

RIVER-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING VS. CONVENTIONAL LANDSCAPING

Is your landscape and garden in harmony with the environment? Many conventional landscaping practices can damage the environment.

Conventional landscaping often consists of large lawns and non-native plants, which rely on abundant irrigation and the heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides. This approach to landscaping requires significant mowing, blowing, trimming, and frequent removal of plant debris. You can avoid much of this unnecessary work and save time, money, and energy by following the seven principles of River-Friendly landscaping.



RIVER-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE

This landscape features a mix of native and drought-tolerant plants, which require less watering than traditional lawns. The variety of plants also makes it more appealing.

River Friendly Landscaping	Conventional Landscaping
Less long-term cost	Greater long-term cost
Conserves water and requires less fertilizer and maintenance	Requires more water, fertilizers, and maintenance
Reduces soil, air, and water pollution	Contributes to soil, air, and water pollution
Conserves landfill space by using natural mulch and compost	Burdens landfills with green waste
Reduces use of fossil fuels	Consumes fossil fuels



CONVENTIONAL LANDSCAPE

This landscape has a large lawn and cramped shrub areas, which may require more water and maintenance.

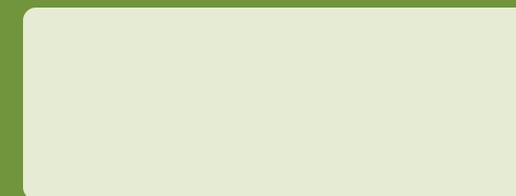
DIG DEEPER INTO RIVER-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING!

Visit www.riverfriendly.org for more information about...

- Landscaping and gardening resources
- Upcoming workshops
- Tips on how to choose appropriate plants
- River-Friendly landscaping guidelines for landscape professionals
- Tips on how to choose a landscape professional

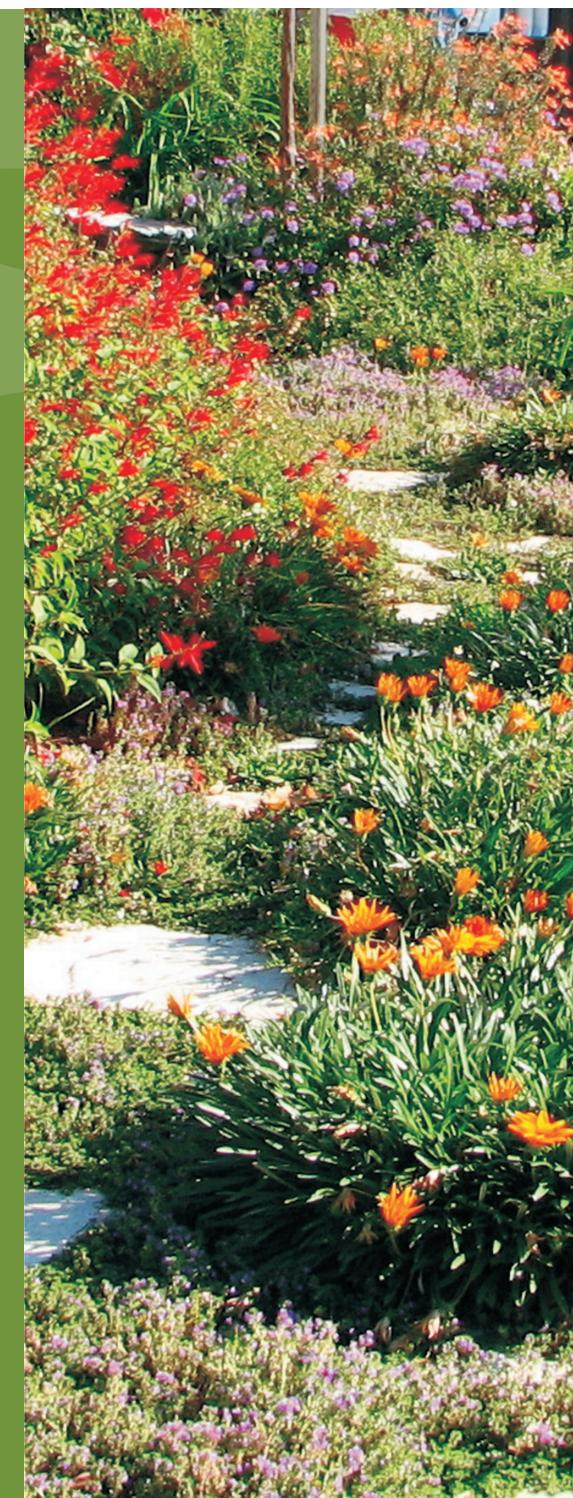
This brochure was produced by the River-Friendly Landscaping Coalition, which is a collaboration between public agencies, non-profit organizations, designers, private landscape architects, and contractors. The vision of the coalition is to improve the health of communities and ecosystems through sustainable landscaping in the Sacramento Valley and surrounding foothills.

The mission of the River-Friendly Landscaping Coalition is to provide individuals, businesses, and institutions access to information, resources, and ideas so that landscapes are designed, built, and maintained according to the sustainable practices of the River-Friendly Landscaping principles.



A special thanks to all those who contributed to the development and production of this brochure. Please visit the riverfriendly.org website for a list of contributors.

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RIVER-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

at Home

Easy steps for creating healthy, beautiful landscapes while protecting and caring for our environment.



www.riverfriendly.org



WHAT IS RIVER-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING?

River-Friendly Landscaping is a holistic approach to landscaping that works with nature to reduce waste, prevent pollution, and support the integrity of one of California's key ecosystems, the Sacramento River watershed.

It is also a method by which you can create and maintain a healthy, beautiful, and vibrant landscape using the 7 PRINCIPLES OF RIVER-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING.

A well-designed and maintained River-Friendly landscape can cost you less in the long run by consuming fewer resources. You can be part of the solution.

BENEFITS OF RIVER-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

Benefits to YOU...

- Saves money on water, fertilizers, and pesticides
- Reduces green waste in your landscape
- Requires less maintenance such as mowing and trimming
- Attracts wonderful birds and butterflies to your garden

Benefits to the Community and the Environment...

- Conserves landfill space
- Reduces air pollution by reducing the amount of green waste that needs to be transported
- Improves water quality by reducing pollution

THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF RIVER-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

Protect Water and Air Quality

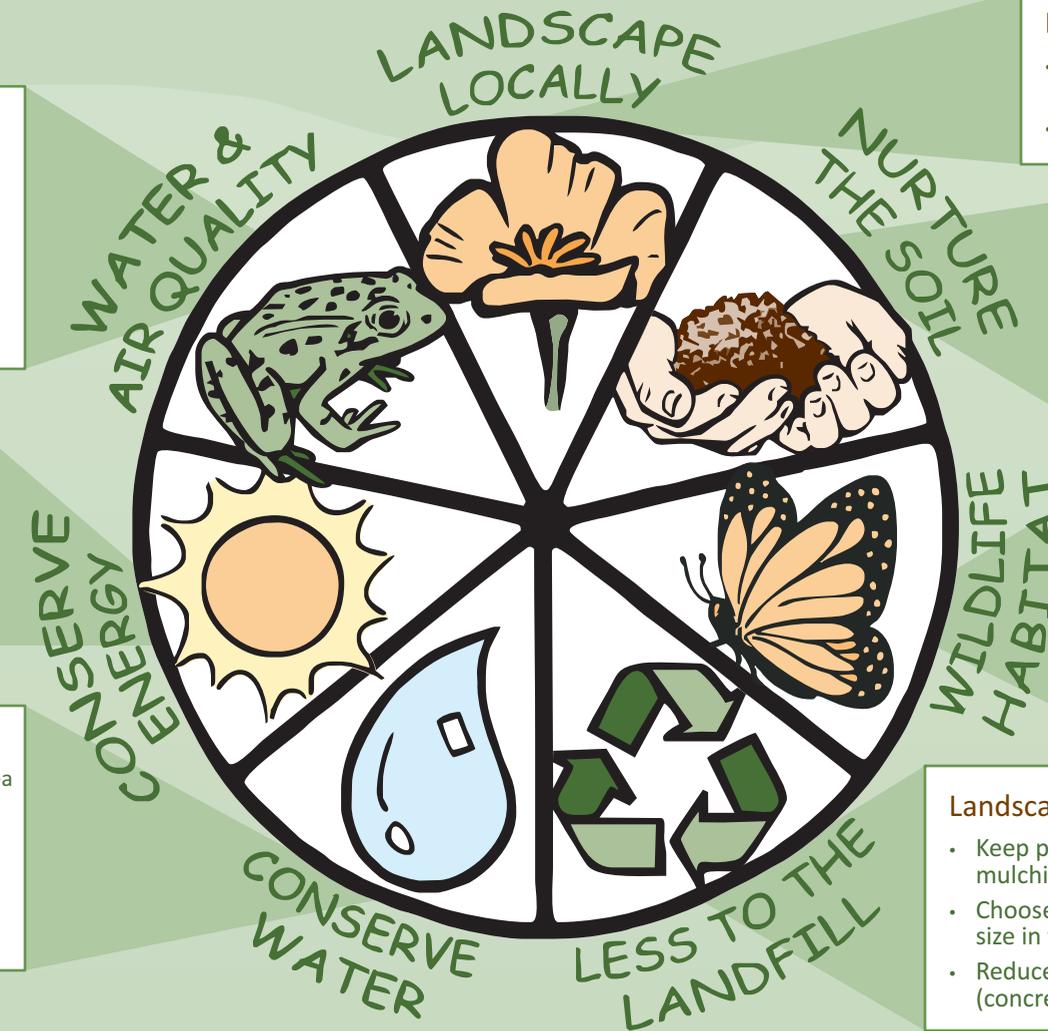
- Choose pest-resistant plant varieties
- Include plants that support beneficial insects
- Use manual tools in place of power tools

Conserve Energy

- Plant trees to shade homes, paved areas, and air conditioners
- Avoid unnecessary outdoor lighting

Conserve Water

- Minimize/eliminate lawn area
- Grow low-water use California natives or Mediterranean plants
- Design, install, and maintain high efficiency irrigation systems



Landscape Locally

- Consider climate, sun exposure, and soil type when selecting plants
- Avoid using invasive species

Nurture the Soil

- Amend the soil with compost before planting
- Mulch regularly
- Feed soils naturally; avoid using synthetic and quick release fertilizers

Create and Protect Wildlife Habitat

- Create diversity by choosing California native plants first
- Reduce/eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides
- Provide water and shelter

Landscape for Less to the Landfill

- Keep plant debris on site by grasscycling, mulching, or composting
- Choose plants that can grow to their natural size in the space allotted
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle construction waste (concrete, bricks, etc.) for landscape features



FOUR EASY WAYS TO GET STARTED!

1. Check Your Irrigation System

- Look for broken or out of adjustment heads.
- Set your controller properly for the season.

- Ask your water supplier for a Water-Wise House Call by going to rwah2o.org/rwa/educated/homeowners/ or calling 1-888-987-8477.

2. Use Mulch in Flower, Vegetable, and Shrub Beds

- Mulch is a covering of organic material, which can prevent water loss, keep weeds down, and decompose to make the soil healthy.
- Use mulch materials such as shredded bark, ground up tree trimmings, and fallen leaves.
- Apply mulch three inches or more deep. Keep mulch away from the base of trees and shrubs to reduce damage from disease and pests.

3. Use Compost to Improve Soil Health and Fertility

- Reduces fertilizer needs
- Improves water use efficiency
- Incorporate when planting or apply to shrubs and lawns

4. Grasscycle When Mowing Lawns

- Grasscycling allows grass clippings and their nutrients to be recycled into the lawn and soil, reducing the need for fertilizers. In addition, there is less waste sent to the landfill.
- Replace the standard blade on your lawn mower with a mulching blade that cuts clippings into smaller pieces that break down more readily.
- Remove the bag (so the clippings stay on the lawn) and mow as usual.

For more tips, visit www.RiverFriendly.org.