



SUMMER SUSTAINABILITY SERIES

- Presentation will begin shortly
- Session will be recorded
- All attendees are muted
- Please be aware of Q&A at bottom of screen – ask your questions there
- We will address questions at various points in the session

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- **August 20:** Clean Energy @ Home
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SUMMER SUSTAINABILITY SERIES



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Please type your questions in the question box**

NatureScape Webinar

Create a Lush Landscape While Conserving Water

August 13, 2020 4-5 pm



Today's Presenters

- Bob Coleman,
Sustainability
Specialist, City of
Chula Vista – Focus
on NatureScape

- Doug Roberts,
Program Specialist,
Sweetwater
Authority – Focus
on WaterSmart
Irrigation



Webinar Goals – Educate and Provide Resources

Agenda

- ***Introduction and Audience Poll***
- ***NatureScape Program***
- ***Why create a NatureScape?***
- ***Five Steps of Natural Yard Care***
 - ***Building Healthy Living Soils***
 - ***Plant Right for Your Site***
 - ***WaterSmart Irrigation***
 - ***Toxic-free Pest Control***
 - ***Natural Lawn Care-Grasscycling***
- ***WaterSmart Irrigation – Do it Right/Conserve Water***
- ***Questions and Answers***

NatureScape Program

- **NatureScapes** – apply five key steps of natural yard care to create water-conserving, sustainable landscapes
- **NatureScape** Program began in 2006 conducting workshops
- **NatureScape** Program helps meet City goals:
 - 1) City's Climate Action Plan (reduce greenhouse gases)
 - 2) City's Water Stewardship Plan (use water more efficiently)
- **NatureScapes** enhances Multiple Species Conservation Area

NatureScape Program

In 2018 with our funding partner, Sweetwater Authority:

- Developed a flagship program brochure, defines a NatureScape, covers 5 steps of Natural Yard Care
- Created a NatureScape website, www.chulavistaca.gov/naturescape greater depth with numerous links
- 3-hour workshop in May 2019
- Created case study of a Chula Vista NatureScape
- Today's webinar

Benefits the Environment

- Promote 5 steps of Natural Yard Care, focus on attracting wildlife
- Enhance landscapes, achieve “Certified Wildlife Habitat” status
- To date, nearly 600 landscapes certified as wildlife habitats
- In 2019 listed 5th in USA by National Wildlife Federation




NatureScape – Four Components for Wildlife Habitat Certification

- 1) Food for insects, birds and animals
- 2) A water source
- 3) Cover and protection for animals
- 4) A place to raise their young



The Nature Fix – We Need It

- 93% of our time is spent inside or in vehicles
 - “Joy” for people greater in natural settings than urban settings
 - Confluence of demographics and technology has pivoted us further away from nature
 - Avoiding nearby nature causes people to underestimate its hedonic, pleasurable benefits
 - Many people have a nature deficit disorder
 - Nature can be helpful in alleviating things that ail us
 - What can you do?
- 

Why Create a NatureScape?

- Provides new opportunity to create a plan - modify or redesign your yard:
 - Extend your living space to the outdoors
 - Create a yard that you want to enjoy
 - Reduce or eliminate grass areas
 - Conserve water
 - Provide beneficial habitat for wildlife



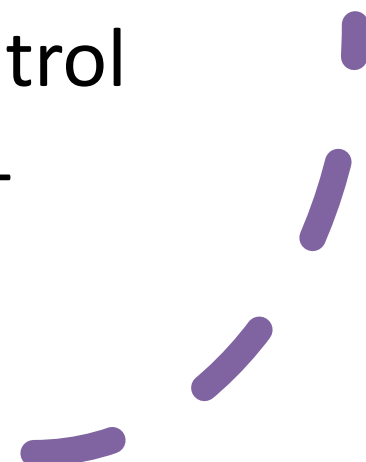
**Why Create a
NatureScape?**

Benefits - save time,
money and water

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**Foundation
for a
NatureScape
5 Key Steps**

NatureScapes – involves taking simple actions of natural yard care.

1. Build Healthy Living Soils
 2. Plant Right for Your Site
 3. WaterSmart Irrigation
 4. Toxic-free Pest Control
 5. Natural Lawn Care-
Grasscycling
- 
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1. Build Healthy Living Soils

Compost, compost, compost

- Healthy soil provides air, water, nutrients
- Serves as nature's environmental protector
- Reduces GHGs by removing carbon from the air
- Compost helps sandy soils hold nutrients, water
- Compost loosens clay soils
- Compost can be used as mulch too

2. Plant Right for Your Site – Mediterranean Climates





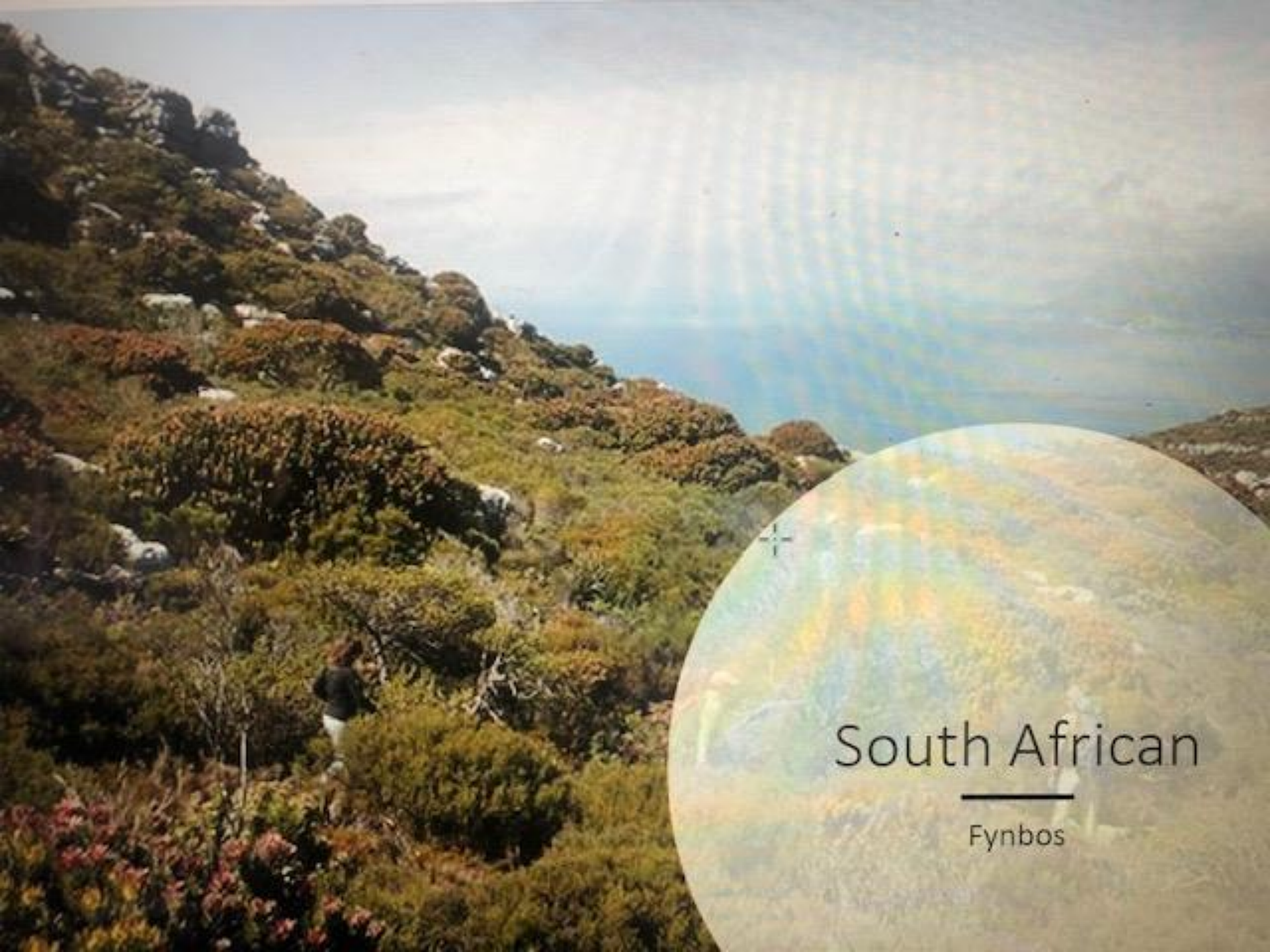
Mediterranean

Maquis



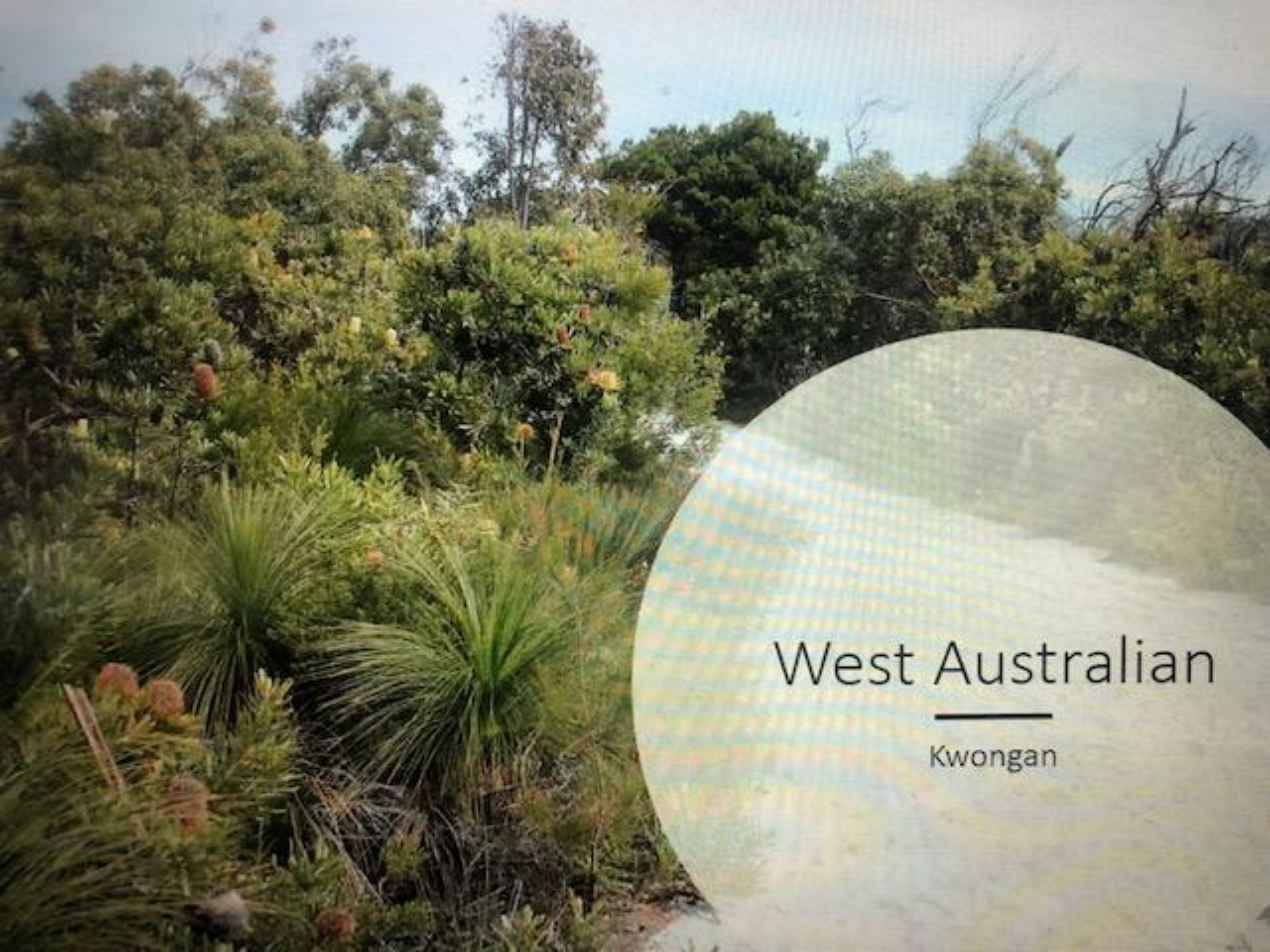
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Chilean
—
Mattoral



South African

Fynbos



West Australian

Kwongan


2. Plant Right for Your Site

- Chula Vista Climate Zones – 24 and 23 in Sunset Western Garden Book
- Get to know your yard – determine your microclimates
 - Sunny or shady areas
 - Dry or damp areas
- Select climate-appropriate, drought tolerant – native and/or California-friendly non-native plants (native to Western and Mediterranean climate zones)
- Refer to – Nifty 50 Plants Guide for WaterSmart Landscapes (San Diego County Water Authority); Sunset Western Garden Book
- Group plants with similar needs – full sun, partial sun, shade only
- Find out full growth size – plan accordingly, visit: <http://www.ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS>

3. WaterSmart Irrigation

- *Make every drop count*
- Outdoor water use can comprise over 60% of total water home use
- Use efficient watering techniques:
 - Automatic systems with timers
 - Rotating sprinkler heads
 - Drip irrigation
 - Hand-watering (with shutoff nozzles)
 - Laundry-to-Landscape
 - Collect rainwater
 - Create swales, direct rainwater

3. WaterSmart Irrigation (continued)

- *Avoid overwatering*
 - Irrigate long enough to wet entire root zone
 - Don't apply water faster than soil can absorb it
 - Water before sunrise or after sunset
 - Check system for leaks and proper operation
 - *Ideally* – remove or reduce lawn areas, replace grass with groundcovers and plants to create a NatureScape
 - Research rebates for irrigation equipment
- 

4. Toxic-free Pest Control

- *Start with prevention – build healthy soil*
- Organisms in soil protect plants from disease, insect pest problems
- Mulching controls weeds
- Avoid the use of chemical pesticides that kill “good” bugs and herbicides (weed killers)
- Select plants that attract beneficial good bugs
- Consider pest-repelling plants – dill, garlic, onion, fennel, sage, thyme, parsley, mint, nasturtium, marigolds.
- Try natural, make-your-own sprays to repel, kill unwanted pests



5. Natural Lawn Care - Grasscycling

- Lawns can be very time consuming, water needs often the highest
- Maintaining lawns requires providing proper nutrients and right amount of water
- *Grasscycling* – leave your nitrogen-rich clippings on the lawn, soil organisms recycle them into free fertilizer
- Aerate one or two times a year, increases water penetration
- Top lawns with compost instead of chemical fertilizers
- Pull weeds instead of using chemical “weed and feed” products



NatureScape and Garden Rooms

Rosie Perez, Rancho Del Rey



The Entrance Garden



The Butterfly Grove



The Patio Area



Chula Vista NatureScapes



Chula Vista NatureScapes

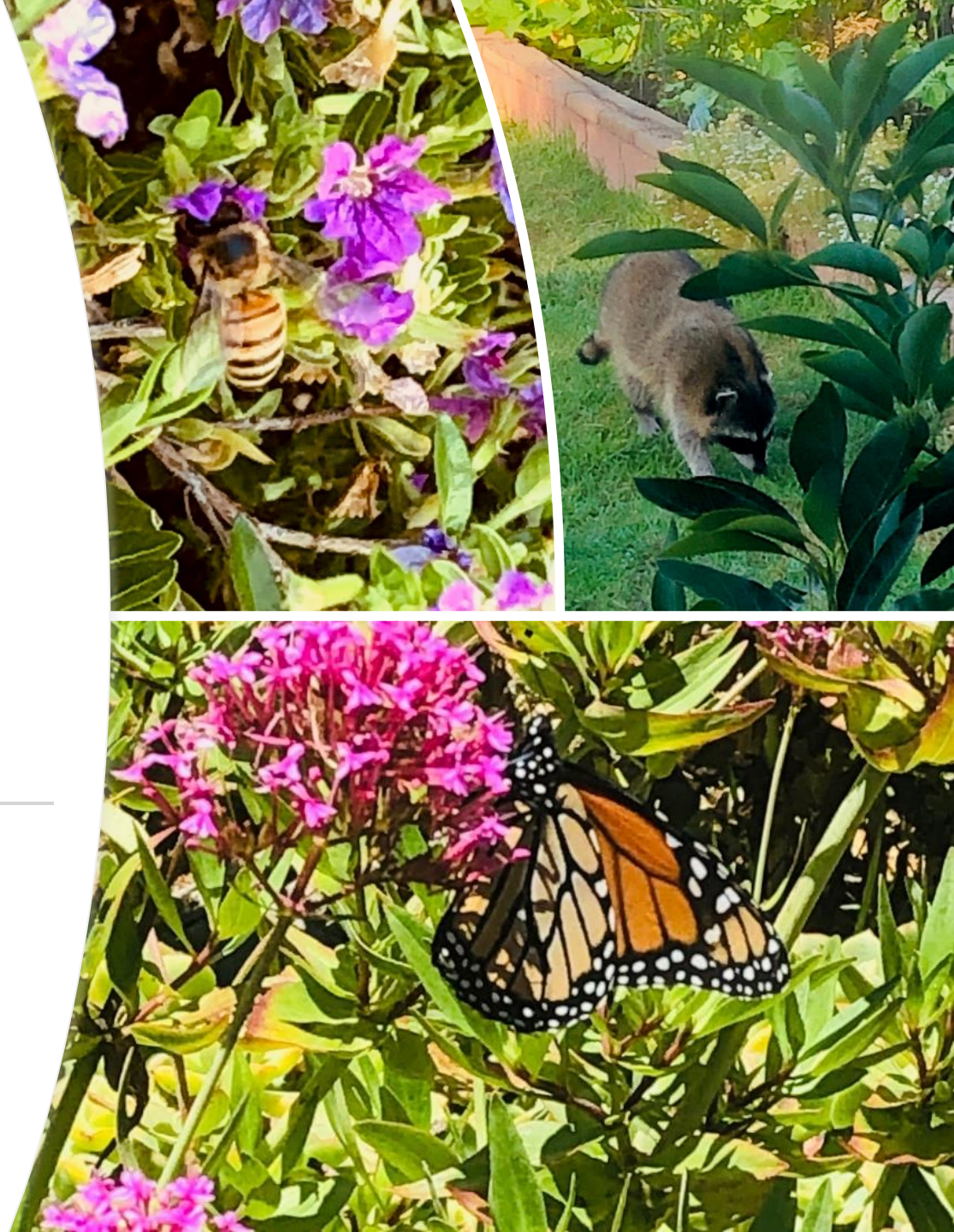


Chula Vista NatureScapes





Attract Wildlife



Want to Know More?

www.chulavistaca.gov/naturescape

- ***At the website find links to learn about:***
 - Nifty Fifty Plants for Water Smart Landscapes
 - Information on sustainable, water-saving landscapes, incentives and rebates, online learning, and videos
 - A comprehensive guidebook on sustainable landscapes for creating NatureScapes
 - Information on water needs for plants
 - More water saving tips
 - Non-toxic pesticide alternatives
- ***For information about NatureScape or designating your yard as a Certified Wildlife Habitat designation, contact:***

Bob Coleman: 619-476-5332 --- rcoleman@chulavistaca.gov



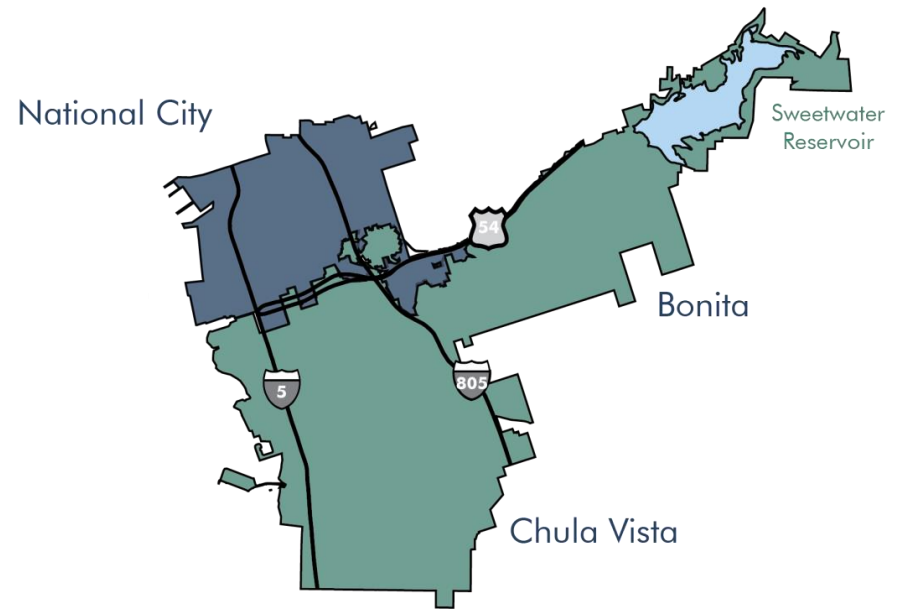
13/08/2020

Tips for Irrigation Efficiency

Doug Roberts, Program Specialist

About Us

- Safe, reliable water since 1977
- 32 square mile service area
- Approx. 190,000 customers
- 2 dams, 2 reservoirs, 20 storage tanks and 17 pump stations
- Surface water treatment, groundwater desalination, freshwater wells and imported water



Otay Water District

Provides Potable water, Recycled water and Waste water services to more than 225,000 customers within a 125 square mile area, of San Diego County, including the communities of eastern Chula Vista, Bonita, Jamul, Spring Valley, Rancho San Diego, unincorporated areas of El Cajon and La Mesa, and eastern Otay Mesa along the international border with Mexico

For Rebate info go here: otaywater.gov/rebates.



Strategies for Irrigation Efficiency

Right Amount – Plant type (Hydrozoning)

Right Location – Root (current and future)

Right Time – Less evaporation and wind

Right Duration – Soil, Slope

Right Delivery – Drip, Spray, Bubbler



Basic Irrigation Maintenance

- ✓ **Adjust run time for season, 3 schedules per year:**

 - Winter

 - Fall & Spring

 - Summer

- ✓ **Check for leaks and fix leaks promptly**

- ✓ **Flush drip systems and check filters to reduce clogging**

- ✓ **Adjust spray heads to prevent overspray on hardscape**

Seasonal Adjust Feature

Cycle Soak

Terminal spot for sensor



Know what you are watering

Driveway

Fence

Plants

Turf (Warm or Cool Season)



Common issues that reduce efficiency

Overhead Sprinklers, Look for:

Broken or leaning sprinkler heads

Overspray

Misting instead of spraying

Uneven coverage

Spray patterns blocked by plant material

Broken or clogged nozzles and drip emitters

Subsurface Problems, Look for:

- Excessively wet areas
- Unusual mounding in turf areas
- Water flowing or seeping from turf/sidewalk edges



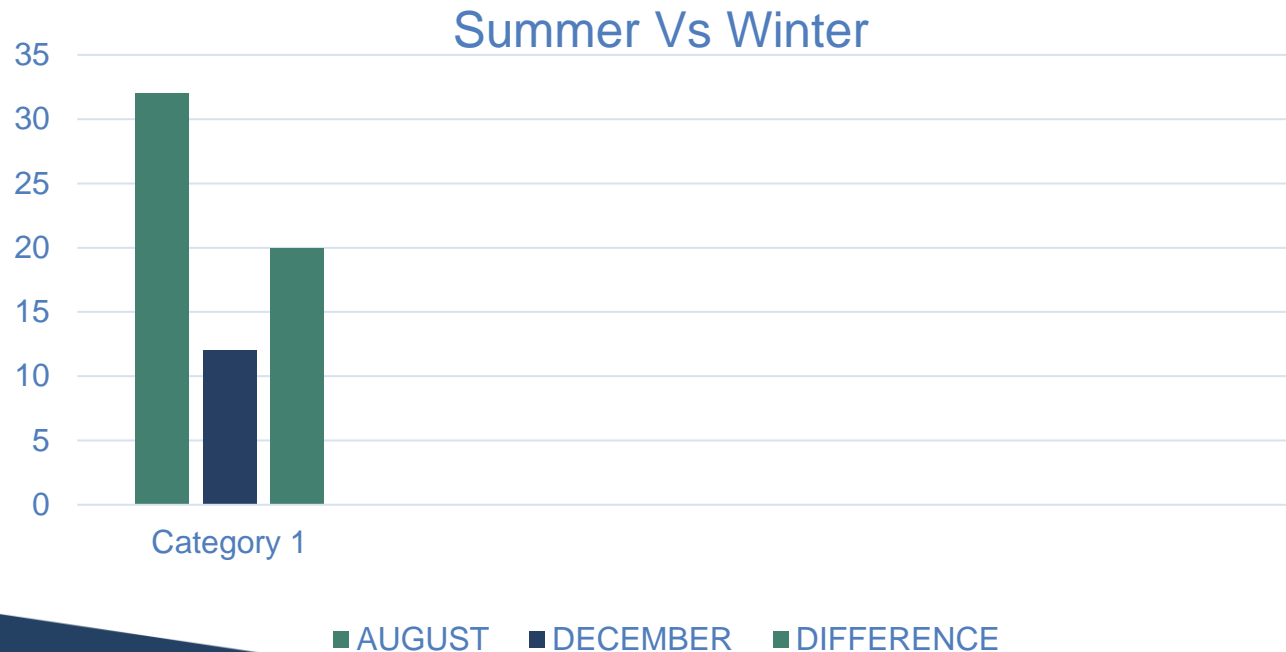


There is a difference

Tuning your system can save water, even if you have a high water use plant.

How much water is my landscape using?

Your bill will show you a snap shot of your annual HCF consumption based on the billing sequence. Your winter months should be your lowest consumption if you have a landscape since you are typically not needing to irrigate. So that will be you inside usage. Compare that to your summer usage and the difference is typically related to irrigation.



You are a Water Manager

- Get to know your water meter
- Take a read before and after irrigating
- Request a water history report

Alternate sources

- Warm up Water
 - Laundry Water
 - Rain Water
-
- Rebates could help save you water, check with your local water agency



Is there a Problem?

Read Date	Billing Cycle	Type	Status	Prev. Read	Current Re...	Billed Cons.
▽ On...	▽ Contains...	▽ Contains...	▽ Contains...	▽ Equals...	▽ Equals...	▽ Equals...
04/11/2019	Cycle 6-04/19/2019	Regular		1712	1747	35
02/14/2019	Cycle 6-02/22/2019	Regular		1673	1712	39
12/13/2018	Cycle 6-12/21/2018	Regular		1632	1673	41
10/11/2018	Cycle 6-10/19/2018	Regular		1596	1632	36
08/16/2018	Cycle 6-08/24/2018	Regular		1554	1596	42
06/14/2018	Cycle 6-06/22/2018	Regular		1513	1554	41
04/12/2018	Cycle 6-04/20/2018	Regular		1478	1513	35
02/15/2018	Cycle 6-02/23/2018	Regular		1436	1478	42
12/14/2017	Cycle 6-12/21/2017	Regular		1394	1436	42





Turf conversion water savings

With turf bill was avg, 18 HCF Summer

No turf bill in the single digits 9 or less HCF Summer

Tools to help with efficiency



Irrigation Map



Rain Barrel



High Efficiency Toilet



Rain Sensor



Soil Moisture Sensor



Rebates? Sweetwater Authority along with Otay Water District offer several rebates to assist you in your thirst to become more efficient.



Need More Information?



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