

Median Improvement Project Reduces Water, Waste and Pollution

Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA



The median islands along Harbor Bay Parkway were converted from water- and labor-intensive turf grass to a modern, sustainable landscape that thrives with little irrigation and no mowing.

9 million 
gallons water
saved in 3 years

221 tons 
Turf kept out of landfill
by sheet mulching

136 tons 
Greenhouse gas
emissions avoided



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In 2011, Harbor Bay Business Park replaced 2.5 acres of conventional grass medians with an eco-friendly landscape that enhances the spectacular shoreline setting. In this nearly zero waste project, the existing turf was sheet mulched in place under layers of recycled cardboard, compost and mulch. The turf and cardboard gradually decomposed, enriching the soil. Three inches of compost were also incorporated in the sandy soil to improve its health and capacity to retain moisture. Installing subsurface irrigation with low flow emitters solved the windy site's chronic problem of sprinkler overspray onto the roadway, a major source of water waste that also accelerated deterioration of the asphalt. Plants were selected that thrive with little water in windswept, sandy, coastal conditions. These enhancements combined to reduce water use by nearly two-thirds, saving 9 million gallons in the past three years.

Bay-Friendly Rated Landscape Score

79
(60 points min.)



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



Project Type: Streetscape Improvement

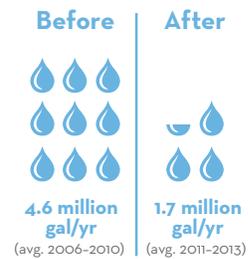
Location: Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA (from Ron Cowan Parkway to Bay Edge Rd) • **Size:** 2.5 acres • **Project completed:** 2011 • **Property management:** Harbor Bay Business Park Association/GS Management Company • **Landscape architect:** April Philips Design Works • **Landscape contractor:** Cagwin & Dorward • **Bay-Friendly Rater:** Cynthia Greenberg, Placeworks • **Photos:** Emily Hagopian (front), Cagwin & Dorward (back) • **Success Story published:** 9/2014

“Irrigation water use has dropped by 63%.”

—Aaron Majors

Cagwin & Dorward Landscape Contractors

Water Use



\$47,000+

Water cost savings over 3 years

23%

lower maintenance costs due to no-mow plants

High Performance Highlights



Water Saving Plants



High Efficiency Irrigation



No Need to Mow



Integrated Pest Management



Compost & Mulch = Healthy Soil



Sheet Mulch



Verified sustainable landscape

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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