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Envision your Waterwise landscape

A healthy landscape is one that offers both lasting beauty and practical functions . . . season after season. The homeowners whose garden we use in our examples in this handbook want to remove the lawn without using chemicals and replace it with a low maintenance and low water landscape that uses local California native plants to reflect the lush chaparral-covered hillsides and oak savannahs of our region. They want to start spending more time in their garden with their family and dog, and attract birds, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. They also want to capture all the rainwater from the roof, and keep it in their garden.

Think about the elements of your landscape that are most important to you. Jot down a few ideas that will help you determine your next steps.

Consider how much maintenance you want to take on. Are you ready to lose the lawn? Would you like fruit trees or edible shrubs? Are you falling in love with California native and California friendly plants?

Consider how you move through the garden. Do you have a patio near the house, or out in the yard? Would a nice wide entry pathway make your home more welcoming? Does enclosing the front yard make the most of a small space and provide needed privacy?

Surfrider Ocean Friendly Garden



Functionality

Plan your garden with long-term health and maintenance in mind. Look for opportunities to improve the soil with compost and mulch, shape and contour the land to make the most of rainfall, and select climate-appropriate plants that thrive in the local environment. Think about providing resources for local native insects and fauna, and keeping pollution out of the local waterways.

Stout Design Build, Inc.



Aesthetics

The art of garden-making draws from the principles of scale, color, texture, and placement of plants and features. Landscapes are living, dynamic performances, and the long-term health and viability of the garden requires knowledge of the science behind what we see with our eyes. A well-designed landscape will continue to grow, change, surprise, and delight for decades.

Dirt Diva Designs



User Experience

A well-executed landscape design, whether you do it yourself or have professional help, not only makes your home more enjoyable, it adds to your useable space. Studies have shown that thoughtfully developed outdoor spaces can increase the value of a home by up to twenty percent. And a well-maintained landscape ensures that you retain that value.