

Host Garden Application

The purpose of the South Bay Water-Wise Garden Tour is to visually promote the use of water-wise gardening by showcasing example gardens, providing information and encouraging a family outing destination.

The Plan:

- Tour participants will pre-register for the tour.
Visitors will receive directions after registering and purchasing tickets.
- The tour will be advertised in local papers, local nurseries and on a variety of web sites.
- During the tour host gardener(s) will need to staff their gardens and be ready and willing to provide information on native plants or drought tolerant plants that they have in their garden. Volunteers will be sought to assist with greeting visitors and answering questions.
- It is preferred that hosts label native plants and drought tolerant plants.
- Visitors will be informed in advance that rest room facilities will not be available at host gardens and that the gardens will be available for viewing only between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Step 1—Does your garden qualify?

- Demonstrate water-conservation techniques.

Examples include use of mulches, groundcover plants, water-efficient drip or soaker-hose irrigation, and the use of drought tolerant plants. Lawn size is minimized.

The gardener is knowledgeable about the native plants or drought tolerant plants in his/her garden, and will enjoy sharing this information with the public.

Step 2—Submit the questionnaire

Complete this application and sign the letter of agreement and return them as soon as possible. Garden selection will be made from respondents that meet the criteria (step 1).

Techniques could include, but are not limited to the following: selecting drought-resistant plants, reduced lawn, dense plantings to out-compete weeds, mulching with leaves, grass, wood chips, etc., use of compost to enrich the soil, inclusion of bird and beneficial insect-attracting plants, and the conditions to support the needs of wildlife, such as food, water, shelter, and breeding areas. The gardens selected for the tour will include gardens that demonstrate a variety of gardening techniques. If your garden is not selected, it could be because of this desire to showcase a variety of gardening techniques, or because we selected gardens that were clustered together, and not because of the quality of your garden.

Step 3—Wait to be notified

After the Host Garden Applications have been reviewed gardens that meet the criteria will be visited by a garden tour planner.

The purpose of the visit is for the garden tour planner to meet the gardener, view the garden, and discuss the site.

Garden Tour Questionnaire

Please answer all questions. We will not distribute this information; it will only be used to communicate with you.

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Email _____
Day phone _____ Evening phone _____
Parking restrictions _____
Nearest two main cross streets and freeway _____

The garden:

- Total property size (in square feet, if possible) _____
- Approximate size of garden areas proposed for the tour: _____
front: _____ back: _____ parking: _____ strip side _____
- What kind of garden do you have? (Check all that apply)
 - ___ native plants from throughout California
 - ___ local native plants
 - ___ low-water-use
 - ___ use of drought-tolerant plants
 - ___ wildflowers
 - ___ collect seeds/cuttings and propagate own plants
 - ___ woodland
 - ___ butterfly
 - ___ bird
 - ___ hummingbird
 - ___ use of insect-attracting plants
 - ___ slope
 - ___ creekside
 - ___ low maintenance
 - ___ wildlands look manicured look
 - ___ edible landscape

- What kinds of birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals visit your garden? _____
- How do you provide food, shelter, nesting areas and water for wildlife?

Describe any unusual physical features of your garden (Stream? Extreme shade? Extreme slope? Difficult soil? etc.) _____

- Approximately what percentage of your garden (excluding lawn) is planted with native or drought tolerant plants? _____
- Approximately what percentage of your garden is lawn? _____
- Average water regime? (no summer water, once a week, occasional, etc.) _____

- Do you have a water feature? ___yes ___no

If yes, please describe it: _____

What methods of water conservation do you use? _____

When did you start your garden and what did you do? _____

Are there any special or unique features such as plants, special habitat or erosion control projects that you would like to mention? Examples might include a butterfly garden, water catchment system or other unique elements of your garden. _____

The gardener in you:

• Approximately how many hours do you spend working in the garden per day _____ month _____

• Who designed the garden? _____

• Who installed the garden? _____

• When was the garden installed? _____

Other:

• Do you have before and after photos of your garden that you can provide us with? __yes __no

• Is your garden certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat Garden? __yes __no or certification in progress _____

[The NWF website is <http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat>]

• I would be willing to give two fifteen minute talks on the day of the garden tour. __yes __no

My subject would

be: _____

South Bay Water-Wise Garden Tour
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