

HOA Embraces Greener Alternative to Thirsty Lawn

Casitas Alameda Homeowners' Association, Alameda, CA



The beautiful new landscape saves water and provides vital ecological services such as reducing stormwater runoff and creating pollinator habitat.



276,000

Gallons water saved annually



82 tons

Local, recycled compost and mulch applied to the landscape



46 tons

Turf kept out of landfill by sheet mulching



28 tons

Greenhouse gas emissions avoided



**LANDSCAPE
SUCCESS STORIES**

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In 2015, with California in the midst of a record-breaking drought, a community of more than 400 homes near the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay decided to make a big change. The Casitas Alameda Homeowners' Association replaced 25,000 square feet of water-intensive lawn with gorgeous landscaping that saves water, increases biodiversity and prevents stormwater runoff. Instead of eliminating the turf with herbicides or excavation, the landscape contractor sheet mulched it in place using layers of cardboard and locally produced recycled compost and mulch. These materials, along with the decomposing grass, add organic matter that improves soil health and acts like a sponge to hold more water.

Healthier soil, a stunning tapestry of 100% summer-dry adapted plants, and efficient irrigation contribute to impressive water savings. In addition, decomposed granite pathways allow rainwater to percolate into the soil, and the property was graded so that any runoff drains to a cobble-lined dry creek bed.

StopWaste provided the Casitas Alameda HOA with a sheet mulch and Bay-Friendly Rating landscape grant.

Bay-Friendly Rated Landscape Score

70
(60 points min.)



The Bay-Friendly Rated Landscapes program recognizes excellence in high performance landscape design, construction and maintenance. Learn more: www.rescapeca.org



Project Type: Residential Subdivision

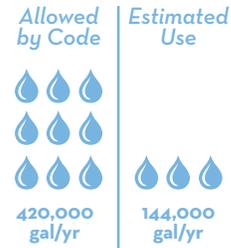
Location: Verdemar Dr. at Catalina Ave., Alameda, CA • **Size:** 0.7 acres • **Project completed:** 2015 • **Property owner:** Casitas Alameda Homeowners' Association • **Property manager:** Willis Management Group • **Landscape design and construction:** Cagwin & Dorward • **Bay-Friendly Rater:** Vanessa Lindores, Gates + Associates • **Photos:** Emily Hagopian • **Success Story published:** 10/2016

“The Board did an excellent job of selecting low-water, climate-adapted plants that improve the property’s aesthetic appeal.”

—Jesse Painter

Regional Manager, Willis Management Group

WATER USE



ANNUAL WATER SAVINGS
\$1,540

High Performance Highlights



Compost & Mulch = Healthy Soil



Integrated Pest Management



No Need to Mow



High Efficiency Irrigation



Verified Sustainable Landscape



Water Saving Plants



Sheet Mulch

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StopWaste is a public agency responsible for reducing waste in Alameda County. Find resources for creating healthy soils and landscapes at www.stopwaste.org/landscape