

SONOMA GARDEN PARK

Sonoma Garden Park is a six-acre working farm, a model of sustainable agriculture, and the educational campus of Sonoma Ecology Center. Located at 19996 Seventh Street East in Sonoma, the Garden Park offers a beautiful, natural environment with educational opportunities for both adults and children. Donated to the City of Sonoma by Pauline Bond and managed by Sonoma Ecology Center, the Garden Park features a demonstration garden, butterfly garden, fig forest, straw bale barn, over 150 fruit trees, a solar well, Low Impact Design water features, interpretive displays and walking trails. Learn more at www.sonomagardenpark.org.



SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER

Sonoma Ecology Center was established in 1990 with a mission to work with our community to identify and lead actions that achieve and sustain ecological health in Sonoma Valley. Sonoma Ecology Center's focus is on community-supported research, restoration and education. Its programs and initiatives increase appreciation and stewardship of our natural heritage and create measurable benefits in the areas of water, resources, biodiversity, energy and land use. More information about Sonoma Ecology Center can be found at www.sonomaecologycenter.org.



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19996 Seventh Street East, Sonoma California
www.sonomagardenpark.com

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Do-It-Yourself Water Saving features

SELF-GUIDED TOUR:

Managing Water When Water Is Scarce



Look for markers to identify installations for your home, garden or workplace.

LOW IMPACT DESIGN: WATER-WISE FEATURES

Managing Water When Water Is Scarce

Learn about water-saving features suitable for every gardern

Low Impact Design (LID) is a landscaping method that helps rainwater soak back into the ground, replenishing springs and recharging our aquifers. Using LID techniques, rainwater is directed to gardens, swales, basins and other permeable features. Shallow groundwater, held like a sponge, releases slowly to streams, providing late summer flow when fish and wildlife need it most. Water also may be collected in non-permeable cisterns and basins, to be used later for irrigation or slow release back to the environment.

Follow the map inside for a self-guided tour of the many LID features in use throughout Sonoma Garden Park. Numbered signs along the tour path explain the features in detail. The map includes additional examples of features that are unmarked. Ask us how we can help you bring these techniques to your own yard or garden.



Above: The gravel parking lot and swales capture and filter stormwater and recharge groundwater.

Right: Drinking fountain drains into a graywater system with a gravel infiltration basin.



Above: A 20- x 30-foot roof with a roof water catchment system saves 11,000 gallons a year with the annual rainfall of Sonoma Valley.

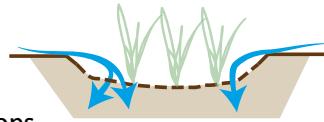


Left: Mulching exposed soil prevents evaporation and reduces erosion.



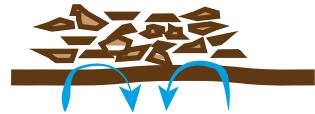
1 RAIN GARDEN

A garden planted in a shallow basin is ideal for capturing and filtering storm water from rooftops and parking areas. This one receives overflow from our rainwater catchment tank.



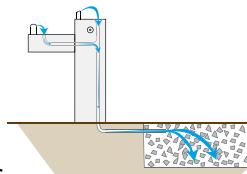
2 MULCHING

Placing a layer of leaves or arbor mulch around vegetation and over exposed soil prevents evaporation, reduces erosion and suppresses weeds.



3 GRAY WATER SYSTEM

Used water from a sink or drinking fountain is directed to a drainage system below ground to safely soak into the soil or be used to water plants.



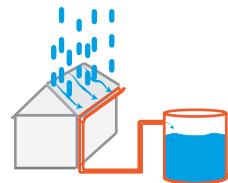
4 INFILTRATION BASINS

A simple basin filled with gravel receives storm water runoff, and allows it to soak slowly into the soil and recharge groundwater. The gravel is level for a picnic table.



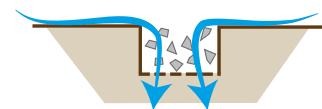
5 ROOF WATER CATCHMENT

A modified downspout turns any roof into a large surface area for catching storm water. These storage tanks are able to hold 750 and 1,500 gallons of water each for use during the summer.



6 INFILTRATION TRENCHES

Similar to basins, these trenches are typically long, narrow and filled with gravel. Some trenches feature vegetated filter strips for filtering storm water as it soaks into the ground.

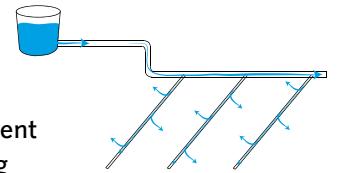


SONOMA GARDEN PARK LID WALKING TOUR



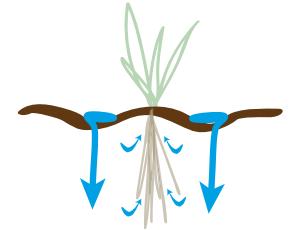
7 DRIP IRRIGATION

An automated irrigation system with drip emitters provides efficient watering of plants while reducing water loss from evaporation. Irrigation can be adjusted based on a plant's type, stage of development and seasonal needs.



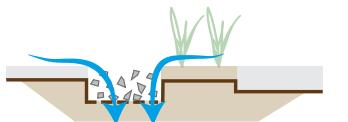
8 DROUGHT-TOLERANT NATIVE PLANTING

Most plants that are native to this region require less water once established. Other good options for drought-tolerant planting include non-invasive Mediterranean species.



9 VEGETATED FILTER STRIPS

A border of dense vegetation acts as a filter for storm water runoff from non-permeable surfaces. Ideal along roads, driveways, downspouts and parking areas.



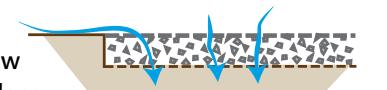
10 SWALES

These shallow depressions can be contoured to divert storm water away from structures while allowing it to soak into the ground. Most are rock lined or vegetated for filtration.



11 PERMEABLE PARKING LOT

A gravel parking area with infiltration features and hollow pavers to hold the gravel in place is strong but permeable, allowing storm water to soak in and preventing polluted runoff.



Visit SonomaGardenPark.org/LID for more information and resources