This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

watersmartinnovations.com
Water Efficient Gardens
An SSWD Story
Four Demonstration Gardens

• Antelope Gardens
• American River Parkway Foundation Garden
• Garden On Eden
• Gardens at Howe Park
Goals of Each Garden

1. Upgrade landscape at District facilities or to partner with other agencies for combined interest
2. Demonstrate a unique sustainable River-Friendly landscape
3. Provide an educational opportunity for District customers and Sacramento-area residents
Garden On Eden & Howe Park
Demonstrations in River-Friendly Landscaping
Primary Objective:
Upgrade Landscape Using Principles of River-Friendly Landscaping and the Watershed Approach
Principles of River-Friendly Landscaping

1. Landscape Locally
2. Nurture the Soil
3. Wildlife Habitat
4. Less to the Landfill
5. Conserve Water
6. Conserve Energy
7. Water & Air Quality
Watershed Approach to Landscaping

1. Build healthy living soil
2. Use highly efficient irrigation only when necessary
3. Select local, climate-appropriate plants
4. Capture rainwater as a resource
Two Concepts Melded Together

River Friendly Landscaping

Watershed Approach
Project Management
Garden On Eden

- Contract Manager:
  - Marian Bender, Executive Director of EcoLandscape California
- Project Management, Landscape Design and Instructor
  - Cheryl Buckwalter
- Project Contractor
  - Martin Carrrion, Landscape Symphonies

- Irrigation system design & irrigation instructor
  - Lori Palmquist
- Sheet mulching
  - Nicolai Laquaglia
- Soil/Compost/Mulch Instructor
  - Steven Zien
Right As Rain Conceptual Design

EcoLandscape California
Build Healthy Living Soils

• Layers of organic compost and worm castings were added to the soil
• Sheet mulching was utilized to replace any turf that had not died
Use Highly-Efficient Irrigation Only When Necessary
Selecting Climate-Appropriate Plants
Capture Rainwater as a Resource
Provide Educational Opportunities

River-Friendly Landscaping
Green Gardener at Home

An EcoLandscape California Training Program
Teaching home gardeners how to grow beautiful, healthy, sustainable landscapes.

Register Online www.sswd.org before September 1

The Green Gardener At Home Training Program is nine weekly classes that address:

- River Friendly Landscaping Principles
- Introduction to Soil Science
- Compost and Mulch
- Water Wise Irrigation
- Landscape Design
- Putting the Right Plant in the Right Place
- Edible Gardens
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Pruning for Plant Health
- Fertilizer and Lawn Care

Plus two "hands on" landscape installation days!

On September 24 and October 15, practice what you’ve learned at a landscape installation in the front yard of a Sacramento Suburban Water District well site.

Sponsored by EcoLandscape California
Taught by EcoLandscape California

Antelope Gardens
7000 Antelope North Road, Antelope, CA

Tuesdays, September 6 through November 1
6:30 to 8:30 p.m., plus two hands-on days September 24 and October 15.

$75!
Two Hands On Works Days

Irrigation Installation

Plant Installation
Creating a Water-Wise "Garden on Eden"

Getting the Best Yard with the Least Water

A water-wise approach
- Dramatically reduces the amount of water used for irrigation
- Filters and makes use of the rain that falls on the property
- Minimizes run-off of water into the storm drain.

Here’s how:

Replace sprinklers with drip irrigation

This landscape is irrigated by a system of tubing with built-in emitters. Protected by a layer of aggregate mulch, in operation, water is delivered slowly to the plants’ root zones. This prevents evaporation and run-off into storm drains. Sprinklers can lose over 25% of their water to evaporation, or to watered unplanted areas. Drip irrigation is 95% efficient, so almost every drop is used by plants.

Keep rain water in the garden, not the storm drain

The rain garden on the northwest corner of the property captures rainwater to enrich the soil and water the plants. Plants were carefully selected that could handle periods of heavy rain. The roots help to spread and slow the flow of water, and the plants will help filter it as it seeps into the ground.

One-quarter of the roof’s surface drains to the downspout near the rain garden, capturing 450 gallons of water from just one inch of rain.

Choose water-wise plants

Using plants that require low amounts of irrigation, once they are mature, allows this landscape to thrive on less than 25,000 gallons of irrigation per year—compared to 110,000 gallons for traditional grass and shrubs. This saves more than 85,000 gallons of water per year—enough to support a family of four for 9 months.

Most plant problems are caused by poor irrigation practices. The highly efficient drip irrigation on this landscape will help plants not only survive, but thrive.
YouTube Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pkYrQgKHE
Gardens at Howe Park
Awards

• Business Environmental Resource Center
  • Sustainable Business of Year – Water Conservation
Conclusion

- Upgrade landscape at District facilities or to partner with other agencies for combined interest
- Demonstrate a unique sustainable River-Friendly landscape
- Provide an educational opportunity for District customers and Sacramento area residents