



Russian River-Friendly Landscaping

Sustainable Practices for the Landscape Professionals in the Russian River Watershed

Russian River-Friendly Landscaping (RRFL) is a whole systems approach to design, construction, and maintenance of the landscape which supports the integrity of one of California's richest and most diverse ecosystems: the Russian River watershed! Create and maintain healthy, beautiful, and vibrant landscapes with the following principals:

- **Landscape Locally:** Built landscapes are a part of the larger ecosystem of Russian River watershed and they can contribute to the watershed's health if designed and maintained using sustainable practices.
- **Landscape for Less to the Landfill:** Reduce waste by choosing the right plants, avoiding invasive plant species, using recycled and salvaged products in the landscape, by composting, mulching, and grasscycling plant debris.
- **Nurture the Soil:** Soils are living ecosystems and when landscape practices allow the soil food web to thrive it can filter pollution, store water, provide plant nutrients, and help plants resist pests naturally.
- **Conserve Water:** Use a holistic approach to water use by creating drought resistant soils with compost and mulch, selecting plants naturally adapted to summer-dry climates, using stormwater, graywater and recycled water in the landscape as much as possible, and using efficient irrigation systems that include self-adjusting, weather- based controllers.
- **Conserve Energy:** Energy use is reduced by minimizing the need for mowing and shearing, by shading buildings and paved areas, by using efficient outdoor lighting, and by purchasing local landscape products.
- **Protect Water and Air Quality:** Protect air and water quality by: maximizing permeable surfaces and minimizing stormwater runoff, using integrated pest management, minimizing the use of synthetic pesticides and avoiding overuse of fertilizers, reducing fossil fuel consumption, and planting trees to remove CO2 and absorb air pollutants.
- **Create Wildlife Habitat:** Biodiversity is crucial to the health of natural ecosystems, and by using native plants and increasing the diversity of plant species, our built landscapes can provide food, water, and shelter for beneficial insects, birds, mammals, and other creatures.



For more information: www.rwatershed.org/rflg



The Nexus between RRFL and Stormwater Program Requirements

How RRFL Programs Support the MS4 Permit and Benefit Our Creeks and Russian River		
MS4 Permit Support Requirements	RRFL Events and Programs	Program Benefits
Outreach - Educational Publications	Russian River-Friendly Landscape Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowering turbidity through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bioretention and swales rainwater harvesting soil health reducing pollutants Protecting fish and aquatic life Saving water and energy Sequestering carbon Reducing chlorinated water to the MS4 Educating the general public Facilitating public engagement
	Various brochures on maintenance practices, RRFL At Home, and summarized guidelines	
	Spanish Translations of outreach materials	
Websites	Post and distribute RRFL materials on RRWA's online resource library	
	Maintain English and Spanish content and guidelines	
	Maintain website with Watershed Atlas showcasing RRFL projects	
Events and Advertising Campaigns	RRFL biennial event for training landscape professionals	
	Promote upcoming environmentally friendly landscaping events and trainings around the watershed	
	Russian River-Friendly FREE signage program	
Partnerships with watershed groups and committees	Partner with Bay Friendly Coalition (ReScope)	
	Partner with Daily Acts	
	Host RRFL subcommittee meetings regularly	



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