

# Plan for Parkways

Image courtesy Eastern MWD

## Parkway Plants



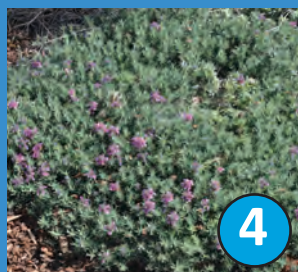
1



2



3



4



5

1 *Arctotis*  
*African Daisy*

2 *Guara lindheimeri*  
*Butterfly Flower*

3 *Lessingia flaginifolia*  
*var. californica*  
*Silver Carpet*

4 *Teucrium cossonii*  
*Majorcan teucrium*

5 *Calylophus hartwegii*  
*Sundrops*

## Start Your Project at the Parkway strip

While you don't own your **Parkway**, you are responsible for maintaining it, since it is public property maintained by private property owners. Parkway strips present some particular challenges, even though they're small.

**Cars!** Unless you live on a no-parking street, car doors will open onto the curb and into your parkway strip. People need some space to get out and walk around their cars. However you decide to plant your parkway strip, be sure to leave at least 18" (or more) as a step-out area that is clear from the edge of the curb for those doors to swing open and allow people to move. Consider placing bricks, pavers, gravel or decomposed granite in this area; or just spread mulch. Try not to plant in this step-out area. Keep your plants back from this edge to protect them from the damaging foot traffic.

**Trees.** If your parkway already has nice big street trees, then you also have nice big roots. Those roots may even be above ground, moving the concrete and otherwise causing trouble. Respect the roots – don't dig around them, cut them or otherwise bother them. Plant only in areas where the roots are not visible, and never closer than 24" from the trunk of the tree.

**Utilities and Irrigation.** Your water meter and other pipes and utilities are often found in the parkway. Be sure to CALL DIG ALERT (Dial 8-1-1) at least two days before you dig so marks can be made to avoid breaking or damaging underground cables and pipes.

Many parkways are mere strips. If the area is less than 10 feet wide, you should not be using spray irrigation because it is too difficult to keep water off the street or sidewalk when they are in use. Consider hand watering or connecting your parkway to the closest drip irrigation line in the front yard. If your front yard and parkway are sharing irrigation, make sure your plants in both sections have similar water and sun needs.



# Low water **Parkways**



A parkway covered in uniform and low water-use *Fragaria chiloensis* (*Strawberry*).

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Carpet-like *Dymondia margaretae* (*Silver Carpet*) makes a clean and walkable parkway surface.



*Ceanothus* 'Yankee Point' (*California Lilac*) quickly covers this parkway, but is not walkable.

## Planting A Parkway In Six Easy Steps

1. **Call Dig Alert (Dial 8-1-1)** to mark any utility lines, underground cables, and pipes.

2. **Protect Your Trees** by respecting, and protecting their roots

3. **Contour For Water Capture.** Gently contour the parkway area into a shallow bowl, capturing water that may run off of adjacent sidewalks and drive-ways.

4. **Select Plants** that can be maintained to allow both access to parked cars and better visibility to see oncoming traffic (both people and cars).

5. **Be Cautious!** Consider the parkway a high-traffic area and avoid unfriendly plants (like prickly cactus). Don't leave big holes open overnight, avoid creating tripping hazards, and help keep everyone safe!

6. **Gravel or Decomposed Granite** can be used in parkway areas, especially under mature street trees with surface roots, where digging holes to plant ground cover may damage the trees. Both materials should be contained by curbs, concrete sidewalks and/or landscape edging, and maintained at a finished height below the surrounding sidewalk and curb grade so they don't spread out over paved areas and become tripping hazards.

In the parkway below, *Achillea millefolium* (*Yarrow*) and *Guara lindheimeri* (*Butterfly Flower*) create long-lasting flowers with walkable mulch between.

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