

# SAVE WATER & MONEY BY INSTALLING AN

# OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN



American landscapes have evolved from the traditional English gardens from the turn of the century. These gardens require intensive maintenance and resources.



Ocean Friendly Gardens capture, slow and sink rainwater into a "sponge-like" garden that mimics the natural conditions of Southern California rainfall patterns.



An example of a low water parking strip; on one side, the lawn requires approximately 14,260 gallons of water to survive and requires regular mowing, while the dymondia requires 3,565 gallons of water to survive and no additional maintenance.

**A New Garden Party.** In Southern California, we are experiencing multi-year drought conditions yet again. Water rates are continuing to rise and communities are being asked to conserve again. What's clear is that we can no longer maintain "English Country" or Tropical Hawaiian gardens here in Southern California. Many cities and non-profit organizations, such as Surfrider Foundation are working in partnership to educate residents about the using rainwater as a resource in combination with climate appropriate plants and other best practices to reduce water waste and prevent stormwater pollution.

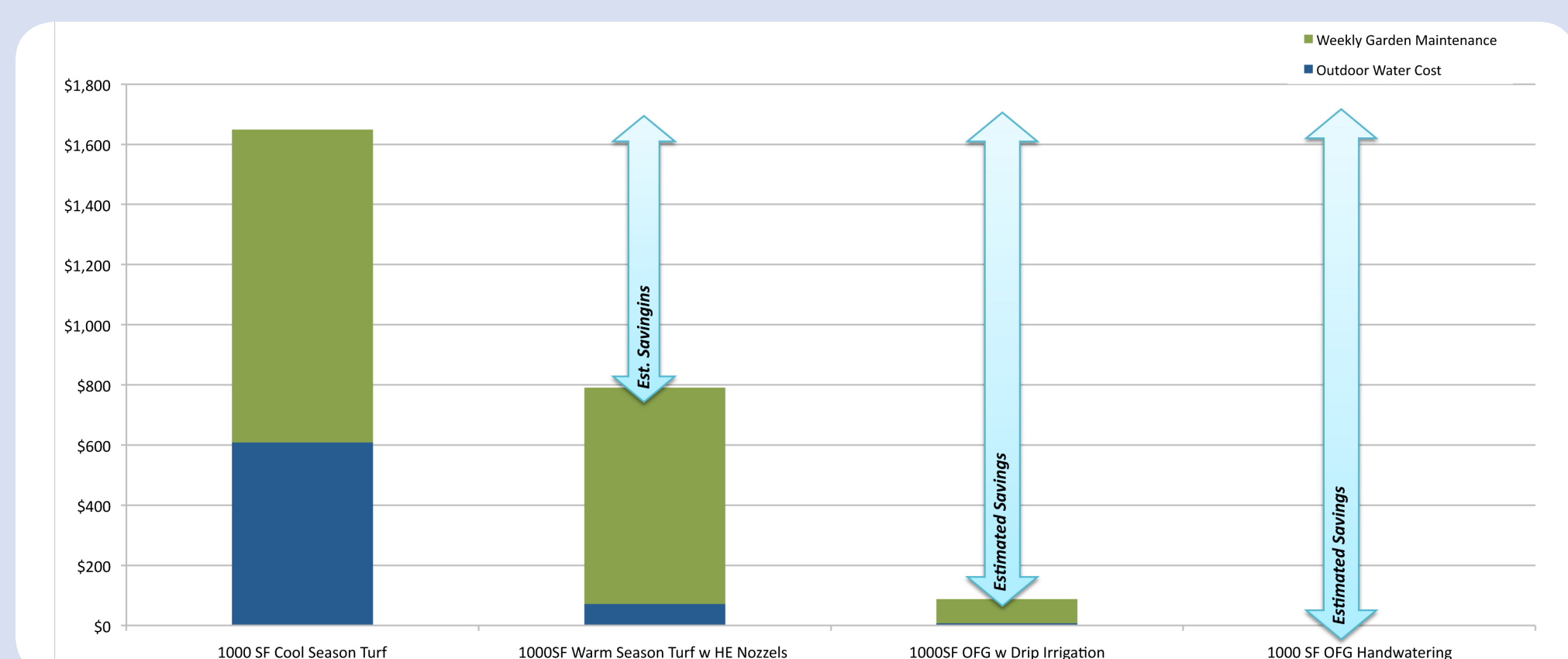
**Partnerships Play Out.** In 2010, the City of Ventura established a partnership with the Surfrider Foundation to develop a series of educational workshops as a part of their Ocean Friendly Gardens Program. Since then we've hosted several "Garden Parties" where, through volunteer labor and community support, landscapes are transformed from resource intensive to resource efficient.

**Grant Funding is not Forever.** Surfrider Foundation has been able to acquire grant funds to off-set the costs of garden design and installation throughout Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. However, one thing is certain, grant funds do not a program make. They are inconsistent, unreliable and often times restrictive.

**Pay-it-Forward Pilots.** The new paradigm focuses on showing the homeowner an immediate return on investment. Homeowners who are willing to pay for materials are able to tap into our growing volunteer network for free labor. This keeps costs down and information is shared from project to project building a deep knowledge bank. Most 1000 SF gardens cost less than \$1,200 to install and show a potential annual savings of \$1,200 in water bills and reduced maintenance costs.

**Environmental Benefits.** Some homeowners may not be motivated by the financial savings, but are interested in the environmental benefits of increased habitat for bees and hummingbirds, reduced stormwater flows, and decreased green waste generation.

## Cost Comparison of a Southern California Landscape



Ocean Friendly Gardens are affordable to install because we capitalize on volunteer labor from neighbors and community members interested in learning how to do this on their own properties. In this example, a homeowner installed a curb-cut in the parkway to provide additional stormwater benefits.

### Financial savings were based on the following data and assumptions

1000 SF Cool Season Turf Eto 46"	1000 SF 100% OFG – climate appropriate & native plants Eto 46"
Plant Factor – 100% of Eto	Plant Factor – 10% of Eto
Irrigation Efficiency Factor – 55%	Irrigation Efficiency Factor – 100% to 90%
\$1.98/HCF	\$1.98/HCF
\$20/week average mow & blow maintenance contract	Reduced monthly maintenance by 25% to 100%

Based on assumption that most people over-water twice as much as necessary.

