegrass	Muhlenbergia rigens	Deergrass
Elymus glaucus	Blue Wildrye	Elymus triticoides	Creeping Wildrye
Melica californica	California Melic	Festuca rubens	Red Fescue
Calochortus sp.	Mariposa Lily	Deschampsia cespitosa	Calif. Hairgrass
Brodiea sp., Tritelia sp.	Brodiea (s)	Danthonia californica	Calif. Oatgrass
Diclostemma sp.	Calif. Diclostemma	Carex feta	Green-seath Sedge
Escholtzia californica	California Poppy	Carex barbarae	Santa Barbara Sedge
Lupinus sp.	Lupine	Carex pachystachya	Thick-head Sedge
B. Mid-bank		D. Channel Bottom	
Woody Plants		Woody Plants	
Quercus lobata	Valley Oak	Rosa californica	California Rose
Acer macrophyllum	Big-leaf Maple	Salix sp.	Willow
Cornus nuttallii	Pacific Dogwood	Alnus rhombifolia	Alder
Rosa californica	California Rose	Herbaceous Species	
Vitis californica	California Grape	Carex and Juncus	Rush and Sedge
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	Darmera peltata	Indian Rhubarb
Calycanthus occidentalis	Spicebush	Equisetum arvense	Scouring Rush
Sambucus mexicanus	Blue Elderberry	Equisetum arvense	Horsetail
Aristolochia californica	Pipevine	Eleocharis acicularis	Least Spikerush
Grasses and Wildflowers		Leersia oryzoides	Rice Cut-grass
Hordeum brachyanthrum	Meadow Barley	Paspalum distichum	Joint Paspalum
Melica californica	California Melic		
Deschampsia cespitosa	California Hairgrass		
Danthonia californica	California Oatgrass		
Elymus triticoides	Creeping Wildrye		
Carex feta	Green-sheath Sedge		

Streamside Revegetation - Plant List

Planting location for shrubs and trees reflect adaptability of vegetation to specific ecological zones, moisture regimes, and flood magnitudes and frequencies, resilience to disturbance, and shading of water and other water quality benefits. All planting within the creek approved by Fish and Game.

JJ-12/97



GARDEN #19

Adopt-A-Hwy Project



Community Pride has planted and maintains several Adopt-A-Spots on U.S. 50 between the Main Street Exit and the Schnell School Road Exit utilizing plants such as California Poppies, Lupine, California Fuchsia, Redwoods, Aspen and Chinese Pistache.



Community Pride has chosen to emphasize and help describe Placerville as the "Gateway to the Sierra." The concept includes a "Flaming Gorge" theme of trees that change color with the seasons, evergreen and white-barked trees, graceful shrubs, a variety of flowers, and low-maintenance, drought-tolerant ground covers. All wildflower and tree plantings are designed to be colorful, low-maintenance and attractive throughout the



year. Included in our projects are work days with the Placerville Schools & Scouts along Hangtown Creek. Our Goal is to teach children how the creek was an important part of the Gold Rush history and to show them how they can help be an important part of their community's effort to restore the creek area which we consider as an outdoor classroom and "Nature Study Area."



"Though I do not believe that a plant will sprout up where no seed has been. I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders."
Henry David Thoreau, *The Dispersion of Seeds*

BENEFICIALS & BLOOMS



DESCRIPTIONS:	EDI- BLE	FRA- GRANT	FALL & BLOOM COLOR	BLOOM PERIOD	BER- RIES	NITROGEN FIXING / EROSION	POLLINATORS	ZONE Water/ Exposure
TREES								
Cottonwood			Yellow/ White	March			Insects	Medium/Sun
Dogwood			Red/White	Apr/May	Red		Birds	Wet/Shade
Alder				Feb		Yes/Yes	Insects	Wet/Shade
Willow			Yellow	April		Yes/Yes	Birds	Wet/Shade
SHRUBS								
Toyon			/White	May/June			Birds	Medium/Sun
Manzanita	Yes		/White	March/Apr			Birds	Dry/Sun
Redbud			Red/Purple	Feb/May		Yes	Birds	Dry/Sun
Ceanothus		Yes	/Blue	Mar/May			Butterfly	Dry/Sun
coffeeberry				Apr/May			Butterfly	Med/Shade
Snowberry				May/June			Birds	Wet/Shade
Hazelnut			Red	Mar/Apr			Squires	Med/Sun
Currant	Yes		/Pink	Mar/ Aug	Berries		Birds/Humming birds/Butterflies	Med/Sun
Azalea	Yes		/White	Mar/ Aug			Butterflies, Night Dwellers (bats)	Wet/Shade
Coyote Bush		Yes	/White	Oct/Jan			Bees & Butterflies	Dry/Sun
GROUND COVER								
Oregon grape	Yes	Yes	Bronze/ Yellow	Apr/June	Blue		Birds	Dry/Sun
Penstemon			/Blu/Purple	Apr/June			Hummingbirds/Bees	Dry/Sun
Goldenrod			/Yellow	Jun/Jul			Bees	Dry/Sun
Yarrow		Yes	/Yellow	Apr/Jul			Lady Bugs	Dry/Sun
Fuchsia			/Red	Jul/Nov			Hummingbirds	Med/Sun
WILD FLOWERS								
Lupine			/Purple	Mar/ Aug		Yes	Bees	Dry/Sun
Poppy			/Orange	Mar/ Aug			Bees	Dry/Sun
Blue-eyed Grass			/Blue	Aug/Sept			Bees	Med/Sun
VINES								
Rose	Yes	Yes	Yellow/ Red	Mar/June	Red		Birds	Med/Shade
Honeysuckle	Yes	Yes	/Pink	May/Sept			Humming.	Dry/Sun
Clematis	Yes		/White	Feb/May			Night Dwellers	Med/Sun
Pipevine			/White	Jan/ Apr			Butterfly	Med/Sun
Milkweed				Mar/June			Butterfly	
GRASS,RUSH SEDEGE								
Baltic Rush				Jul/Sept		Yes/Yes	Frogs/Fish	Wet/Sun
Purple needle grass				Sept/Nov		Yes/Yes	Frogs/Fish	Dry/Sun
Field Sedge				May/June		Yes/Yes	Frogs/Fish	Med/Sun

GARDEN #20

El Dorado Trail & Hangtown Creek Landscape

By Community Pride and Trails Now!



Community Pride worked with Trails Now! and the Hangtown Creek Stewardship Committee on the grant that Trails Now! and the City received to extend the El Dorado Trail from the Park & Ride on Mosquito Road to Clay

Street near Cedar Ravine. Community Pride is working with the City to help implement the landscape plan that will provide shade and riparian habitat for the Hangtown Creek area. The El Dorado Trail, it is hoped, will ultimately connect Camino to the American River bikeway in Sacramento and Lake Tahoe.

Caltrans is deeding the remaining ROW through Placerville to the City for open space as part of the Highway 50 improvement project in the downtown area. Included in future plans are flowers to improve the look from the highway and creek restoration along this buffer area to improve habitat and provide erosion and flood control.

At the east end of this project is the Randolph and Hangtown Creek confluence where the two streams flow together. The Trail follows Hangtown Creek to Clay Street where on Saturdays during the summer months you can find the Farmers Market.



Credits~

Document Preparation, Photos & Public Spaces Inventory — *Josette Johnson*
Historical Research, Consulting & Text — *Marilyn Ferguson*
Editing — *Lisa Butler*

Special Thanks ~*Joyce Thompson* of the El Dorado County Historical Museum. *Debra Power* of the Hangtown Creek Stewardship Committee. *Eileen Crim* of Trails Now! All of the El Dorado County *Heritage Association* Members. *Ron Mueller*, Retired, the City of Placerville and All of the *Community Pride* Volunteers for support and funding.

Community Pride:



Community Pride was established in 1990 by the City of Placerville. Our Gardens & Projects Committee of volunteers designed and nurtured 20 gardens from Placerville Drive to Broadway along historic Main Street. Community Pride planted new shade trees at the Fox

Parking lot and worked with the Hangtown Creek Stewardship Committee in developing the draft Hangtown Creek Master Plan. We completed our first mural project, a depiction of Snowshoe Thompson. The mural is located on an historical building that was at one time the Post Office from which Snowshoe Thompson delivered mail. We continue work with school and youth organizations, involving them in planting and restoring Hangtown Creek. Community Pride is looking forward to several exciting new projects commissioning additional public art depicting Placerville's heritage, enhancing our Adopt-A-Hwy projects with Caltrans, and working with Trails Now! On landscaping the El Dorado Trail through Placerville. The goal and function of Community Pride is to encourage participation in beautification projects that *improve the grace and charm of Placerville*.

Heritage Association of El Dorado County:



Since 1973, a small group of dedicated volunteers has devoted itself to researching, documenting, promoting and preserving the rich history of El Dorado County, the county that made California famous. The City of Placerville consults with the Heritage Association on projects within its historic district, making recommendations on planning and design. The Heritage Association of El Dorado County is a nonprofit corporation working continuously to *preserve the past for the future*.

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

"A Walk in the Garden"

*Wow! El Dorado Trail in
Downtown Placerville.*



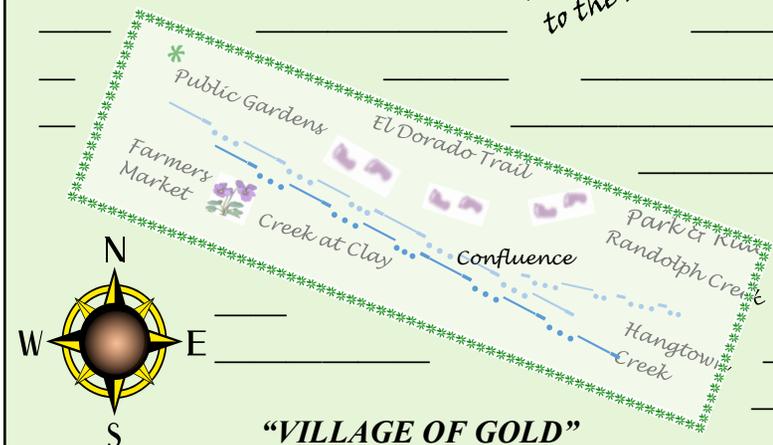
**GARDENS &
PROJECTS**



HANGTOWN CREEK

EL DORADO TRAIL

*Great idea! Walk
from the Park & Ride
to the Farmers Market.*



"VILLAGE OF GOLD"