

Parking Strips: the good, the bad and the water-wise

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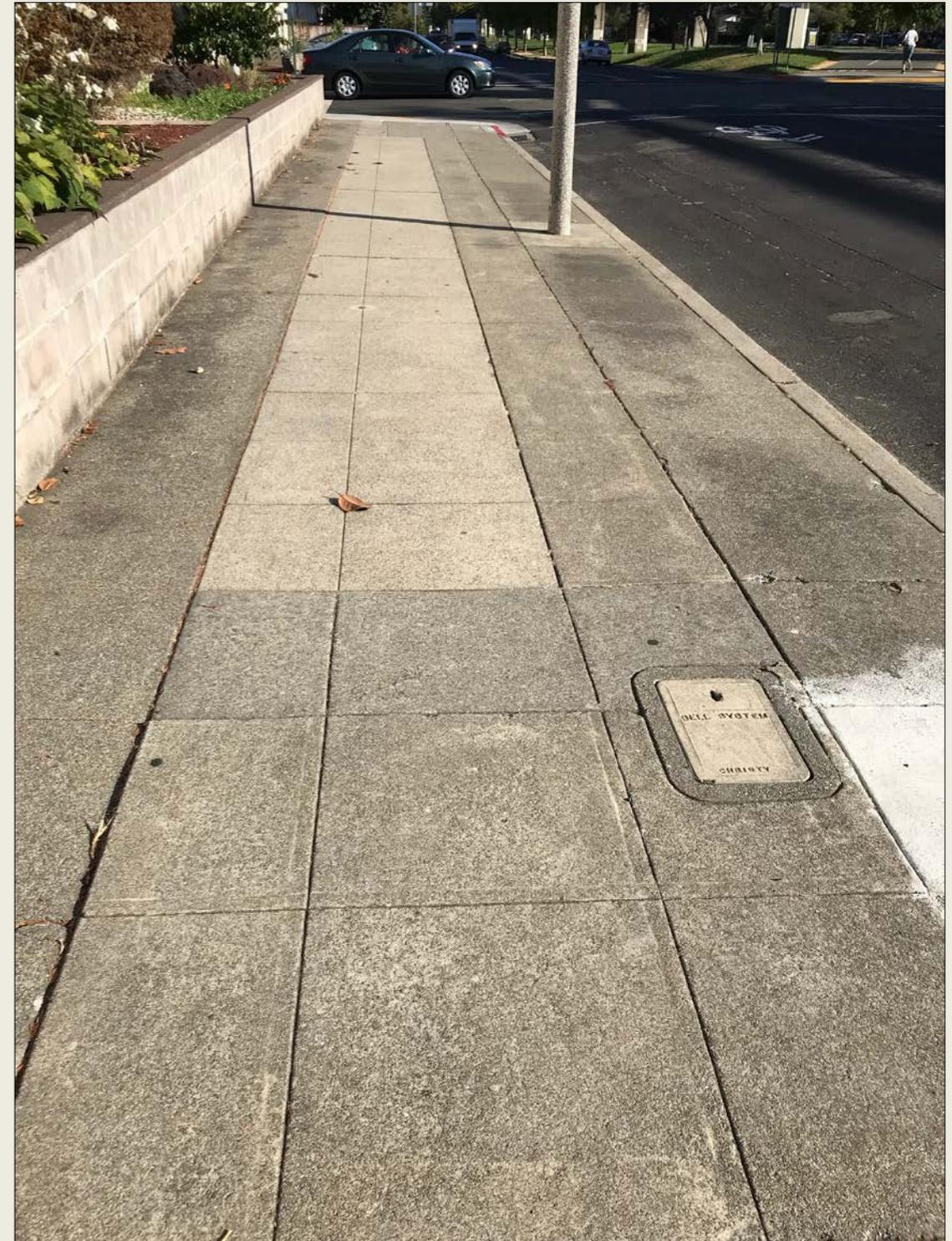
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Challenges of working with sidewalk strips

- Watering
- Poor soil
- Maintenance/Upkeep
- Dogs and Pedestrians
- Wrong Plant/ Wrong Place





Worse than a concrete strip?



The overspray looks bad and wastes water.





Poor distribution uniformity causes high water use.



Fun landscape! But the microspray irrigation is on while it's raining!





No water needed, but urban desert



**Well manicured median strips ends
with a weed strip.**

Changes the experience of the block.





Low water use, but hard for pedestrians to navigate



Valiant attempt . . . Medium size street trees would enhance the whole street.



A more successful container in downtown Walnut Creek



Example of fast growing, shade tree tearing up sidewalks and water and sewer lines.

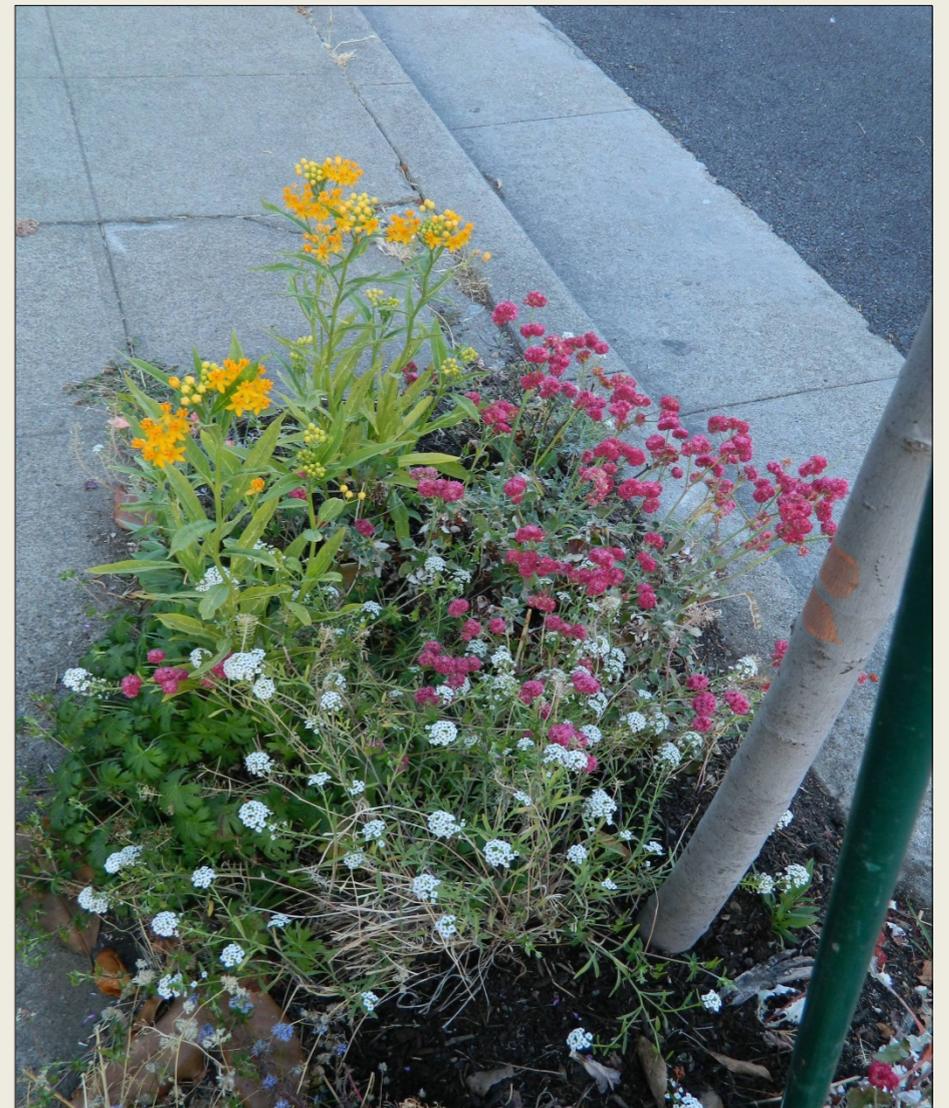


A wooden built-in solution also provides a resting spot





A more successful built-in container solution



Minimalist beauty



Plenty of walkable groundcovers/access to street parking.

***Fragaria chiloensis* in foreground.
Dymondia margaretae around stepping stones and tree.**



This permeable design is better than weeds, concrete or mulch.



Stepable from curb to sidewalk. To start, Dymondia does need constant weeding.



Looks like Dichondra—great pattern and high maintenance.



Parking strip on busy Hopkins St. in Berkeley, owner wanted interesting stones. Planted *Dymondia margaretae*. Kept on top of weeding for first 6 months.



Good combination low plantings and interlocking pavers.
Challenge is to match level of curb with sidewalk and integrate elevations of meters.
Plants—*Festuca idahoensis* 'Siskiyou Blue' and *Dorycnium hirsutum*—Harry Canary Clover



***Dymondia margaretae*—hand watered and weeded until established. Now no water.**



Trailing Gazania hybrid.

Once established, dense enough to screen out weeds and no supplemental water needed.



Another Gazania hybrid, in full bloom, attracting bees and butterflies.
Note: Cal-IPC classifies *Gazania linearis* as invasive.



Gazania parking strip with occasional grey fescue matching garden plantings.



Gazania, Nepeta, Kniphofia



***Carex pansa*, balanced entry with drip irrigation and requires little maintenance.**



Longer view of parking strip—lovely in its simplicity



Nice combination with the parking strip echoing front garden plantings:
Bulbine frutescens, *Lomandra longifolia* 'Breeze', Euphorbia hybrid and
Dymondia margaretae ground cover.



Alameda garden with *Lomandra conferiflora* 'Seascape' and assortment of succulents, echoing aesthetic of front garden—in-line drip irrigation throughout garden.



Same Alameda garden—different variety of Lomandra in parking strip



An Oakland example of pretty succulents and river rock



Again, same Alameda garden with dramatic *Ginkgo biloba* street trees—
extremely low maintenance and low water-use parking strip.



Another Alameda garden, newly planted with *Lomandra confertiflora* 'Seascape', *Arctotis* 'Ruby Creeper', *Gazania* 'Sunbathers Series' and trailing *Gazania* hybrids—all on drip irrigation.



Another view of the Alameda garden



Wide parking strip in Menlo Park: *Carex testacea*, *Pittosporum tobira* 'Wheeler's Dwarf',
Dianella hybrid, Cistus hybrid and Euphorbia hybrid—lush,
great color and texture— but not easy to walk through from car to sidewalk.



Wild and simple garden in Oakland—purple mulch, *Libertia peregrinans* in parking strip.



Well traveled strip on Spruce St. in Berkeley, hand watered when initially planted, After establishment, *Lomandra* 'Platinum Beauty' does not need supplemental water.



Newly planted, matching aesthetic of front garden:
grey fescue, Agave hybrid and English lavender.



**Recently planted pattern of low water use plants with in-line drip irrigation.
Stachys byzantina, *Santolina* 'Lemon Fizz',
Lomandra confertiflora 'Seascape', *Cordyline* 'Design-a-Line Burgundy'
and *Pittosporum tobira* 'Wheeler's Dwarf'
Oakland**



Various thymes with in-line drip irrigation—Castro Valley



***Thymus serpyllum* (Woolly Thyme) and
Lomandra confertiflora 'Seabreeze' with in-line drip irrigation.
Piedmont**



**Yuccas, ground covers, grasses. In-line drip irrigation.
Nice echo of plants from parking strip to front garden.
Alameda**





***Senecio serpens*—great for occasional in-line drip irrigation**



Same Trestle Glen parking strip with punctuation at garden's border



More Senecio with Anigazanthos – on Cesar Chavez



Again, same Trestle Glen garden, minimalist, low water use garden—
with *Chondropetalum* species and *Asparagus densiflorus* 'Myers'.



**Luscious plantings, all on in-line drip irrigation—more regular maintenance needed.
Euphorbia rigida, *Lomandra longifolia* ‘Breeze’**



6-7 year old Alameda garden with Arctotis 'Pumpkin Pie' as central planting



Same Alameda garden, Arctotis needs frequent dead-heading. Client loves the garden!



Wendt Ranch, Danville
Designer: Brightview

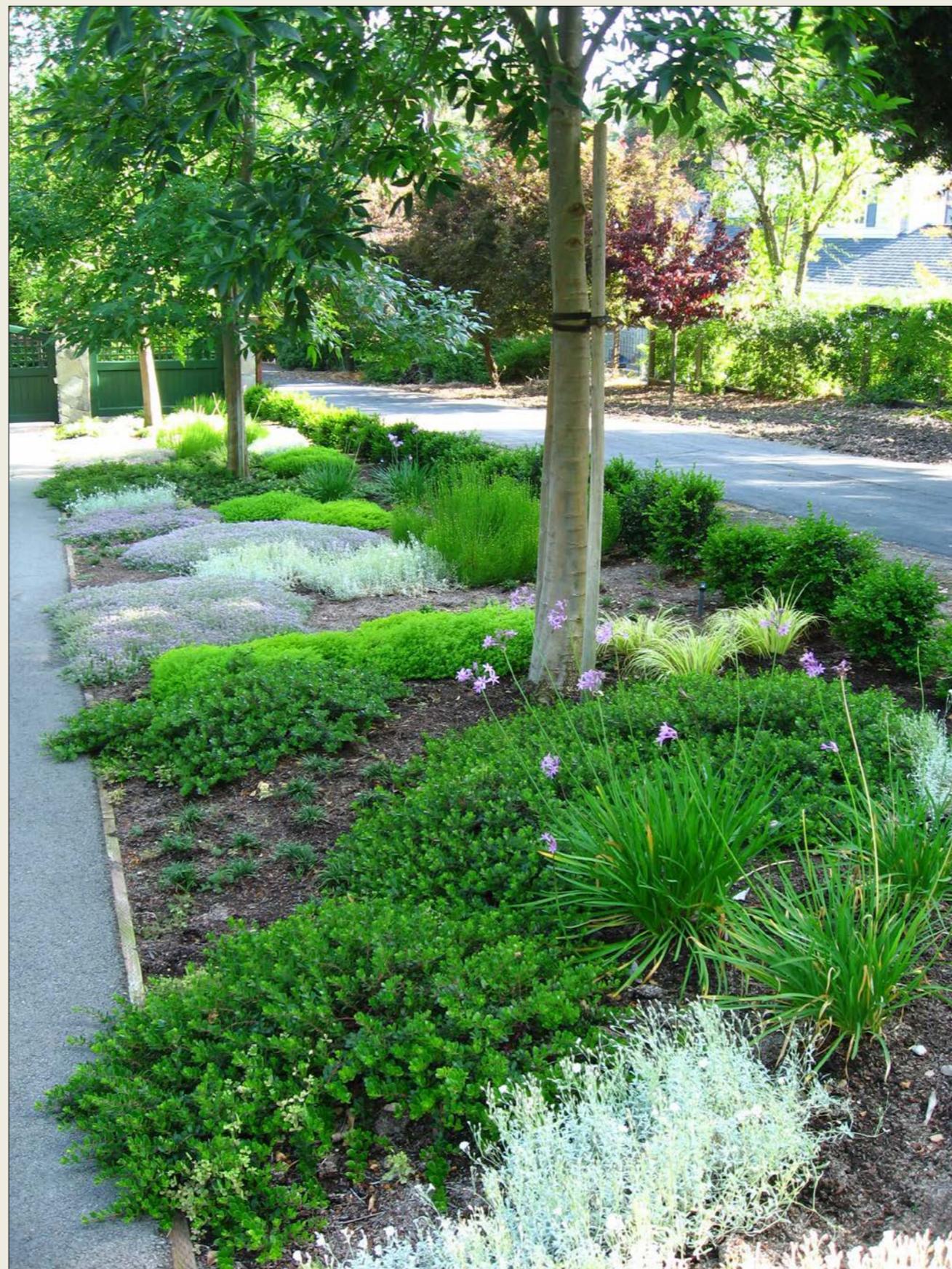


**Broadway Terrace
Designed by Broadway
Terrace Nursery**



**Broadway Terrace, Oakland
Designed by: Broadway Terrace
Nursery**

Look how the median strip dresses up the gas station.



Broad parking strip in Menlo Park: *Arctostaphylos* groundcover, *Tulbaghia violacea*, *Santolina* hybrid, woolly thyme, *Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon' , Lavender varieties, etc.



Plain but attractive use of Myoporum.



Berkeley parking strip, matching front garden, all on drip irrigation—
high maintenance, dedicated gardener: black-eyed Susans, Cosmos, Shasta Daisies