

Suggestions for Traffic Circle Plantings

In an effort to support city staff, contractors hired to maintain unadopted circles, and the public, members of the former Traffic Circles Task Force reviewed and culled the original list of suggested plantings for traffic circles. The resulting suggestions below are intended for those circles that the city will plant and maintain or for adopted circles where volunteers might want additional suggestions for plantings that provide valuable habitat for insects and birds.

The plants below are suggestions and do not represent a finite prescriptive list. Volunteers may and can use other plants as long as they adhere to height specifications.

All plants are California natives, often native to our region. They have been selected for height requirements, drought-tolerance, and habitat value. They should thrive in full sun with little- to no-water (once established). All plants were checked to be widely available from local nursery and seed supply resources.

There are two lists of plants: Tier One and Tier Two. Each Tier contains 10 suggestions and has been formatted to print on a single sheet, double-sided.

In line with urgings from the Audubon Society, the Xerces Society, the National Wildlife Federation, the California Native Plant Society, and other organizations addressing alarming species decline, Tier One plants focus heavily on CA-native butterfly (caterpillar, or “larval”) host plants. These plants are also valuable sources of pollen and nectar for native bees and hummingbirds. Like most insects, caterpillars are host-plant specific. Since caterpillars are the primary food of most baby birds, planting for caterpillars supports birds. Tier Two suggestions are less focused on butterfly host plants and offers plants that provide valuable pollen and nectar sources for native bees and hummingbirds.

Suggested Plants for Traffic Circles – Tier One (#1-5 of 10)









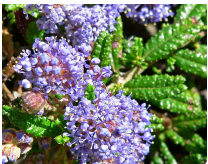

	Bloom	Plant	Scientific Name	Height	Width	Notes	Wildlife Supported
1		Buckwheat, Coast	Eriogonum latifolium	12-20in	2ft	Compact mound of softly felted blue grey spoon shaped leaves topped by pale pink 1" clusters of flowers blooming summer into fall. Used for erosion control, drought tolerant. Ground nesting native bees scrape fuzz off leaves to use in nest. Loved by bees, butterflies and many pollinators.	 Acmon Blue
2		Buckwheat, Naked	Eriogonum nudum	12-20in	2-3ft	Another keystone Buckwheat. Late blooming, short growing. Drought tolerant, attractive to butterflies and bees.	 Mormon Metalmark
3		Buckwheat, Red	Eriogonum grande var. rubescens	12-20in	2-3ft	Another keystone Buckwheat. Late blooming, short growing. Drought tolerant, attractive to butterflies and bees.	 Silvery Blue
4		California Aster, Point Saint George	Symphotrichum chilensis, 'Point Saint George'	6in	2ft	A low growing vigorous native perennial, reaching up to 6 inches in height and spreading widely. Covered with soft lavender daisies over a long period, summer through fall, often into winter.	 Field Crescent
5		California Lilac (low growing selections)	ex. Ceanothus hearstiorum - San Simeon Ceanothus	3-12in	6ft	Many species and varieties, choose low growing selections. Ceanothus hearstiorum is flat growing, with dark green crinkled leaves and 1" deep blue flower clusters in the spring.	 Pale Swallowtail

Photo Credits (from *Calscape.org* unless otherwise noted): (1) **Coast Buckwheat** (2013 John Doyen)/**Acmon Blue** (2008 Ron Wolf); (2) **Naked Buckwheat** (2016 Steve Matson)/**Mormon Metalmark** (Bill Bouton); (3) **Red Buckwheat** (2006 Steve Matson)/**Silvery Blue** (2014 Ron Wolf); (4) **Aster** (2007 Neal Kramer)/**Field Crescent** (Willem9); (5) **Ceanothus** (2007 Stan Shebs)/**Pale Swallowtail** (2013 Ron Wolf)

Suggested Plants for Traffic Circles – Tier One (#6-10 of 10)











	Bloom	Plant	Scientific Name	Height	Width	Notes	Wildlife Supported
6		California Native Bunch Grasses (ex. Creeping Red Fescue, Blue Grama)	ex. Festuca rubra (Molate Pt), Bouteloua gracilis	1-2ft	2-3ft	CA native and non-native grasses support a wide variety of Skipper butterflies (e.g. Umber Skipper, Fiery Skipper, Rural Skipper, and many more). In urban areas mostly on Bermuda Grass.	 Umber Skipper
7		Gumweed	Grindelia stricta var. platyphylla	1-1.6ft	1-2ft	Low herbaceous perennial, 2" sunny yellow daisies, summer to fall. Drought tolerant, but best with some summer water. Valuable pollen and nectar source.	 Native Bees
8		Lippia	Lippia nodiflora	1-4in	2ft	Evergreen perennial flat groundcover. 1/2" flower clusters like tiny lantana in pink and white. Host for Buckeye Butterfly. Attractive to pollinators.	 Common Buckeye
9		Lupine, dwarf	Lupinus nanus, Lupinus bicolor (or any short lupine)	12-18in	1ft	Also called "Sky Lupine". Annual wildflower that turns California fields blue in the spring. Reseeds. Seeds need moisture to germinate, available at Larners Seeds	 Gray Hairstreak
10		Manzanita	Low growing selections (exs. Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet', Arctostaphylos edmundsii 'Carmel Sur', see Notes for more)	6-12in	6ft	Low tidy evergreen groundcovers that are drought tolerant with pink to white small urn shaped flowers winter into spring provide bees with nectar early in season. Edible red berries good for migrating birds. Low growing selections (Low growing: Arctostaphylos uva ursi 'Point Reyes'- Point Reyes Bearberry)	 Bumble Bee

Photo Credits (from *Calscape.org* unless otherwise noted): ; (6) **California Red Fescue** (2018 Robert Steers/NPS)/**Umber Skipper** (2011 Ron Wolf); (7) **Gumweed** (2008 Stickpen)/**Dianthidium** (Rusty Burlew, honeybeesuite.com); (8) **Lippia** (2013 Ron Wolf)/**Buckeye** (2015 Gary McDonald); (9) **Lupine** (Lynn Watson)/**Gray Hairstreak** (2014 Ron Wolf); (10) **Manzanita** (2006 Steve Matson)/**Bombus vosnesenskii** (LasPalitas Nursery)

Suggested Plants for Traffic Circles – Tier Two (#11-15 of 20)











	Bloom	Plant	Scientific Name	Height	Width	Notes	Wildlife Supported
11		Bush Monkey Flower	Mimulus aurantiacus	2-3ft	3ft	Very drought tolerant. No water once established. Copious blooms. Hummingbirds attracted. Tends to lean but may need some pruning to keep low growing. Pinch to encourage more compact growth.	 Variable Checkerspot
12		California Fuchsia	Zauschneria or Epilobium canum. (Use Low growing selections, such as 'Everett's Choice' or 'Cloverdale')	1-2ft	2-3ft	Fine textured gray green to silver leaves, mounding habit and bright red orange tubular flowers in clusters later summer into fall. Can be winter deciduous. Best hummingbird attracting plant. Drought tolerant.	 Allen's Hummingbird
13		California Poppy	Eschscholzia californica	1-1.5ft	1ft	Perennial grown as Annual. Reseeds. Start from seeds or plants. The state flower of California. Mainstay pollen source for many native bees.	 Bumble Bee
14		Checkerbloom	Sidalcea malviflora	2ft	1ft	Perennial wildflower. Dense low 6" mound of small round scalloped leaves, 12-20" spikes of bright to dark pink 1" flowers in spring. Native larval host plant for Westcoast Lady Butterfly.	 West Coast Lady
15		Daisy, Wayne Roderick	Erigeron glaucus 'Wayne Roderick'	1ft	1-2ft	Pollen and Nectar source for bees. Profusion of 2" lavender daisies with golden centers, easy tough and reliably perennial. Long blooming Spring to Fall with some deadheading. Drought tolerant. Better with some summer water.	 Sweat Bee

Photo Credits (from *Calscape.org* unless otherwise noted): (11) **Monkeyflower** (2017 Margo Bors)/**Variable Checkerspot** (2017 Gary McDonald); (12) **Fuchsia** (2015 Steve Matson)/**Allen's Hummingbird** (ca.audubon.org); (13) **Poppy** (2012 Gary McDonald)/**Yellow-faced Bumble Bee** (Sean McCann, ibycter.com); (14) **Checkerbloom** (2010 Gary A. Monroe)/**West Coast Lady** (David Hofmann); (15) **Daisy Wayne Roderick** (2010 Calscape)/**Sweat Bee** (Kathy Keatley Garvey, homeorchard.ucanr.edu)

Suggested Plants for Traffic Circles – Tier Two (#16-20 of 20)











	Bloom	Plant	Scientific Name	Height	Width	Notes	Wildlife Supported
16		Farewell-to-Spring	ex. <i>Clarkia amoena</i> , <i>Clarkia williamsonii</i>	1-2ft	12in	Magenta, lavender, pink silky cup shaped flowers in late Spring into Summer. Annual that actively reseeds. Needs good drainage. Appreciates a little supplemental water.	 Leafcutter Bee
17		Bee's Bliss Sage	<i>Salvia</i> x. Bee's Bliss	1-2ft	6-8ft	A beautiful hybrid sage. Excellent ground cover and habitat plant. Grows to around 2 feet high and 6-8 feet wide. Handsome gray foliage topped with a profusion of lavender flowers. A bee and hummingbird favorite. Drought tolerant once established.	 Anna's Hummingbird
18		Phacelia, Bolander's	<i>Phacelia bolanderi</i>	1-1.5ft	0.5ft	Papery inch wide lavender flowers that bloom later than others, late spring thru summer. Perennial groundcover, appreciates some summer water and some shade. Bee pollen and nectar source.	 Mason Bee
19		Phacelia, Great Valley	<i>Phacelia ciliata</i>	4-18in	16in	Beautiful self-sowing annual. Clusters of cupped lavender blue flowers over ferny foliage. Good for bees.	 Membrane Bee
20		Western Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	1-3ft	1-2ft	Choose low growing cultivars. Usually a low spreading ferny leaved perennial with 3-4" clusters of white to pink flowers. Usually full sun, edge of shade under oaks. Attractive to pollinators. Will need pruning if growth gets too high.	 Long-Horned Bee

Photo Credits (from *Calscape.org* unless otherwise noted): (16) **Clarkia** (2017 John Doyen)/**Leafcutter Bee** (2014 Linda Dahlbert, bugguide.net); (17) **Bee's Bliss Sage** (calfloranursery.com)/**Anna's Hummingbird** (Bob Gunderson, goldengateadubon.org); (18) **Bolander's Phacelia** (2010 Stickpen)/**Mason Bee** (progardentips.com); (19) **Great valley Phacelia** (2006 Steve Matson)/**Membrane Bee** (Colletidae; planetbee.org); (20) **Yarrow** (2009 H. Zell)/**Long-horned Bee** (*Melissodes*, laspilitas.com)