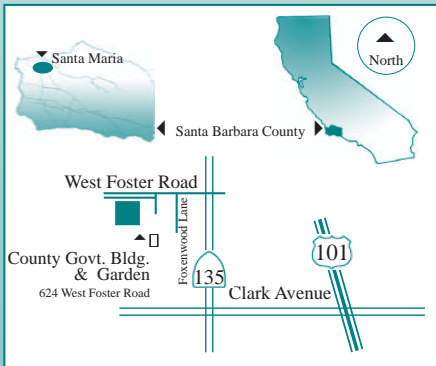




Santa Maria Valley Sustainable Garden

The Santa Maria Valley Sustainable Garden, which was completed in October 1997, provides the community with a living demonstration of resource efficient landscaping.

The Garden was made possible by the efforts of a dedicated Steering Committee and the generosity of the community. Individuals, businesses, community organizations, and government agencies made contributions of funds, labor and materials for the garden. The Donor Wall, located in the Garden, features the names of many of the Garden's generous supporters.



Map of the Garden Areas

County Government Building Entrance ↑

Mediterranean and Semi-Arid Plantings
Many of these plants are native to other Mediterranean climate areas of the world, such as Australia and New Zealand. These plants are well-adapted to our local regime of wet, cool winters and warm, dry summers.

Information Kiosk
Small planting pockets near here are filled with Wild Strawberry groundcover and two sizes of New Zealand Flax.

California and Western Natives
California and other Western native plants are grouped around several Coast Live Oaks, Redbud and Arbutus trees. These areas feature accent and flowering shrubs, as well as a variety of ground covers.

Arbor and Lawns
Blood Red Trumpet Vines are planted at the arbor.
The lawns are Dwarf Tall Fescues, broadleaved grasses which are fairly tolerant of heat and cold, shade, foot traffic, drought, salinity, and have good winter color persistence.
These grasses also have a low nitrogen requirement, low incidence of disease, and are among the lowest in terms of cost and effort of maintenance for turf grasses.

Sunny Area Plantings
Sunny areas on either side of the decomposed granite path are planted with a collection of small shrubs and ground covers of various heights, with a young Coast Live Oak in one area.
Some of the ground covers can be used instead of a lawn, reducing water requirements while adding color and texture. This area is especially colorful in the summer, with many flowering shrubs and perennials.

Donor Wall and Arbor

Parking Lot Islands
These areas are planted with Sycamore trees and fragrant groundcovers such as Lavendar and Rosemary.

Information:
To learn more about the garden, please call the Santa Barbara County Water Agency at 568-3440.

The Santa Maria Valley Sustainable Garden received support from the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County. For more information on the Land Trust and its activities, please call 966-4520

Location:

Santa Maria Valley
Sustainable Garden
624 West Foster Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Sponsors:

County of Santa Barbara
Cachuma Resource
Conservation District
Land Trust for Santa
Barbara County
Santa Barbara Foundation
City of Santa Maria
Santa Maria Valley
Beautiful
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
California Association of
Resource Conservation
Districts

Garden Design:

Original design:
Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo,
Landscape Architecture
Program

Design Renovations:
Patrick Bolger

Trellis/Donor Wall/Kiosk:
Brian Miller



Santa Maria Valley Sustainable Garden
c/o Santa Barbara County Water Agency
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101



Santa Maria Valley Sustainable Garden



Why “Sustainable Landscaping”?

The Santa Maria Valley is a special place to live. Sustainable and efficient use of resources in landscaping is one way to protect the quality of life we enjoy here.

About 45% of the water used by the typical home goes into the yard. Often, chemicals and fertilizers must be used to keep a landscape healthy. Certain landscapes require a lot of labor, hours we'd rather spend doing other things.

What is the alternative to pouring all of these resources into our yards? It's possible to have an attractive landscape that reduces the amount of water and work required. The answer is sustainable landscaping.

The Santa Maria Valley Sustainable Garden can show you how to create a sustainable landscape in your own yard.



The Garden features these

Principles of Sustainable Landscaping:

Careful planning and design:

A resource-efficient and low maintenance garden begins here.

Low-water using & native plants:

Plants that are native to mild climates like ours save water and look great. Selecting plants that are disease resistant reduces the need for chemicals.

Efficient irrigation:

Drip irrigation and micro-sprayers save water and work. Irrigation management is just as important as the equipment you use. Know the water needs of your plants, your soil type, and watch the weather when making irrigation decisions.

Use of hardscape areas:

Paths and patios create outdoor living spaces.

Composting:

Turning yard wastes into valuable fertilizer and mulch creates a healthy landscape and saves landfill space.

Lawn alternatives:

Reduced lawn areas and use of alternative lawn species or groundcovers can reduce requirements for water, mowing, and chemicals.

Use of mulches:

Mulch helps improve the quality of your soil, reduces weeds, and saves water. You can make your own mulch or purchase mulches made of recycled materials.