

Resources

- Bewatervise®.com: Rain garden and plant information with free online landscape courses
- The Drought Tolerant Garden: Los Angeles County Handbook
http://file.lacounty.gov/green/cms1_188635.pdf
- City of Los Angeles Rainwater Harvesting Program: A Homeowner's How-To Guide
<http://bit.ly/1WKZxOF>



Metropolitan Mission Statement

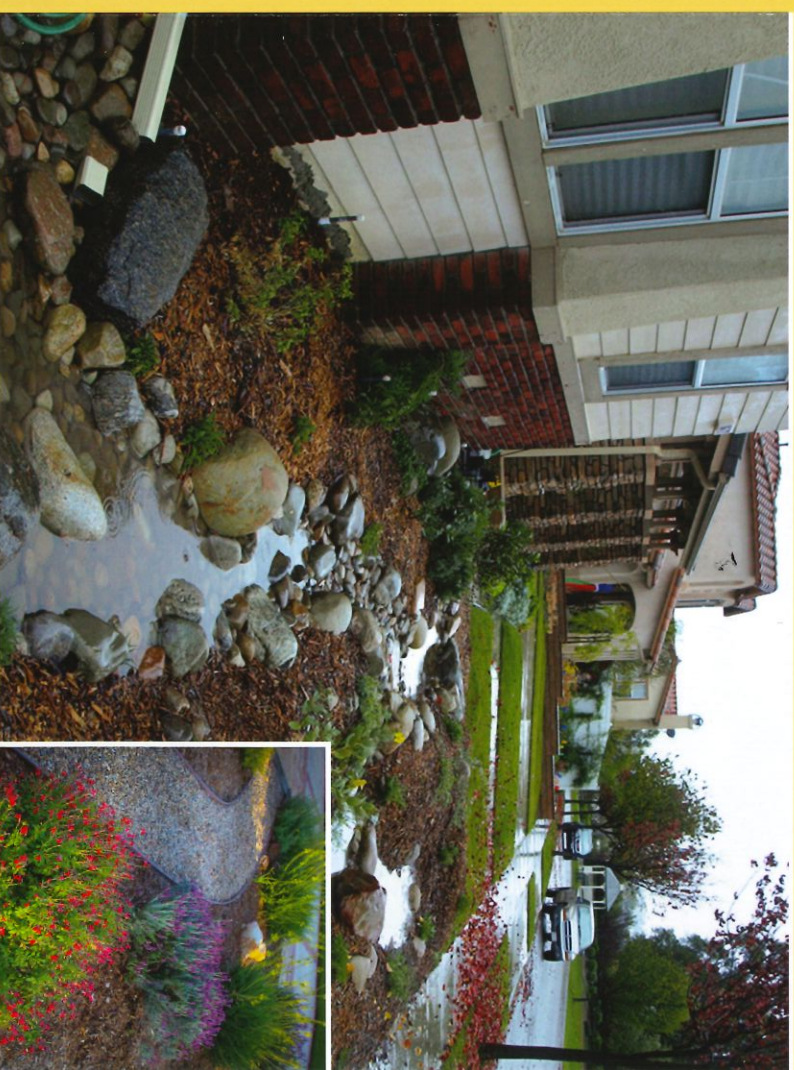
The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

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How to Make a Rain Garden California Friendly® Landscapes



Cover photos: G³ Green Gardens Group

Rain is a precious resource in Southern California, where our Mediterranean climate is warm and dry most of the year. A few changes in your landscape design can yield hundreds of gallons of fresh water for your garden, even from a passing storm. A habitat for birds and beneficial insects is a plus. Less runoff into storm drains is an extra added bonus.



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Getting Started

Notice where rain runs off your roof, driveway, and planted areas. Do you have rain gutters and a downspout?



Project Ideas

Easy projects

- Install a rain chain to slow the rain coming from the roof and allow the water to soak into the soil. A rain chain is a beautiful and functional alternative to a covered downspout.
- Redirect the rain gutter downspout from the driveway into the garden.
- Direct the rain gutter downspout into a rain barrel and use the water later for your thirsty garden. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation. Keep the barrel covered for safety and to prevent mosquitoes.

Bigger projects

- Create a rain garden that captures rainwater and allows it to soak into the soil, like a sponge.
- Find the right spot away from your home's foundation, driveway and sidewalk.
- Make it the right size.
- Turn your soil into a healthy "sponge" instead of a "brick."
- Plant the right plants that won't mind wet feet once in a while.
- Make an overflow path so extra water has a direct path to the street and not back towards your home.