

Water Wise Garden Sign of Recognition

The City of Huntington Beach, the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Orange County Association of Realtors have created this sign to acknowledge residents' efforts to promote water conservation and sustainability. The sign will be given for free to all Huntington Beach residents and home owners that have converted their front lawns to water wise (drought tolerant, native, California friendly) gardens.

The signs will be placed in all eligible gardens for the month of September. During this month Huntington Beach will be hosting the Green Expo celebrating and encouraging sustainability. A list of addresses will be made available in September so people can view the various gardens to be inspired by the functionality, beauty and vibrancy of these water wise gardens.

Water wise gardens are all visually different, from succulent gardens of a wide variety of color and texture, to exquisite, colorful native plants, to beautiful and dramatic plants from other dry climates. The difference in aesthetics is tantalizing, but they all have low water needs in common, as opposed to a standard lawn. Water in our dry climate is a precious resource as much of it is transported great distances from Northern California and the Colorado River, at great cost.

Turf grass and lawns are resource intensive, meaning a lawn will not look good in our dry climate unless plenty of water and fertilizer is applied. They also require regular mowing, which can be expensive, creating air pollution and green waste that needs to be transported to landfills.

Additional benefits of water wise gardens is the creation of food and habitat for beneficial insects, birds, bees and butterflies. Plants that are adapted to our Mediterranean climate rarely require fertilizers and pesticides. Commonly, over irrigation carries these synthetic chemicals in the runoff and ultimately end up in our water and ocean environment.

For more information, please contact the City's Water Conservation and Water Use Efficiency team at 714.374.1503 or e-mail us at lenica.castner@surfcity-hb.org or bcrisp@surfcity-hb.org.