

URBAN CREEKS COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA



Native Plant List for East Bay Creek Restoration Projects (Willows, cottonwoods, and dogwoods are the primary species used in soil bioengineering /to stabilize creek banks—the first species that should be planted. Others can be added later, to fill in the understory. Most “top of bank” species can be planted either at the beginning of a project or as the project matures.)

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	ZONE	CUTTING	CON-TAINER	SEED
Trees					
White alder	<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	A,B		x	
California Bay	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	A,B,C		x	
Big leaf maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	A,B		x	
California buckeye	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	B,C		x	x
Coast live oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	C		x	x
Cottonwood	<i>Populus fremontii</i>	A	x		x
Willow, Red	<i>Salix laevigata</i>	A	x		
Willow, Pacific	<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	A	x		
Willow, Arroyo or White	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	A	x		
Western sycamore (depending on microclimate)	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	B		x	
Shrubs					
California blackberry	<i>Rubus vitifolius</i>	B,C	x		
Dwarf coyote bush	<i>Baccharus pilularis ssp. pilularis</i>	C	xx		x
Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	A,B	xx	x	
Dogwood**	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	A,B	x	x	
Elderberry, blue	<i>Sambucus mexicanus</i>	A,B	x		x
Gooseberry	<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	A,B,C	x	x	
Hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	B,C		x	x
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	A,B,C	x	x	
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpus albus</i>	A,B		x	x
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles</i>	C		x	
Western redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	C		x	
Wild rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>	A,B		x	
Groundcover					
Ceanothus spp.	<i>C. griseus var. horizontalis</i> (Carmel Creeper)	C			
Dwarf Coyote bush	<i>Baccharus pilularis ssp. pilularis</i>	C,B	x	x	
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	B,C	x		x
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	B,C	x		
Ferns (understory plants)					
Western sword fern**	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	B		x	
Wood fern**	<i>Dryopteris arguta</i>	B		x	

Zone A	Edge of active channel, at toe of slope, to mid-bank
Zone B	Mid-bank to top of channel
Zone C	Top of bank
Can or prefers** to grow in dappled shade	
xx	Can be grown from cutting, but best to grow in small container first, then transplant to site

Other good native plants for mid-to top of bank (small trees and shrubs):

Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*): small black fruits eaten by birds and other wildlife

Pacific wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*): its berries are eaten by yellow-rumped warblers, a common migratory songbird in this area.

Pink Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*); Evergreen Currant (*Ribes viburnifolium*), and Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*)

Spice bush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*): while not native to northern California, it is native to other parts of California, and has beautiful, maroon-colored blossoms that somewhat resemble a water lily. **Can tolerate more moisture.**

Top of bank only:

Ceanothus spp. (Concha, Sierra blue, Frosty blue, Ray Hartman, etc.)

Coastal silktassel (*Garrya elliptica*): a shrub-like tree with very long, beautiful catkins

Purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*) and Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*)

Manzanita spp.: most are compact shrubs with berries and delicate flowers that attract birds, bees, butterflies

All of the plants listed above attract hummingbirds and other birds.

Grasses

California fescue (*Festuca californica*)

Purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*)

Red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) **Can tolerate more moisture.**