



## Water-efficient and Stormwater Friendly Landscaping

Water-efficient and stormwater friendly landscaping helps revive our watersheds, creeks, and rivers by mimicking nature.

- Conservation of water, energy and habitat through properly spaced native plants, low-flow irrigation and smart timers, and prevention of dry-weather runoff.
- Increase permeability of soil and hard surfaces to allow water to slow down, spread out, and sink into the ground.
- Retaining rainwater on-site prevents or at least helps cleanse runoff, recharges groundwater, and reduces flooding downstream.

### Do:

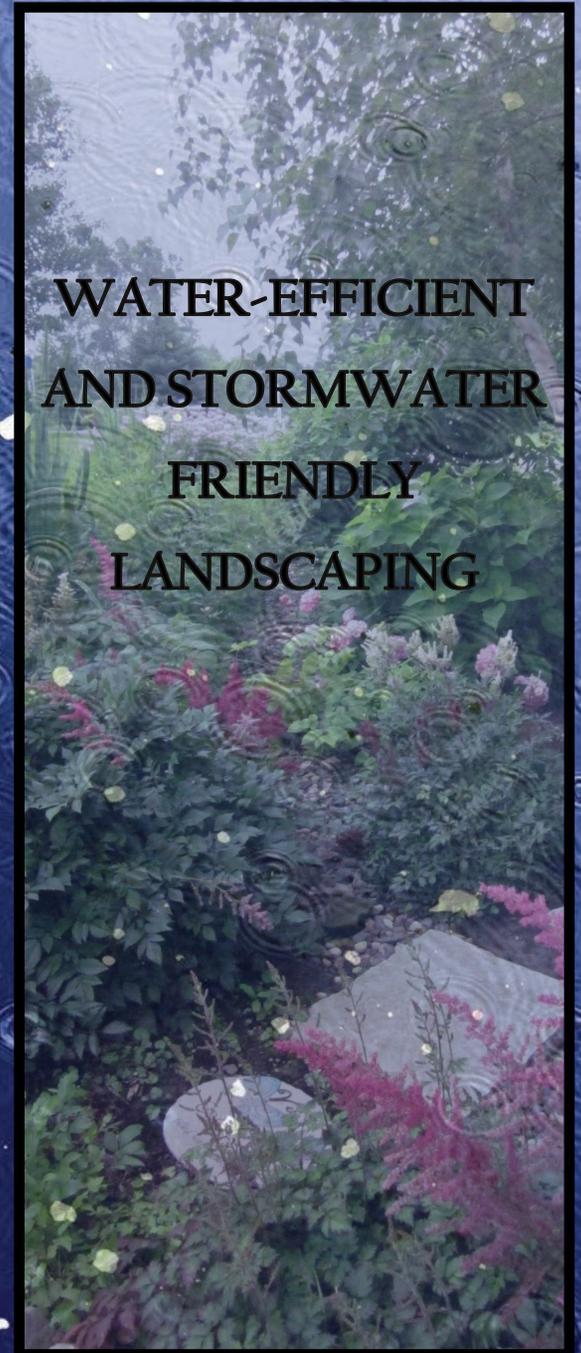
- Use California natives or drought tolerant plants that can endure periods of saturation.
- Keep plants well pruned near foundations and siding to allow adequate ventilation.
- Minimize fertilization or try organic options to prevent water contamination.
- Use rain barrels to collect and store water.
- Use permeable hardscapes for paths and other surfaces.

### Don't:

- Plant invasive species.
- Allow irrigation water to drain to your driveway, the street, or bare soils.

City of Chico  
Public Works Department  
(530) 879-6950  
[www.ci.chico.ca.us](http://www.ci.chico.ca.us)  
[keepchicoclean.org](http://keepchicoclean.org)

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the State Water Resources Control Board, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.



## WATER-EFFICIENT AND STORMWATER FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

CITY OF CHICO

## How to be water-efficient in Your Landscaping

- **Check your sprinkler system for leaks**—Most sprinkler systems go on early in the morning when you are still sleeping. About once a month it's a good idea to turn your sprinklers on and check for leaks, overspray, and broken or misdirected sprinkler heads and emitters.
- **Use water-wise plants**
- **Adjust sprinkler pressure**—Pressure that is too high causes the water exiting the sprinkler to turn to mist, which can be blown away even with a gentle breeze. Install a pressure regulator to increase the efficiency of your sprinklers.
- **Install a rain sensor**—Have this inexpensive device wired to your irrigation controller and it will automatically shut off your sprinklers when it is raining.

## It Takes All of Us

The largest source of water pollution can not be traced to any one point—it's all of us. Pollutants runoff our buildings, driveways, parking lots, landscaping, and streets. Landscaping that is water efficient and storm water friendly helps the health of our waterways.

- **Change your sprinkler timer battery**— If your irrigation controller's back up battery is dead, a power outage will cause it to reset to the default settings, which can water about twice as much as necessary. Replace your battery at least once a year.
- **Smart irrigation controllers** – These controllers automatically calculate a scientifically-based irrigation schedule using several factors, including your plant and soil type. These controllers then adjust the irrigation schedule as local weather changes.

## How to be stormwater friendly in Your Landscaping

- **Install a rain garden**—A rain garden is a specialized landscape design that captures stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways, or other impervious surfaces and allows water to sink back into the ground. It uses plants to remove pollutants and improve infiltration allowing water to soak back into the ground.
- **Install rain barrels**
- **Use pervious hardscapes**—Pervious materials allow runoff to pass through and sink back into the soil.
- **Use swales in your landscape design**—Swales are shallow channels designed to slow water down, spread it out and allow it to sink into the soil during low flows.
- **Use ground cover to cover bare soil**—Ground cover helps slow down sediment from being carried off-site and into our waterways.