

Use this Project Checklist

Prepare to work

pp. 1-4

- Clean up Your Property
 - Remove trash and debris, weeds, dead plants
- Orient Yourself
 - **Check with socialwatersmart.com for rebate eligibility**
 - Check with City if permits are required, and secure them if needed
 - Find out if you are in a hillside grading area or special viewshed
 - Confirm fire regulations in your area
- Make a List of Things You Want In Your New Landscape
 - Think about how much maintenance you want to do
 - Consider how much rainwater you want to catch in barrels or cisterns
 - Determine how much of your property you want to change – and how much lawn to remove

Notes

Plan before digging

pp. 21-28

Do you need design help?

Walk around and take photos (for BEFORE)

- Make a Site Plan
 - Take measurements
 - Make a Microclimate Plan
- WaterPlan
 - Do roof area calculations
 - Note location of downspouts
 - Calculate water available from each downspout
- Grading Plan For Capturing Rainwater
 - Look at slope of the site
 - Plan for where to stockpile topsoil if project is large
 - Identify trees to be protected during construction
- Test Soil Type
 - Percolation Test – Brick or Sponge?
 - Jar Test - Sand, Silt or Clay?
- Make an Existing Irrigation System Plan
 - Run irrigation and make immediate adjustments
 - Determine whether or not you will abandon the irrigation or convert spray to drip
 - Adjust controller program time to eliminate runoff (cycle and soak)
- Do Some Shopping and Research
 - Source rain chains, rainbarrels and cisterns
 - Source mulch and compost
 - Go to nurseries for plants and watch for native plant sales
 - Install gutters, if you want to harvest more water

APPLY FOR YOUR REBATE AND GET PRE-APPROVAL BEFORE YOU BEGIN WORK!

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Design for plants

pp. 29-36

What do you want in your yard?

Follow guidelines for hillside planting

Ask for help at a nursery or native plant sale

- Make A Planting Plan
 - Assign Plant Factors to existing material
 - Research native plant communities for your area
 - Consider butterflies and pollinators
 - Where are the swales and berms (wet and dry feet!)?
 - Add in edibles and fruit trees
 - Select one or two shade trees
 - Check www.plantright.org for the BAD GUYS
 - Scale plants for maturity
 - Hydrozone

Notes

Begin your project installation

pp. 37-44

Do you need construction/installation help?

CALL 8-1-1 BEFORE BEGINNING WORK

- Make Calls to Order Equipment, Material, Deliveries
 - Rent a sod cutter and dumpster, if necessary
 - Order organic matter for the soil
 - Select boulders and gravel for creek beds, if you like that look
 - Order catch basins or piping for irrigation and drainage
 - Deliver rain barrels and cisterns
- Stockpile Soil and Protect Trees
 - Protect trees from construction damage (limbs and roots)
 - Remove plants that are not wanted
- Change Existing Hardscape to Make It More Permeable
- Remove Grass and Build Soil With Soil Lasagna
 - Continue to water your lawn up to two days before removal
 - Remove your turf without chemicals through Sheet Mulching
- Contour Site For Rain
 - Contour soil to hold onto First Flush (first inch of rain)
 - Remember 150 sq. ft. of area, six inches deep for every 1,000 sq. ft. of roof
 - Do not remove soil; use it to create your contours
 - Add organic matter to the soil
 - Install catch basins, drainage pipe and sleeves under hardscape
- Repair Irrigation
 - Identify or move future drip irrigation points of connection
 - Replace valves for low pressure valves
 - Install pressure regulator, flow meter, or landscape sub-meter
 - Install low-head check valves on slopes and grade changes
- Capture Rainwater
 - Lay out plan using flour, chalk or builder's inverted spray paint
 - Install boulders and materials for creek beds or swales
 - Install rain barrel or cisterns

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Notes

Install new plants pp. 44-62

Compare Planting Plan with Existing Irrigation Plan

Fall is the best time to get free rain irrigation!

Order or purchase plants and gather materials necessary for planting

Lay Out Planting Plan

- Lay out your Planting Plan using flour or chalk
- Make your "in field" adjustments
- Install your plants into the Soil Lasagna
- Be sure to respect correct plant placement for mature size
- If drainage is poor, auger holes and wait to complete
- Thoroughly and completely water holes, plants, and surrounding soil

Upgrade and adjust new irrigation pp. 34-36

Consider hand watering until landscape is established (1-2 dry seasons)

Accommodate the Planting Plan

- Convert spray head sprinklers to drip or install new drip lines
- Cap all unused spray head sprinklers
- Install tattle-tale flush assemblies
- Install end caps on the drip zones
- Create an "as built" drawing of the new irrigation layout
- Install a weather-based irrigation controller

Establish and steward new landscape pp. 63-68

Complete Irrigation Installation

- Irrigation for establishment is best used during fall, winter and spring months if rainfall is limited
- Adjust irrigation to eliminate runoff
- Regularly flush drip irrigation lines, especially during the first year
- Seasonally adjust automatic irrigation schedule
- Reduce in fall; turn it off in winter!
- Move drip irrigation and add emitters as the tree grows in order to maintain the wetting zone at the outside edge of the tree's canopy (dripline)

Maintain Living Soil and Plants

- Maintain 3" of living mulch and add more annually (more mulch, fewer weeds)
- Practice Integrated Pest Management

Maintain Rainwater Capture Systems

- Make sure gutters are not clogged
- Clean rainbarrels/cisterns and clean out catch basins
- Make sure mosquito screen is not ripped
- Flush pipes
- Remove debris from swales, especially at inlets/outlets