



# Residential Landscape Transformation Program

## About the Program

This new Metropolitan program rewards landscape designs that incorporate water-saving plants, technology, irrigation systems and hardware. The result may be a beautiful bee-butterfly-and-bird-attracting landscape that is sustainable and can save a significant amount of water. Rebates start at \$1 per square foot and may be more depending on additional local water agency incentives.

## Eligibility



- A maximum of 1,500 square feet of turf removed per home is eligible for funding each fiscal year.
- The project must have a minimum of 250 square feet of turf removed in the front yard, or if the entire front yard is less than 250 square feet, all turf must be removed.
- There is a limit of one application per home per year.
- Areas which have already had turf removed are not eligible.
- Eligible areas for transformation include:
  - Front yards
  - Back/side yards as long as:
    - A minimum of 250 square feet in the front yard is included, or if the entire front yard is less than 250 square feet, all turf is removed, or
    - Front yard was previously transformed.

## Program Requirements

A simple landscape plan must be included with your application to illustrate the intended landscape transformation.

The completed project area must be covered by at least five plants per 100 square feet.

Three inches of mulch must surround all plants. Mulch/rock/decomposed granite must cover any bare spaces within project area (no bare soil allowed).

*The use of organic materials is recommended.*

Converted areas must be designed to capture rainfall through infiltration into soil or on-site storage for reuse. Infiltration and rainwater capture techniques can include: rain gardens, rain barrels, cisterns, berms, swales or grades. Selected method should allow infiltration or capture of runoff and not channel to impervious surfaces. Projects must meet all local and regional requirements.



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# Program Requirements

Every day  
is a chance to  
save water.



The project must include at least one of the following components:

**RAIN GARDENS** – a rain garden is a planted depression or a hollow that allows rainwater runoff the opportunity to be absorbed from impervious urban areas, like roofs, driveways, walkways, parking lots and compacted lawn areas. This reduces rain runoff by allowing storm water to soak into the ground instead of flowing into storm drains and surface waters, causing erosion, water pollution, flooding and diminished groundwater.

**ROCK GARDENS** – a rock garden features large or decorative rocks and incorporates plants that are particularly adapted for growth in tight spaces, hillsides or well-drained soils. Garden plants grow between the rocks and are typically low-growing and drought-tolerant.

**DRY RIVER BEDS** - a dry river bed or dry stream design slows heavy runoff flows from rainfall and minimize erosion. It is made up of a shallow swale that is lined with varying sizes of stones. Large stones help withstand a serious downpour and anchor the other stones in the dry bed, slowing storm water runoff. In a garden, the careful placement of water-worn stones, or river slicks, along a swale can be aesthetically pleasing, providing ideal places for select plants to grow.

**SWALES** – swales are shallow ditches that have gently sloping sides. A swale relies on gravity to move water and is designed to direct water where you want it to go, such as flower or vegetable gardens. They can be used to limit runoff as well as to trap silt and pollutants typically found in surface water runoff.

**BERMS** – berms are mounds of earth with sloping sides that are located between areas of approximately the same elevation. Berms direct or redirect drainage to keep water from quickly flowing off the property.

**GRADES** – Surface grading of an area allows water to collect and flow to a lower elevation or desired location. Regardless of surface characteristics, when it comes to drainage, slope is the most important issue to consider. For efficient drainage, paved surfaces should have a minimum 1-percent slope. Turf or landscaped areas should have a minimum slope of 2 percent.

**RAIN BARREL/CISTERNS** – rain barrels and cisterns are storage units that capture runoff water from a catchment area such as a rooftop. Cisterns are essentially large-scale rain barrels. Rain barrels and cisterns must be connected to properly installed rain gutters and downspouts. The property must have existing gutters throughout the entire perimeter of the roof for adequate water collection, as well as also existing downspouts. Rain barrels and cisterns must be properly installed and meet all local and regional requirements. Existing rain barrels and cisterns qualify provided they have been properly installed.



Irrigation modification or conversion is required for all projects:

- Convert over-head sprays to drip, micro-spray, bubblers, or rotating nozzles, whichever is applicable; or
- Cap sprinkler heads or remove irrigation equipment and hand-water instead

**Not allowed:** synthetic turf or any plant that appears to be turf. This rule applies because installation is often verified by photographs.

The consumer has 180 days to complete the project and is responsible for complying with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions and restrictions. Receipts will be requested, but not required.

## Program Recommendations

- How-to videos can help guide your transformation
- We recommend the installation of a smart controller
- Check "Gardening with California Natives" on [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com) for a list of helpful resources

## Questions

Please contact [socalwatersmart.com](http://socalwatersmart.com) (operators are available to answer questions in several languages) at 888.376.3314.



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**SoCal WaterSmart** is a region-wide program brought to you by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Local water agencies may offer other incentive program opportunities. Rebates will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted.