A Collaboration of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and Heaviland Landscape Management
1) Introduction

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- San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy – Founded 1986. 1,817 current members.

2) What are the benefits of sustainable landscaping?

- Drought tolerant
- Lower costs (Rebates!)
- Lower maintenance
- Wildlife habitat
- No chemicals
- Good neighbor
3) Main themes of sustainability in landscaping

* Drought tolerant / low water (Xeriscaping)
* Eliminate runoff / clean water
* Water recycling (e.g. laundry to landscape)
* Integrative & Functional (nitrogen fixing plants to reduce fertilization)
* Go Native! - No invasive species
* Provides habitat features
4) Makes use of innovative & integrative techniques

- Rainwater harvesting / Laundry to landscape
- Sheet mulching
- Integrated Pest Management
- Composting
5) Design factors

* Space
* Drainage (your yard is a watershed)
* Regional Microclimate
* Exposure / shade
* Slope
* Soil
Lose the Lawn!
Green is not Blue...
Slow it, Sink it, Spread it.
Turf alternatives.
Gathering spaces
Rock On!!!

6) Possible Design Features
7) How do I get started?

* Decision Time:
  * DIY, professional design plan, or design-build?
* Cost / time....
* Phasing?
8) Really Getting Started

- Get your soil tested
- Test your irrigation system
- Sketch a site plan – “Measure Twice, Dig Once”
  - Identify Planting zones
  - Figure out planting zone water requirements.
- Bonus Step!
  - Figure out rainwater capture from impervious surfaces and storage options.
9) Common Problems

- Working out of order – Irrigation design always follows planting design.
- Watering pattern (Appropriate grouping)
- Don’t kill your soil! - Mulch Good, Plastic Bad!
- Mismatched plants / soils
- Plant spacing
10) Tips

* Complete the earthwork for drainage, pathways, hardscapes, etc. before you install plants and irrigation.
* Sequencing – Irrigation design always follows planting design.
* If you are installing a surface drip irrigation system, put plants in the ground before completing the irrigation. If you are adjusting/updating an existing spray system, do any moving of sprinklers before you plant and fine tune after.
11) What Comes Next?

- Plan an ongoing maintenance budget allocation for keeping the garden healthy over time.
- Weeding, Pruning, and Fine tuning!
- Keep that soil healthy: Add compost & replenish mulch.
12) Resources

* Heaviland Co. website
* SDCWA Water-wise Program (watersmartsd.org)
* California Watershed Approach to Landscape Design (APLD, Surfrider, CWEP)
* Water Conservation Garden
* S.D. Botanical Garden
* Solana Center
* CNPS / Cal-IPC
* Master Gardeners
13) More Good Resources

* RCDs
* NRCS Backyard Conservation Program (Local field office – Escondido)
* National Wildlife Federation – Garden for Wildlife Program
* Surfrider Ocean Friendly Gardens
* Native plant nurseries (RECON, Moosa Creek, Las Pilitas, etc.) and vendors (City Farmer’s Nursery, Walter Anderson).
* ASLA
* Consultant websites: e.g. H2OME, Ecology Artisans, etc.
Sustainable Landscapes need healthy, rich soils...
(but that doesn’t mean you should go out and buy Miracle Gro!)
How about composting your food waste to build your soil and feed our plants
15) Composting Activity

* Active Vs. Passive
  * Hot Compost
  * Vermicompost (What about Worms?)
  * Bokashi

* Sort it, chop it, layer it, water it, turn it, & plant it...
Special Thanks!

* Heaviland Landscape Management
* City Farmers Nursery
* H2OME
* Solana Center for Environmental Innovation
Next to Nature Certification Program
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