

Seven Steps to a Water Wise Gardening

1. Planning and Design: Water conserving design starts with good planning that takes into consideration both the terrain and your personal objectives. Begin by deciding what elements you want in your landscape. Then organize these elements to enhance your home and garden. Keep in mind the flow of water on your property, making sure to place plants according to their water needs.

2. Turf: In the front yard, consider new ways to increase curb appeal with minimal turf. Green lawns are not the most efficient water users. There are countless combinations of groundcover, shrubs, and perennials that can be used instead of turf.

3. Choose Water Wise Plants: The City of Oxnard has a Mediterranean climate. Oxnard experiences 14-16 inches of rain per year. Fortunately, there are many plants to choose from that are well suited to areas of low annual rainfall. Several of these plants were used in the library garden. For more ideas check out the gardening section at one of Oxnard's Libraries.

4. Improve Soil: Most soils in the Oxnard area are sandy or heavy clay and need to have organic matter added to improve their condition. Compost and manure will help the soil absorb more water. This is an important initial step and it will never be easier than before you begin planting.

5. Mulch: Mulch is a protective layer that when placed over the soil locks in moisture and suppresses weeds. As plants grow, mulch covers and protects the soil, crowding out weeds and moderating soil temperature.

6. Appropriate Irrigation Methods: Most home landscapes receive more water than they need. Install an automatic irrigation system that can deliver water in adjustable increments. Remember to take into consideration the natural and man-made water run offs. Adjust sprinklers as suggested for each season. Use drip irrigation where feasible to water specific plants without watering adjacent soil.

7. Maintenance: No garden is maintenance free. Take pride in your water wise California Friendly Garden, keep it free of weeds and prune your plants as needed.



Public Works Department
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

The City of Oxnard Water Resources Division received a \$20,000 City Makeover Grant for the South Oxnard Branch Library Demonstration Garden from the

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

The City Makeover Program is part of a larger effort by the Metropolitan Water District to foster appreciation of California Friendly or drought-tolerant plants and encourage efficient irrigation techniques in public, commercial, and residential landscapes.



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South Oxnard Branch Library

California Friendly Demonstration Garden

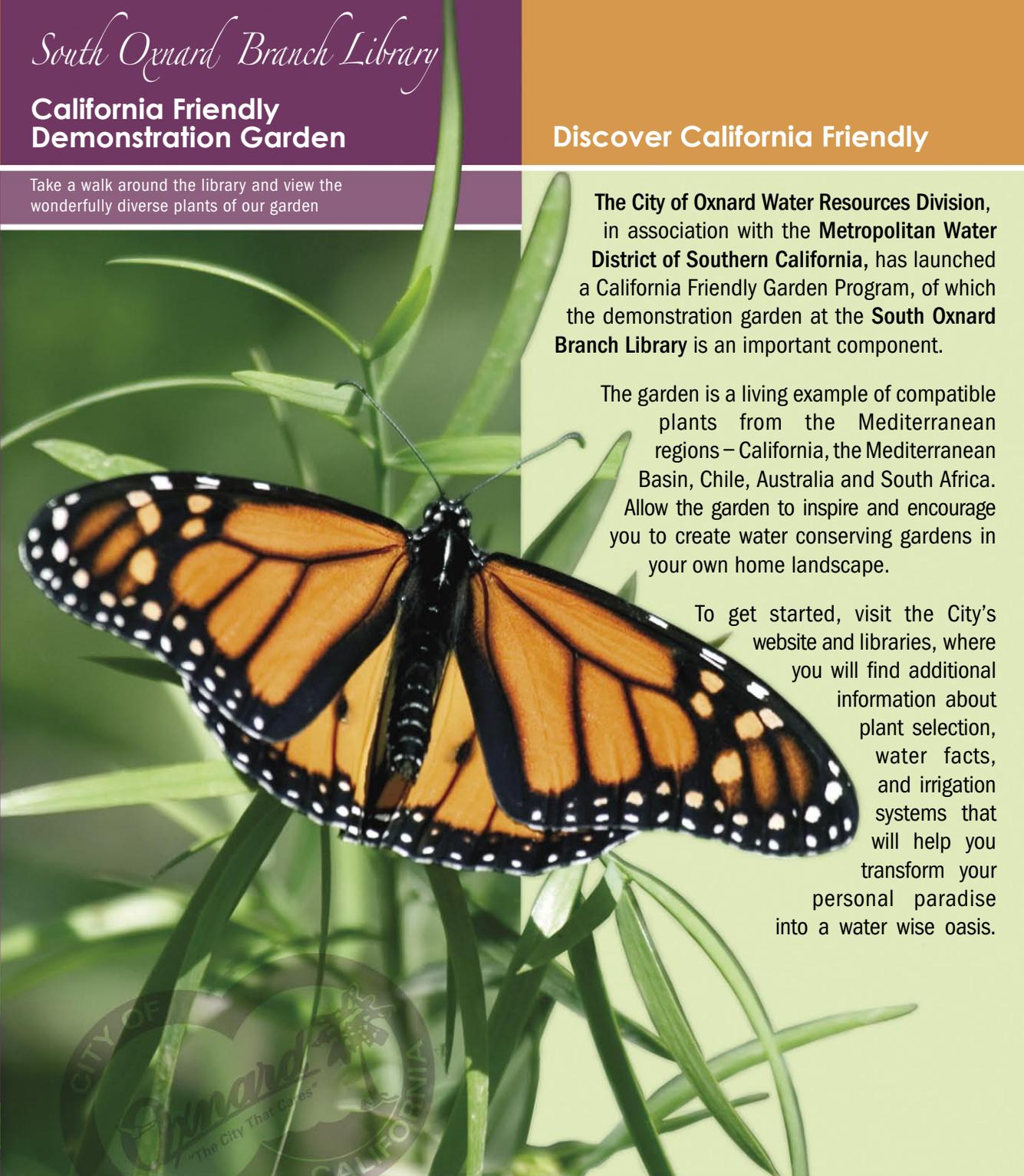
Take a walk around the library and view the wonderfully diverse plants of our garden

Discover California Friendly

The City of Oxnard Water Resources Division, in association with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, has launched a California Friendly Garden Program, of which the demonstration garden at the South Oxnard Branch Library is an important component.

The garden is a living example of compatible plants from the Mediterranean regions – California, the Mediterranean Basin, Chile, Australia and South Africa. Allow the garden to inspire and encourage you to create water conserving gardens in your own home landscape.

To get started, visit the City's website and libraries, where you will find additional information about plant selection, water facts, and irrigation systems that will help you transform your personal paradise into a water wise oasis.



Oxnard

"The City That Cares"

Plants around the Library

-  = Full Sun
-  = Shade
-  = Hummingbird Friendly
-  = Flowering
-  = Butterfly Friendly
-  = Moderate Water
-  = Little Water



Agave attenuata
Agave   



Salvia leucantha 'Santa Barbara'
Mexican Bush Sage    



Alyogyne huegellii
Blue Hibiscus   



Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'
Purple Fountain Grass   



Fragaria chiloensis
Beach Strawberry   



Thymus serpyllum
Creeping Thyme   



Phormium 'Jack Spratt'
New Zealand Flax  



Polystichum muritum
Sword Fern  



Lantana 'Dwarf Yellow'
Lantana    



Heuchera maxima
Island Alum Root   

Rendering of the South Oxnard Branch Library
California Friendly Demonstration Garden



Look for signs, like the example below, to help you identify the different plants around the library



Water conservation tips

Did you know that nearly half of summertime water used by residences is for lawn irrigation?

It pays to know when, how much and how often to water your plants. A flexible watering schedule can save water and money by adjusting to changing weather conditions.

- Water at the right time. The best time to water during warm months is between 1:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Don't water when it's windy or raining.
- Replacing a portion of your lawn with beautiful native and California Friendly plants, saves 1,000 to 1,800 gallons a month depending on your climate.
- Adjust your watering schedule at least two or three times a year: early spring, summer and fall. On warm or windy days, plants and soils dry out more quickly. During cooler and wetter months, you don't have to water as often.
- Lawns need to be watered only once every three days to remain healthy and green, yet many become unhealthy due to overwatering. Use only as much water on your lawn as required.
- Adjust your sprinklers to water only plants and avoid watering pavement or landscape rocks.
- Use drip and other water-conserving irrigation methods on gardens, flowers, shrubs and trees.
- Check the soil periodically for moisture content.
- Replace your irrigation controller's battery every six months.

Learn more at
oxnardwater.org
ci.oxnard.ca.us
bewaterwise.com
H2ouse.org
irrigationtutorials.com