



## ECOLOGY

The many mature native trees and shrubs lining the Corridor are a reminder of a historical landscape consisting of open grasslands and oak woodlands interlaced with creeks. This ecosystem existed in a dynamic balance for thousands of years, supporting plentiful wildlife and Native American communities.

Nearby you can see fine examples of the California native trees and shrubs listed below. Look for the number of each next to the corresponding plant in the Corridor.

TRAIL MARKER #	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
1	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak
2	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak
3	<i>Juglans hindsii</i>	Black Walnut
4	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Blue Elderberry
5	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote Bush
6	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California Buckeye

Our introduction of non-native plants and animals and our constructed changes to the landscape have affected that balance in many ways. Certain invasive plants such as Algerian ivy, Bermuda grass, periwinkle and Japanese privet have proliferated along our creeks and trails. These plants displace native vegetation and have less value to wildlife.

We can support the intricate relationships between plants and native insects by landscaping our trails and private gardens with California native plants which are adapted to the climate and soils of our area. They require less water and no pesticides or fertilizers to thrive. Eliminating garden chemicals reduces polluted runoff into our creeks.

The Adopt-a-Corridor Program gives residents a way to be involved in protecting our County's natural resources. During Corridor restoration projects volunteers learn about local ecology while removing invasive species and planting California native plants.



The Iron Horse Corridor between Love Lane and Del Amigo in Danville features mature examples of many of the native trees pictured above. These provide beauty, shade and habitat for wildlife.

This sign was prepared by LifeGarden, a Contra Costa County based 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization ([www.lifegarden.org](http://www.lifegarden.org)) with a Civic Pride grant from the City of Walnut Creek and a matching grant from Contra Costa County's Iron Horse Corridor Trust Fund. We gratefully acknowledge the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for providing some of the photographs for this sign.

