Native American
Contemplative Garden

This garden honors the Patwin ancestors who lived on this land. Hundreds of Patwin villages also lined the many creeks that traverse this land from Glenn County to the San Francisco Bay. Today, the old villages are gone and only three federally recognized Patwin and Wintun Indian Rancherias remain: the Colusa Tribe, the Cortina Tribe, and the Yocha-De-He Wintu Nation.

Although decimated by disease, forced relocation, and confinement to the Solano Mission, some Patwin escaped capture. They ran to the hills, relying on their intimate knowledge of the land, ceremonial traditions, and extended family ties with other villages to stay alive and reestablish their communities. Patwin Elder Bill Wright says that his ancestors “used to travel the valley and follow the seasons” as part of daily life that included hunting, fishing, collecting and processing acorns and berries, and gathering plants for basket making. The ancestors live through today’s Patwin people who continue their beliefs, language, and ceremonial traditions.

This campus is Patwin land and remains an important part of Patwin heritage and identity.

The Arboretum waterway is an old channel of Putah Creek.

Please enjoy this contemplative garden with respect.

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