

# Imagine

San Diego Horticultural Society

[sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org)

Groovin' on Plants

Our garden incorporates key philosophies that John Lennon so eloquently expressed in the song *Imagine*

## *Imagine all the people, living for today*

The garden's focus is to convey John's message through the principles of good garden design. Showing how sustainable practices can be integrated into a residential setting. Our first objective is creating an outdoor living space to enjoy today and every day in San Diego's wonderful Mediterranean climate.

## *Imagine all the people, living life in peace*

Achieving a peaceful setting for contemplation and meditation – both crucial aspects of John's life – is a must for all of us who lead busy lives in our modern society. The various grasses in the garden convey a sense of peace as they sway in the breeze and are accented by pops of flower color supporting the garden show's theme of "Flower Power."

## *Imagine all the people, sharing all the world*

Critical to not only the future generations, but to all the other creatures with whom we share this small, blue planet is a world with unpolluted water, clean air and plentiful food. With sharing comes responsibility, we are all stewards of Mother Earth. By incorporating simple sustainable practices into the design, we raise awareness that we all share the planet.

The mosaic *Imagine* is an homage to the 11-foot diameter mosaic in Strawberry Fields, a 2.5 acre park within Central Park that is dedicated to John. Although the mosaic is black and white, from time to time people create a peace sign with flowers atop the mosaic. The mosaic is the focal point of our garden and we encourage you to imagine all of the possibilities for your own garden.

## Water Saving is Hip

The most pressing local gardening issue today is California is experiencing a statewide drought, one of the worst in our history. San Diego imports close to 75 percent of its water from outside the area, primarily from the Colorado River and Northern California. Conveyance, treatment and distribution of water accounts for about 20 percent of California's electricity usage. Integral to the garden display are the elements that help to retain and conserve water on our own properties, thus reducing the strain not only on our water reserves, but also our energy costs and air quality.

The garden showcases two types of water retention: a rain garden and a bioswale. A rain harvesting tank empties directly into the rain garden. A gutter attached to the side of the pavilion uses a rain chain to direct water into the tank. This demonstrates that even an open structure can capture rain water. Bushman USA, in Temecula, provided the tank with a unique design for rainwater harvesting.

The bioswale cleans and filters land-based pollution. The bioswale uses native grasses, in sod form, that were developed for biofiltration use. Currently, CalTrans is testing this sod throughout the state, with amazing success. Delta Bluegrass Company, in Stockton, CA, donated this exclusive product for our garden.

Permeability is incredibly important to retaining water onsite. Instead of traditional hardscape, flagstone is set two inches apart and interspersed with gravel to promote permeability. Instead of pouring concrete for the steps decomposed granite is used. The garden is terraced to reduce erosion.

## the Garden Soul is soil

Our garden display shows how to build a successful garden, but one of the most important components to keeping plants healthy and thriving is invisible. Most of us think of our gardens first as the flowers and plants and then as soil. What you can't see are the microscopic microbes that are in good healthy soil: beneficial bacteria, protozoa, nematodes and fungi.

Fungi are amazing decomposers of wood mulch and the fungal network can stretch for miles. A good mulch provides organic matter that is decomposed by microbes adding nutrients to the soil. Other mulch benefits are keeping the soil cooler, retaining moisture, creating good soil structure, and combating weeds.

An easy way to add organic material to the soil is by using a worm bin. It gives gardeners a way they can contribute to the health of their garden using minimal space. Additionally, a worm bin is an excellent way to get children involved in a sustainability practice at an early age.

## Groovy Plants

Another key aspect to sustainability in a garden is cutting down on green waste, which reduces our carbon footprint and maintenance costs. For that reason, the plant palette not only is low water use, but also very low maintenance. Native plants attract birds and insects and create a wildlife habitat. Succulent plants are water thrifty because they store water in their leaves, stems and/or roots. The selected grasses are not only low water and minimal maintenance but also add motion and texture to the garden.

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### Fab Plant List



#### Botanical Name

*Achillea millefolium* 'Paprika'  
*Achillea* 'Moonshine'  
*Agonis flexuosa*  
*Agrostis pallens*  
*Anthericum sanderii* 'Variegata'  
*Arctostaphylos* 'John Dourley'  
*Arctostaphylos manzanita* 'Dr. Hurd'  
*Artemisia douglasiana*  
*Artemisia palmeri*  
*Baccharis pilularis* 'Pigeon Point'  
*Bulbine frutescens* 'Tiny Tangerine'  
*Cercis occidentalis*  
*Echeveria* 'Blue Atoll'  
*Echeveria harmsii*  
*Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*  
*Fragaria californica*  
*Graptopetalum* 'Rosa'  
*Gaura lindheimeri*  
*Juncus inflexus* 'Blue Arrows' \*  
*Juncus patens* 'Elk Blue'  
*Kniphofia* 'Rockette Yellow'  
*Leymus condensatus* 'Canyon Prince'  
*Mimulus aurantiacus* 'Mimapri'  
*Mimulus aurantiacus* 'Minredda'  
*Populus fremontii* \*  
*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *lyonii*  
*Quercus ilex*  
*Quercus lobata*  
*Ribes viburnifolium*  
*Salvia* 'Bright Eyes'  
*Salvia clevelandii* 'Betsy Clebsch'  
*Sedum nussbaumerianum*  
*Sesleria autumnalis*  
*Westringia fruticosa* 'Grey Box'™

#### Common Name

Paprika Yarrow  
Moonshine Yarrow  
Peppermint Tree  
Native Bentgrass  
  
John Dourley Manzanita  
Dr. Hurd Manzanita  
California Mugwort  
San Diego Sagewort  
Dwarf Coyote Brush  
Tangerine Stalked Bulbine  
Western Redbud  
Blue Atoll Hens and Chicks  
Red Velvet  
San Miguel Island Buckwheat  
Woodland Strawberry  
  
Stratosphere™ White Butterfly Flower  
Blue Arrows Rush \*  
Elk Blue California Gray Rush  
Rockette Yellow Torch Lily  
Canyon Prince Wild Rye  
Curious™ Orange Monkey Flower  
Curious™ Red Monkey Flower  
Western Cottonwood \*  
Catalina Cherry Tree  
Holly Oak  
Valley Oak  
Evergreen Currant  
Bright Eyes Sage  
Betsy Clebsch Cleveland Sage  
Coppertone Stonecrop  
Autumn Moor Grass  
Grey Box™ Coast Rosemary

\* Note: These are high-water –use plants native to wetland and riparian areas.

### Groovy Garden Commune

Garden Designed by:



Kimberly Alexander

[alleelandscapedesign.com](http://alleelandscapedesign.com)

Garden Installation:

Tony Vitale , Landscape Logic [mylandscapelogic.com](http://mylandscapelogic.com)

Plant Suppliers:

Delta Bluegrass Company [deltabluegrass.com](http://deltabluegrass.com)  
Moosa Creek [moosacreeknursery.com](http://moosacreeknursery.com)  
Green Meadow Growers [greenmeadowgrowers.com](http://greenmeadowgrowers.com)  
Village Nursery [villagenurseries.com](http://villagenurseries.com)

Other Suppliers:

Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply [grangettos.com](http://grangettos.com)  
Glass Wall Systems [glasswallsystems.com](http://glasswallsystems.com)  
RCP Block & Brick [rcpblock.com](http://rcpblock.com)  
Metalworx, Escondido 760.735.3325  
Modern Builders Supply [modernbuilders.net](http://modernbuilders.net)  
SPJ Lighting Inc. [spjlighting.com](http://spjlighting.com)  
Tazz Lighting, Inc. [tazzlighting.com](http://tazzlighting.com)

Artists

Imagine Tile Mosaic: HannaH MurdochH  
Concrete furniture: Don Welsh [eleven39.com](http://eleven39.com)  
Sculpture: Ronald Wickersham [rawart101.com](http://rawart101.com)  
Sign Graphics: Jim Bishop



San Diego County Water Authority

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to have their garden sponsored by San Diego County Water Authority. To learn more about the Water Authority visit [sdcwa.org](http://sdcwa.org).



### eGuide to WaterSmart Lifestyle

The "eGuide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle" is your go-to resource for living water-efficiently in San Diego County.

Visit [watersmart.org/residential-guide](http://watersmart.org/residential-guide)

### Hip Get-togethers

The San Diego Horticultural Society meets the second Monday of the month from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Meetings are free for members and \$15 for non-members. For a full list of our events and to join, visit [sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org).

Peace, Love & Garden Happiness!

