

# MONTEREY BAY FRIENDLY LANDSCAPES

## SAVE WATER IN A BEAUTIFUL WAY!



After years of drought, many residents have made lasting landscape changes to save water in their gardens. To help inspire and inform other gardeners who want to do the same, the Monterey Bay Friendly Landscape recognition program was started. This program helps residents and businesses transform once-thirsty landscapes into beautiful, healthy, and sustainable gardens and landscapes that send less waste to the landfill, conserve water and energy, and manage stormwater as a resource.

Certified Monterey Bay Friendly Landscapes are required to meet 10 ecological design and maintenance standards that maximize water and energy conservation.

1. Use mulch and compost to create healthy soil
2. Practice natural pruning and plant spacing
3. Remove invasive plants
4. Choose drought tolerant, climate-appropriate plants
5. Limit your functional turf areas
6. Practice weather-based irrigation scheduling
7. Utilize drip (or other low-volume) irrigation
8. Remove sprinklers near sidewalks and driveways
9. When it rains, “slow it, spread it, sink it”. This means to use green infrastructure, such as cisterns, rain gardens, and permeable pavements to manage rainwater in the landscape. These promote groundwater recharge and reduce flooding and stormwater pollution downstream.
10. Sign an ecological landscape maintenance agreement. All certified landscapes are required to implement a Monterey Bay Friendly Landscape ecological landscape maintenance agreement, which ensures the landscape will be managed to prevent irrigation waste, use less chemicals, and reduce dependence on landscape equipment that uses fossil fuels. This can be downloaded from the program site in English or Spanish.



*The Heart of Soquel Park is a great example of Monterey Bay Friendly Landscaping.*

# Low Water Landscaping Made Easy

Learn more about rebates and incentives at: [green-gardener.org](https://green-gardener.org)



Monterey Bay Friendly Landscapes go beyond traditional landscape water conservation. The program also offers resources for those interested in using rainwater or greywater for irrigating medium and high water use plants. Residential homeowners that participate in the landscape certification program also receive permanent discounts at participating local nurseries and landscape supply businesses, an attractive sign that can be displayed in their yard, and photos of their landscape on the website gallery. Businesses and multi-family housing HOAs with certified landscapes also receive public recognition on the gallery site <https://green-gardener.org/green-garden-gallery/>, a sign, and marketing material to show their clients they have invested in a greener, less-toxic environment in which to live and work. Real estate agents and property managers can certify landscapes of properties for sale or lease and use the program standards to create curb appeal that markets a low maintenance, healthy, green living environment instead of a high maintenance lawn.

Find a qualified rater and see if yours is a Monterey Bay Friendly Landscape! <https://green-gardener.org/find-a-rater/>

Interested in learning more? Check out the Monterey Bay Friendly Landscape program standards at [www.green-gardener.org](http://www.green-gardener.org)

The Monterey Bay Friendly Landscape Program was funded by a Prop 84 green infrastructure planning grant from the State Water Board. The program provides regional ecological landscape certification standards and incentives for public, commercial, and residential property owners who are leading by example to make sustainable landscapes the 'new normal' in our communities. This is a collaborative effort between Ecology Action, California Landscape Contractors Association, Ecological Landscaping Association, Monterey Bay Master Gardeners, Surfrider Foundation, Coastal Watershed Council, Resource Conservation Districts, and more than 20 public agencies representing water utilities, solid waste and recycling, and stormwater management.



Roof downspout is diverted to a bioswale in this Monterey Bay friendly Garden at Santa Cruz city hall