

## McCoppin Square Hillside Project

### The plan/overall vision

- What: transform sand hillside to planted area
- How: terrace the hillside by creating retaining walls and creating mounds of debris to plant upon
- Why: prevent erosion from wind and rainfall, enrich the soils, make more usable space in the park
- Where: back side of 24<sup>th</sup> and Santiago, facing ballfield
- When: install now, plants grow over the course of next several years while the debris breaks down slowly

### Techniques

- Terracing
  - Slows runoff, redirects water, makes easier surface for plants to grow on
- Hugelkultur
  - Creates water-retaining mound of slowly decomposing material for plants to grow on. (It will flatten over time.)
- Swales
  - Collect water
- Plant selection
  - Able to tolerate the conditions present: wind and sandy soil
  - Different growth rates
  - Different root systems

### What I have implemented so far

- Retaining walls
  - Made sure terraces are not horizontally level, must be sloped to allow water to move
  - Made sure terraces slope into the hillside, to avoid eroding the edge
  - Dug trench to hold branches to form the wall
- Started to designate areas for paths and planting areas
- Water in green clippings and sod

### What I would like apprentices to do

- Create lowest retaining wall (delineate path)
- Remove the Big Pile – either use it in mounds, or haul away
- Create lines outlining path where the Big Pile is currently
- Remove the sod around Monterey Cypress and use for building mounds
- *Build terraces behind the retaining walls (ie, move soil to level the terrace), also dig swale a few feet away from edge of wall*
- *Build mounds atop the terraces designated for planting, using branches, clippings or manure, upside-down sod, and soil*
- Lightly sheet and heavily mulch the bare area around Monterey Cypress using grindings
- Plant the mounds
- Lightly sheet and mulch the mounds with grindings
- Heavily sheet and heavily mulch the paths with yellow chips

## Tools needed

- Polesaw
- Round point shovels
- Spades
- Bow rakes
  - Anything else you prefer for ivy removal and cutting up chunks of sod
- Pole pounder / sledgehammer / mallet / post-hole digger
- 2 wheelbarrows
- Pitchforks
- Scoops
- Chainsaw
- PPE (chaps, helmet, eyes, ears)
- Handsaws and pruners
- Gloves that can handle blackberry and wet/muddy material

## Itinerary

### Day 1

7AM:

- Introduction of McCoppin Sq and myself
  - Facilities (bathroom, Taraval)
- Project description
  - Sand -> plants
  - What has been done so far
  - What I want the end to look like
  - Today's objectives

7:30AM:

- 3 possible tasks
  - Pole chainsaw low branches of Monterey Cypress (2 people)
  - Add stakes to retaining walls (1-2 people)
  - Mow to generate clippings (1 person)
- **At all times I will be watering in all the clippings and sod. We will rotate the task of mowing/generating green clippings.** (\*mower also needs to clean up the long grass edge)
- Once polesawing is done, we can safely begin to clear the area below the Monterey Cypress
  - Remove blackberry and ivy -> green waste
  - Cut up pieces of sod and lay them upside-down on retaining walls that have green clippings
  - Weed around the Geranium madarense to complete this area
  - Area is complete and ready to be sheetmulched as a path
- Once polesawing is done, we can also safely finish the island
  - Add branches to unfinished wall
  - Add clippings
  - Move sod chunks from island and put them on top of clippings
  - Remove blackberry and ivy
  - Cut up sod and place upside-down on walls
  - Once island is flattened, build a berm just behind the retaining wall using branches and clippings and sod. This berm will stretch from the Cypress to the edge of the turf (the whole length of retaining wall).
  - Island is complete and ready for sheetmulching and planting

Breaktime

- Build lowest retaining wall (from the stump to the ballfield fence)
  - Start with stakes or logs
  - Add horizontal beams/logs
  - Add branches and green matter
  - Add sod

Lunchtime

- Begin to define terraces better
  - Make all terraces slightly mounded in the middle
  - For planted regions: heap branches and more clippings and sod

## Day 2

### Tasks:

- Finish defining terraces
- Begin to haul away Big Pile. Each dumprun will be paired with a mulchrn at Parkside. Introduce location of dump and Parkside.
- Once Big Pile is gone, delineate where the path will be.
  - Determine additional retaining walls or swales needed
  - Begin to sheetmulch the path with yellow chips. \*\*IF NONE ARE DELIVERED, USE PARKSIDE\*\*
- Begin to sheetmulch the area between island and Monterey Cypress with grindings.

## Day 3

### Tasks:

- Sheetmulching, planting
- Cleanup and beautification / user friendliness