

# GreenScape Landscaping & Design

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## Growing Beauty, Naturally

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## LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL FOR: Sam

Chico, CA

**Date:** November 07, 2025 | **Project:** Native Plant Garden Installation

**Designer:** Maria Rodriguez, CSLP

## 2. YOUR VISION

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Dear Sam,

We understand your desire to transform your landscape into a vibrant, low-maintenance, and ecologically friendly space. Imagine stepping into a garden that not only captivates with its natural beauty but also thrives in harmony with the local environment, attracting cheerful birds and busy pollinators. Our proposal outlines a beautiful native plant garden that will offer year-round interest, significantly reduce your water consumption, and provide a peaceful sanctuary for you and for local wildlife. This isn't just about planting; it's about cultivating a resilient ecosystem right in your backyard.

## 3. SITE ASSESSMENT & ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

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While a direct site visit has not yet occurred, this proposal is based on general considerations for a typical Chico, CA property, which often features:

- **Site conditions:** Expecting full sun to partial sun exposure, with potentially clay-heavy or well-drained soils.
- **Existing vegetation and landscape:** Anticipating the removal of a traditional lawn and possibly some non-native ornamental plants.
- **Microclimate considerations:** Acknowledging Chico's hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters, favoring drought-tolerant and heat-adapted native species.

- **Wildlife habitat potential:** High potential for attracting diverse local wildlife with appropriate native plantings.
- **Water source and conservation opportunities:** Significant opportunity for water conservation by replacing turf with drought-tolerant natives and efficient irrigation.
- **Native plant region:** Our plant palette will focus on California native plants suitable for the Central Valley region, specifically Chico's climate.

## 4. DESIGN CONCEPT

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Our design concept for your property centers on creating a dynamic, naturalistic native plant garden that evokes the beauty of the California landscape.

- **Overall aesthetic and feel:** A serene, inviting space with layered plantings, natural pathways, and a sense of belonging to the local environment. It will feel lush and vibrant without being water-intensive.
- **How it will look through the seasons:**
  - **Spring:** Bursting with wildflowers and fresh green growth, attracting early pollinators.
  - **Summer:** Resilient and vibrant, with heat-tolerant blooms and rich textures, providing shade and cool spots.
  - **Fall:** Showcasing warm autumnal colors, berries for birds, and interesting seed heads.
  - **Winter:** Offering structural interest from evergreens and dormant perennials, providing shelter for wildlife.
- **Key focal points and features:** Consider a meandering decomposed granite pathway, a grouping of sculptural native shrubs, or a small bird bath to enhance wildlife interaction.
- **Color palette and texture variety:** A harmonious blend of greens, silvers, and seasonal bursts of blues, purples, yellows, and reds, complemented by diverse leaf shapes and plant forms.
- **Long-term maturity vision (3-5 years):** A fully established, interconnected ecosystem requiring minimal intervention, where plants have filled in to create a dense, weed-suppressing canopy, and wildlife activity is abundant.

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

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This native plant garden is an investment in your property and the local ecosystem:

- **Water Conservation:** Estimated to use 70-80% less water than a traditional lawn, leading to significant savings on your water bill.
- **Wildlife Habitat:** Provides essential food, shelter, and nesting sites for local pollinators (bees, butterflies), beneficial insects, and a variety of bird species, enhancing biodiversity.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Native plants, with their deep root systems, improve soil health and store carbon more effectively than turfgrass, contributing to climate resilience.

- **Low Maintenance:** After establishment, requires significantly less mowing, fertilizing, and pesticide use compared to a conventional landscape.
- **Stormwater Management:** Dense plantings and healthy soil improve water infiltration, reducing runoff and protecting local waterways from erosion and pollution.
- **Biodiversity:** Directly contributes to the health of the local ecosystem by supporting a wide array of native flora and fauna, reversing habitat loss.

## 6. PLANT PALETTE

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*All plants are California natives or climate-adapted species selected for low water use and wildlife value.*

### **Canopy/Trees:**

- *Cercis occidentalis* (Western Redbud) - Qty 1 - 15-gallon - Provides spring flowers for pollinators, small stature, attracts birds.
- *Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak) - Qty 1 - 15-gallon - Keystone species, provides immense habitat, shade, and carbon sequestration (placed strategically for future growth).

### **Shrub Layer:**

- *Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'* (Manzanita) - Qty 3 - 5-gallon - Evergreen, attractive bark, winter flowers for hummingbirds, drought-tolerant.
- *Ceanothus 'Concha'* (California Lilac) - Qty 4 - 5-gallon - Stunning blue spring flowers for pollinators, nitrogen fixer, evergreen.
- *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Toyon) - Qty 2 - 5-gallon - Evergreen, white flowers in summer, red berries for birds in winter.
- *Rhamnus californica* (Coffeeberry) - Qty 3 - 5-gallon - Evergreen, adaptable, attracts birds and butterflies.

### **Perennials & Grasses:**

- *Achillea millefolium* (Yarrow) - Qty 12 - 1-gallon - White blooms spring-fall, attracts beneficial insects, drought-tolerant.
- *Penstemon heterophyllus 'Blue Springs'* (Foothill Penstemon) - Qty 8 - 1-gallon - Blue/purple blooms spring-summer, attracts hummingbirds and bees.
- *Salvia 'Bee's Bliss'* (California Sage) - Qty 6 - 1-gallon - Purple blooms spring-summer, highly attractive to bees, fragrant.
- *Festuca californica* (California Fescue) - Qty 10 - 1-gallon - Clumping native grass, provides texture and movement, seed for birds.
- *Stipa pulchra* (Purple Needlegrass) - Qty 8 - 1-gallon - State grass of California, graceful, habitat for insects.

**Groundcovers:**

- *Baccharis pilularis* 'Pigeon Point' (Dwarf Coyote Brush) - Qty 15 - 1-gallon - Fast-growing, excellent for erosion control, suppresses weeds.

- *Fragaria vesca californica* (California Wild Strawberry) - Qty 20 - 4-inch - Edible berries, spreads to 1-2 feet, good for partial shade.

## 7. INSTALLATION PROCESS

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**Phase 1: Site Preparation (3-5 days)**

- a. Mark out garden beds and features according to the approved design.
- b. Remove existing lawn and unwanted vegetation using sheet mulching (cardboard, compost, mulch) to suppress weeds and enrich soil. This is a chemical-free approach.
- c. Amend soil with high-quality organic compost to improve structure, drainage, and nutrient content.
- d. Assess and improve drainage if any areas show signs of water pooling.

**Phase 2: Hardscape & Irrigation (2-3 days)**

- a. Install permeable pathways (e.g., decomposed granite) and natural stone edging as per design.
- b. Install a water-efficient drip irrigation system with a smart controller, zoned for different plant water needs.
- c. Prepare planting beds with proper contouring for aesthetic and functional purposes.

**Phase 3: Planting (3-4 days)**

- a. Source all plants from reputable local California native plant nurseries to ensure genetic suitability and health.
- b. Carefully plant all species according to the design plan, ensuring the "right plant, right place" principle for optimal growth.
- c. Arrange plants by water needs (hydrozoning) to maximize irrigation efficiency.
- d. Ensure proper spacing to allow for mature size and reduce future overcrowding.

**Phase 4: Finishing & Mulching (1-2 days)**

- a. Apply 3-4 inches of organic, locally sourced mulch (e.g., shredded redwood bark, wood chips) to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.
- b. Install plant labels for identification and educational purposes (optional, but recommended).
- c. Conduct initial establishment watering.
- d. Thorough site cleanup, leaving your property pristine.

**Estimated Timeline:** 2-3 weeks (best planting season: fall or spring)

## 8. IRRIGATION & WATER MANAGEMENT

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Our commitment to water conservation is paramount:

- **Drip irrigation with smart controller:** We will install a highly efficient drip irrigation system paired with a weather-based smart controller. This system automatically adjusts watering schedules based on local weather conditions, plant types, and soil moisture.

- **Zones based on**

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