

Climate-Ready Landscapes

Climate-ready landscapes are designed with climate change in mind. They are designed and maintained to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and weather more extreme conditions.

Environmental Benefits of Climate-Ready Landscaping

- Requires less water and maintenance
- Generates less yard waste
- Reduces water run-off
- Improves wildlife habitat
- Fosters healthy soils
- Protects air and water quality

Tips to Create a Sustainable Landscape

Integrate Compost: mix your soil with compost to improve soil health and productivity.

Mulch to Conserve Water: mulching conserves water by reducing moisture evaporation from the soil. Mulch can also reduce weeds, prevent soil compaction and keep soil temperatures moderate to protect growing plants.

Harvest Rainwater: reduce stormwater runoff and keep water onsite for general gardening uses.

Utilize Grey Water: consider using water from your washing machine to supplement your irrigation needs.

Choose the Right Plant for the Right Place: choose the right plant/tree for the right place and watch them grow!

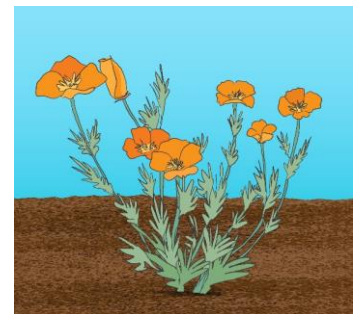
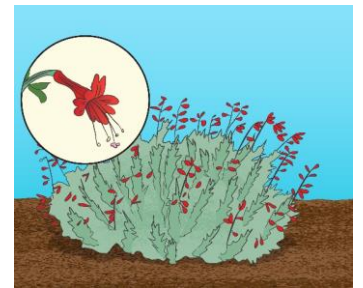
Select Climate-Ready Trees: there are tree species that can be successful in a hotter, drier climate. Trees shade your landscape, prevent stormwater run-off and more.



More detail on plant and tree choices, keeping rainwater on site and optimizing water use included on the back page

Monitor Your Water Usage

Careful water-use management is essential for climate-ready landscaping. You can sign up for AquaHawk, the City's online water-use portal, to track your water usage and see how much water is used for irrigation. You can even set notifications and be alerted if you have a potential water leak. Visit [SaveDavisWater.org](https://www.savedaviswater.org) for registration information.





Plant Choice

- Choose plants appropriate to our region.
- Choose water-wise plants. Low-water plant characteristics include:
 - Leaves that are grayish, fuzzy/hairy or small
 - Leaves with a thick or waxy leaf coat
 - Plants with summer dormancy (bulbs)
 - Succulents
- Watch spacing; plan for mature plant size.
- Consider other benefits like pollinators.
- Remember that even low-water plants still need regular water during establishment.

Keep Rainwater Onsite (and Protect Stormwater Quality)

- Redirect downspouts to landscape areas allowing rainwater to infiltrate into the soil.
- Incorporate rain gardens, dry creek beds or vegetated or rocky swales into your landscape.
- Consider permeable pavements that allow water to soak into the ground.
- Plan your landscape to keep soil and mulch onsite by creating impermeable borders around your landscape.



Optimize Water Use in Your Landscape

- Consider plant/tree water needs and hydrozone (group plants by water usage) to irrigate your landscape most efficiently.
- Consider switching to drip irrigation to provide water directly to plants and reduce runoff.
- Check the batteries in your irrigation controller.
- Check soil moisture. The soil may look dry on the surface but it can be wet at root level.
- If you have spray heads, make sure they are adjusted to avoid overspray onto walkways or driveways.

Tree Selection & Care

- Choose trees appropriate to our region (including drought-tolerant species, native trees and trees that provide habitat for insects and animals).
- Spread mulch to keep moisture in the soil but keep mulch (and rocks) off the tree trunk.
- Be aware of tree watering requirements, choose water-wise species and water appropriately. Keep in mind that newly planted trees need more water for the first few years to become established, but can reduce landscape water demand over time.
- Know your local climate and soil conditions.

Visit the City's Urban Forestry page for more information and tree lists for our region.