

City of Pleasanton Converts Lawn to Water-Saving Landscape

123 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA



A worker uses sheet mulch to replace the lawn with low-water plants outside the City of Pleasanton's administration buildings.

up to
384,000 
Gallons water
saved annually

16.5 tons 
Turf kept out of landfill
by sheet mulching

10 tons 
Greenhouse gas
emissions avoided



**LANDSCAPE
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It takes a lot of water to keep lawns green in Pleasanton and other Tri-Valley cities, where summers are much hotter than in the Bay Area's coastal regions. In response to historic drought conditions, in June 2014 the City of Pleasanton replaced a large, seldom used lawn around its administration buildings with an attractive landscape that needs about 90% less irrigation, provides bird and pollinator habitat, and reduces maintenance costs. The renovated landscape, which is planted primarily with California native species, serves as a model for residents who want to learn about lawn alternatives. Rather than eliminating the turf with grass-killing chemicals or excavation, the city's landscaping contractor sheet mulched the lawn in place, using layers of cardboard and locally produced, recycled compost and mulch. These materials, along with the decomposing turf, add organic matter that improves soil health and acts like a sponge to hold more water. *StopWaste provided the City of Pleasanton with technical assistance and a \$15,000 grant for this lawn conversion project.*

Bay-Friendly Basics

This project meets the Bay-Friendly Basics requirements:

- 1 Cover soil with 3+ inches of mulch
- 2 Amend soil with 1+ inch of compost
- 3 Divert 50% of landscape construction and demolition debris
- 4 Choose and locate plants to grow to their natural size
- 5 Don't plant invasive species
- 6 Plant low-water, climate-adapted plants
- 7 Restrict turf to no more than 25% of irrigated area
- 8 Use weather-based, smart irrigation controllers
- 9 Don't use sprinklers in areas less than 8 feet wide



Less than one year after covering the lawn with sheet mulch, California poppies, Bees Bliss sage and other low water plants are thriving in the healthy soil.

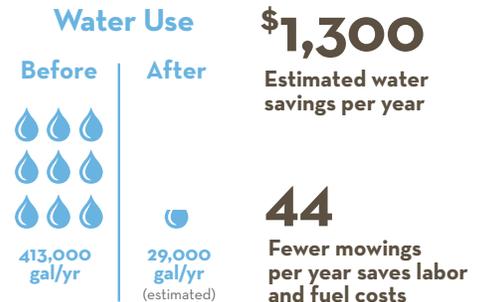
Project Type: Civic Landscape Improvement

Location: 123 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA • **Size:** 8,300 sq. ft. • **Project completed:** 2014 • **Property owner:** City of Pleasanton • **Design:** Sarah Hosterman, City of Pleasanton • **Landscape contractor:** Kerri Landscape Services • **Photos:** Emily Hagopian • **Success Story published:** 2/2015

“Thanks to the sheet mulch, weeds haven’t been a big issue.”

—Stan Gibson

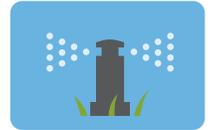
Park Maintenance Supervisor
City of Pleasanton



High Performance Highlights



Water Saving Plants



High Efficiency Irrigation



No Need to Mow



Integrated Pest Management



Compost & Mulch = Healthy Soil



Sheet Mulch



CA Native Plants

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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