



The Register

The Library Patrons' Garden at the Huntington Beach Library offers a quiet spot in which to read.

Library's garden a peaceful retreat

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Sometimes the most private places are the most public ones. The Library Patrons' Garden at the Huntington Beach Library on Talbert Avenue is one of these.

The old-fashioned garden's beds and pathways are just 10 feet from the library's parking lot, but its flowers and peace are a million miles from the maddening crowd.

Its traditional "knot" design has been used in formal gardens since the Renaissance.

The garden was planted in 1975, the year that the library, a combined information and cultural-resource center, was opened. Then it was "The Literary Garden." Volunteers filled its flower beds only with plants mentioned in the Bible and other literature.



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Signs engraved with plant names and literary references were placed alongside the specimens. A number of the plants

didn't adapt well to the climate and died; so did interest in the garden.

After a time, a few people revived enthusiasm in the project. The garden was replanted with hardier herbs and flowers and renamed in 1984. Three volunteers, Larry and Myrtie Hayden and Mary De Guelle, have become its primary caretakers. The garden's beds are blooming again.

Gurgling fountains in front of the library mask the traffic noise, and the garden's stone benches invite the library's visitors to sit for a while after perusing the library's collection of more than 300,000 books. Still, few of the library's 127,000 active card holders seem to accept the invitation.

— Kim Hefner/The Register

