



Purposeful Planning & Care for Water-Wise, Resilient Landscapes

- Keep Water-Wise, River-Friendly Landscaping (RFL) principles in mind throughout the process & incorporate principles into every aspect of landscape
- These landscapes are functional, resource efficient, lower maintenance, environmentally responsible, and cost effective
- Shift perspective to appreciate a new aesthetic
- Revitalize tired-looking, overgrown, outdated, and/or resource-guzzling landscapes
- Assess what to keep and how to incorporate into today's River-Friendly Landscape
- Soil and Making the Most of Rain
 - Shape soil to channel rain water (contours, berms, terraces, rain gardens) and store it (tanks, barrels) to *Slow, Spread, and Sink*, keeping water on site, reducing polluted water runoff
 - Use permeable, pervious, and porous materials for walkways, driveways, patios.
 - 'Disconnect' non-pervious areas, direct downspouts to landscape areas
 - Apply 1" of compost to soil surface
 - Add and maintain 3-4" layer of organic mulch, not touching stems or trunks of plants, trees
- Trees and Plants
 - During construction, protect existing trees roots
 - Determine appropriate proximity to of trees to structures and hardscape
 - Any landscape "style" can be achieved with the right plants for our climate, soil, and site conditions
 - Group plants with similar water and sun requirements, and place on their own zone/valve
 - All trees and plants placed to give room to grow to natural size and shape without excessive pruning – DO NOT top trees!
 - Do not amend native soil, add work castings or compost to soil when planting
 - Place deciduous trees on west and southwest sides of house; do not stake if not needed
 - Fire-safe spacing, placing, and grooming of plants
 - Make sure 60-70% of CA native and Mediterranean-type plants are **evergreen**
- Irrigation
 - Often practical to abandon old irrigation systems; add sleeves under walkways and driveway for future expansion of system
 - Separate valves for mature plants being kept
 - If a zone has to have plants with mixed water-use classifications, consider changing out plants, so all plants in that zone have same water and sun needs
 - When replacing a plant here and there, give extra attention until established (hand water)
 - As plants become established, gradually increase time between watering intervals to meet plant needs; water deeply so entire root zone receives water
- Materials
 - Re-use, re-cycle, re-purpose materials whenever possible
- Wildlife Habitat
 - Create and protect habitat and provide water source for birds, bees, beneficial insects, etc.
 - Leave some sunny areas of soil exposed (no mulch) for bee habitat
- And, finally -- Be patient – Adapting a landscape from one that's been over watered, over fertilized, over pruned, and dependent on chemicals requires time to transition.