



Water Conservation Program Updates

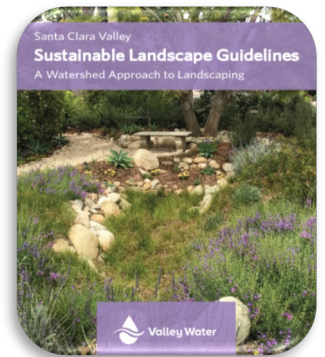
Ashley Shannon, Senior Water Conservation Specialist,
Water Supply Planning and Conservation Unit, Valley Water



Water Conservation Program

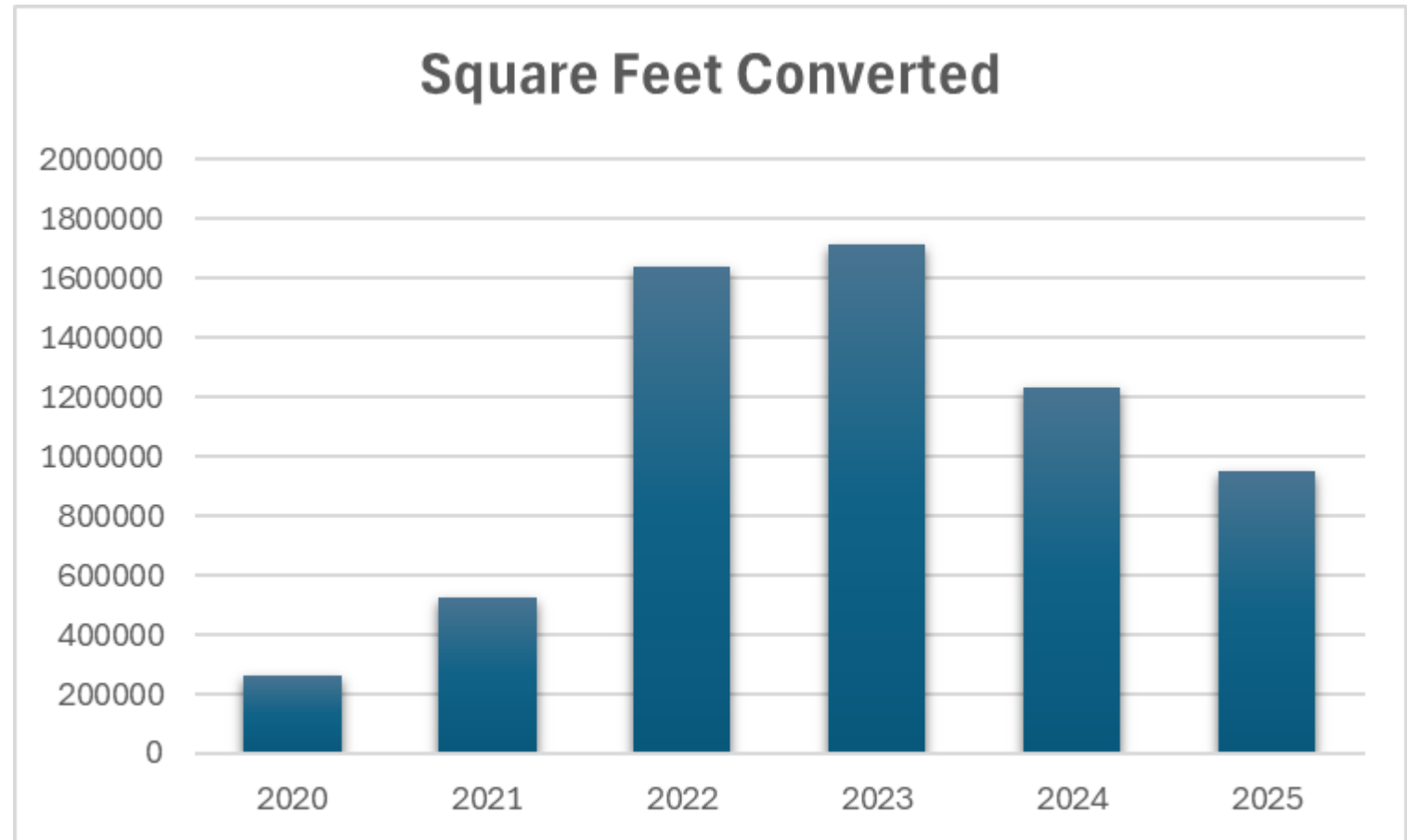
“Making water conservation a California way of life.”

- Rebates
 - Landscape Rebate Program
 - Landscape Design Assistance
 - Graywater Laundry-to-Landscape
 - Water Efficient Technology (WET)
 - Submeter Rebate Program
- Outreach and Education
 - Webinars
 - Landscape professional training
 - Literature
 - Online resources
- Programs & Services
 - Large Landscape Survey Program
 - Water Wise Outdoor Surveys
 - Water Waste Enforcement
 - Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Lab
 - Free water saving devices (eCart)
 - Direct Retrofit Indoor Plumbing (DRIP) Program
 - And more!



Since the 2025 Summit: Landscape Rebate Program 3

- Over 950,000 Sq ft lawn converted in 2025
- \$2 per sq ft Lawn Conversion Rate continued



Since the 2025 Summit: Landscape Rebate Program

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- Significant increase in Commercial, Institutional and Multi-family landscape conversion participation

Fiscal Year	Total Area (%)	Rebated Applications (%)
FY 2020	24%	5%
FY 2021	24%	5%
FY 2022	22%	5%
FY 2023	42%	9%
FY 2024	46%	11%
FY 2025	52%	12%
FY 2026 (July-December)	59%	14%

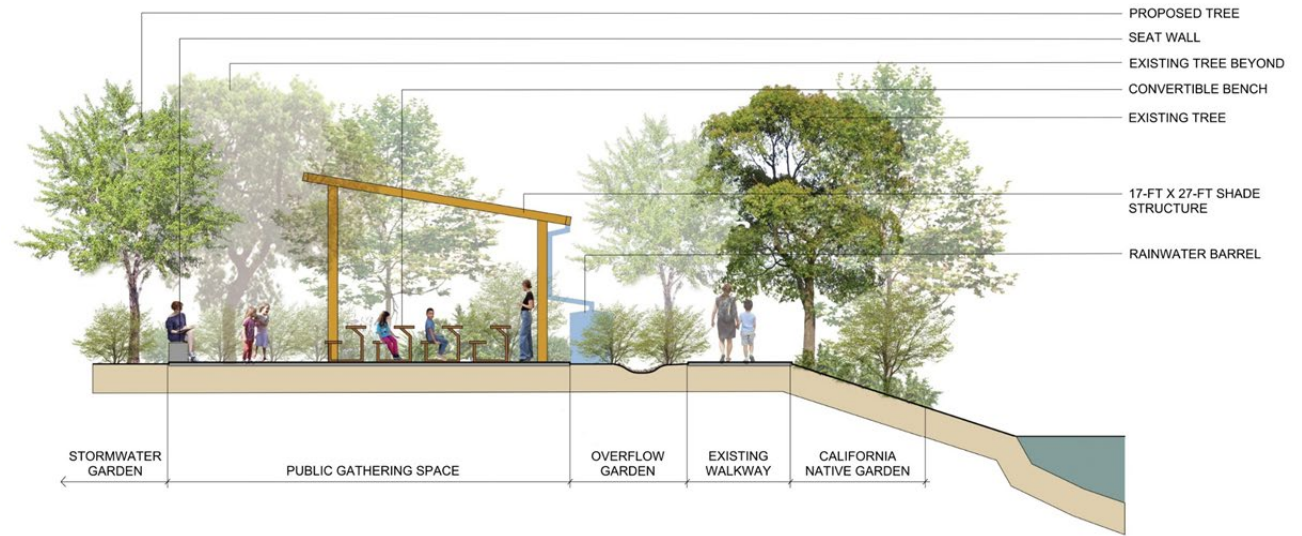
Since the 2025 Summit: Landscape Conversion Requirements Update

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- Updated July 1, 2025
- Goal to organize and clarify
- Notable changes:
 - Permeable paving can make up no more than 50% of area
 - No concrete pads or slabs larger than 24" x 24"
 - No Plastic or non-biodegradable weed barriers, such as weed cloth or plastic sheeting
 - Photo examples added

Since the 2025 Summit: Demonstration Garden

- BFS Landscape Architects awarded design contract, June 2025
- Funded by Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program
- Approx. 26,000 sq ft



Since the 2025 Summit: Demonstration Garden

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Since the 2025 Summit: Nonfunctional Turf Irrigation Ban

- Valley Water continues to provide support for through:
 - Education and Outreach
 - Water retailer collaboration
 - Landscape Rebate Program
 - Large Landscape Program
- Nonfunctional Turf Toolkit:
 - California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP)
 - Nonfunctionalturfca.org

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS

LESS LAWN MORE APPEAL

The New State Law On Irrigating Nonfunctional Lawn

Starting on January 1, 2029, California law (AB 1572) will prohibit the use of potable (drinking) water to irrigate nonfunctional lawns in Homeowner Association (HOA) common areas that are purely decorative. HOAs are not required to transform these areas into water-wise landscapes by that date, but lawns can no longer be irrigated using potable water.

Failure to comply with the law can result in civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per day (California Water Code §1846).

an opportunity to create attractive, vibrant spaces. The use of low-water and native plants, increase curb appeal, and create a vision for others to follow.

California Flannel Bush (*Fremontodendron ssp.*, California native)

Getting Started

Identify Areas with Nonfunctional Lawn

Identify your common areas and make an inventory of the areas that are nonfunctional lawns, such as:

- Areas adjacent to curbs, fences, or walls
- Areas between buildings, near sidewalks, or parking lot medians
- Areas of nonfunctional lawn that have trees.
- Areas of the common areas use nonpotable recycled or reclaimed water.

Next, check with your local water provider to see if they offer rebates or consider hiring a landscape professional to conduct a site assessment. Review the existing landscape and irrigation system plans for these areas.

Steps for Water-Wise Landscapes

1. Hire a Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper or WaterSense Certified Professional on the installation of the irrigation system. (lookforwatersense.epa.gov/find-a-pro.html)

2. Hire a landscape architect who specializes in water-wise and native plant landscape design.

3. Focus first on areas with high water use, those with irregular dimensions (inefficient to irrigate), or areas in high-traffic nonfunctional locations, such as entrances and exits.

4. Implement measures to protect and water existing trees during work. See *Best Practices for Trees During Lawn Conversion*.

5. Engage residents to share information about the new law and to create a communal vision for the transformed landscape, including shaded areas, native plant gardens, and increased curb appeal.

ROOTED IN PRIDE: Creating a Water-Wise Campus

Our school is transforming some of our lawns into water-wise landscapes as part of our commitment to sustainability, cost savings, and student success. These improvements can lower water and maintenance expenses while creating inviting outdoor spaces that support learning and community pride. This infographic highlights just some of the many ways this transformation benefits our campus and community.

CAMPUS PRIDE

SCHOOL

Installing a drip irrigation system saves water by delivering water slowly and efficiently directly to the root zone.

RECOGNITION & LEADERSHIP

Planting low-water-use and California native trees and plants saves water by reducing the need for irrigation. Choosing plants that thrive in local conditions with minimal maintenance, and creating healthier soils that retain moisture more effectively.

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

Adding three inches of organic mulch around trees and plants saves water by reducing evaporation from the soil, keeping roots cool, and slowing weed growth that competes for moisture.

CALIFORNIA WATER EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP
NonFunctionalTurfCA.org

Since the 2025 Summit: Webinar Series

- Summer/Fall 2025
 - Firescaping: Reducing the Vulnerability
 - Efficient Supplemental Irrigation
 - Lawn Transformation on a Budget
 - Rainwater Capture
 - Abundant Gardens with Graywater
- Spring 2026:
 - Find and Fix Outdoor Leaks (3/26)
 - Garden Design Workshop (4/23)
 - Love it or Lose it: Rethinking your Lawn (5/28)
 - Permeable Everywhere (6/25)



The flyer features a large photograph of a house with a well-maintained garden. A large green speech bubble on the right contains the word "FREE" in white. The Valley Water logo is positioned in the upper left of the flyer. The text is organized into sections for each webinar, with dates and times clearly marked. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner, and contact information is provided at the bottom.

Valley Water

Summer and Fall 2025 Webinar Series

FREE

You're invited to join Valley Water to learn how you can conserve water in your landscape. This complimentary webinar series is also available with live translation in Spanish, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

<p>Firescaping: Reduce the Vulnerability Date: Thursday, July 24, 2025 Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Be fire-ready by understanding how to assess your property's fire risks. Also, learn to design a fire-resistant landscape.</p>	<p>Efficient Supplemental Irrigation Date: Thursday, August 28, 2025 Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Irrigate smarter, not harder by learning how to properly and efficiently use your irrigation system.</p>
<p>Lawn Transformations on a Budget Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Save money while saving water by getting guidance on how you can turn your lawn into a budget-friendly water-wise landscape.</p>	<p>Rainwater Capture Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Turn rain into a resource through capturing and reusing rainwater in your landscape.</p>

Register for these free classes by scanning this QR code or visiting ValleyWater.org/webinars.

Questions? Email Conservation@valleywater.org or call us at 408-630-2554.

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Since the 2025 Summit: Contracts

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Awarded:

- Large Landscape Program
- Valley Water Demonstration Garden Design

In Process:

- CLCA Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program
- Landscape Area Measurements for major retailers in a wholesaler view

Closed:

- Landscape Direct Installation Program Administrator

Since the 2025 Summit: Water Conservation Campaign



valleywater.org

Since the 2025 Summit: Water Wise Outdoor Survey

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Preserving our environment, one landscape at a time

Conservation is a California Way of Life



Other Information

- Start at www.watersavings.org
- Additional resources at www.SouthBayGreenGardens.org
- Report water waste by emailing WaterWise@valleywater.org or through Access Valley Water.

valleywater.org





Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection