

### PRESS RELEASE

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# Free Resource to Help Homeowners Create Beautiful, Water-Efficient Landscapes Now Available

SACRAMENTO--A new Web site is now available to Sacramento-area residents who are looking to reduce their water use outdoors while creating a beautiful landscape.

### Eco-Friendly Landscape Design Plans for the New California Landscape at

http://www.ecolandscape.org/new-ca/ offers

visitors free of charge:

- Four complete professional landscape design packages.
- Guided audio tours with landscape and irrigation designers for each plan.
- Four interactive landscape designs that allow the visitor to see photographs of the plants and features for each plan.
- An interactive irrigation sample design that shows and explains the irrigation equipment.
- Profiles and photos of plants that were carefully selected for their ability to thrive in the Sacramento region's climate and ease of care.



"The timing of the Web site's launch couldn't be better, as California faces record-breaking dry conditions," said Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager for the Regional Water Authority,

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one of the project's supporters. "As more and more people look to make permanent reductions in their water use, *Eco-Friendly Landscape Design Plans* offers a huge head start."

The site provides residents and landscape professionals with turn-key landscape and irrigation plans and tools for creating a beautiful, eco-friendly landscape, including four distinct landscape plans:

- Recreation Destination, which features a park-like front yard and an "entertainment extravaganza" back yard
- Right as Rain, which focuses on capturing and managing water on site with a rain garden, dry creek bed, meadow-like garden and year-round color
- Neat and Petite, for a smallscale garden with an easycare, resource-efficient lawn
- Wholesome Habitat, for a garden that provides water, shelter and food for wildlife and a variety of features for the family

"Now is the time for us to take action. Every step we take—small or large is part of the solution to the environmental challenges we face," said Cheryl Buckwalter, Executive Director of EcoLandscape California,





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one of the site's project developers. "It's time for us to create landscapes suited to <u>our</u> region's climate and conditions, and this site is a great resource for people looking to improve their existing landscape's drought resistance."

Whether people want to make changes to their entire landscape, work in phases, or simply improve one thing—such as improve the efficiency of their irrigation system—this site helps people to be better equipped to take those steps. Buckwalter continues, "Whether you want to have a small garden or large, have children and pets that need some lawn, or wish to entertain and play sports, the site offers a plan for you."

**Eco-Friendly Landscape Design Plans for the New California Landscape** is made available through the generous support of the Water Forum and the Regional Water Authority, through collaboration with the County of Sacramento and Placer County, and developed by EcoLandscape California.

The site can be accessed free of charge at http://www.ecolandscape.org/new-ca/.

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