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# Watershed Approach Landscapes

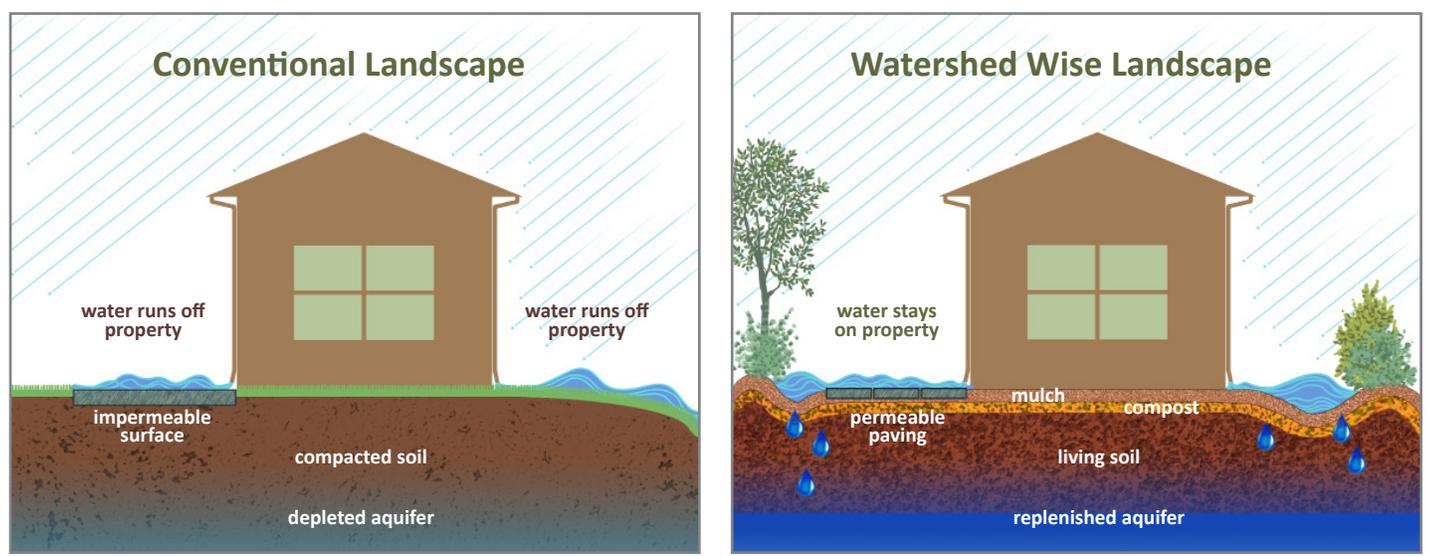
## These **Beautiful** gardens...

require less water, but don't look dry; they are attractive, lush and evergreen because their designers followed the principles of the watershed approach to landscaping.

While conventional landscapes allow water to run off the property and often waste water, watershed wise landscapes are designed to hold on to rainwater and reduce the demand for supplemental irrigation. In the pages that follow, you'll see inspirational gardens that allow us to continue enjoying our varied and amazing climate and outdoor lifestyle, while conserving valuable resources and creating a diverse habitat of plants and insects.

If we want landscapes that are truly resilient to changes in climate and availability of resources, we need to go beyond sustainable and water wise principles to begin managing each property as though it were a mini-watershed. By paying attention to the design of the garden, building soil and keeping rain on our properties, selecting climate-appropriate plants and managing supplemental irrigation, we transform our landscapes into abundant watershed wise enhancements to our properties and neighborhoods.

### Now dig in!



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# In three **Easy Steps**

## Healthy **Living Soil** captures **Rainwater**.



Healthy living soil is made by adding compost to your soil, covering your garden with mulch, and by avoiding soil disturbance as much as possible. Compost boosts soil organisms that reduce diseases and pests. There's no need for adding fertilizers or pesticides on watershed wise gardens.

Maintaining 2" - 4" of organic mulch on top of every open space in the landscape keeps the garden looking clean while slowly building the soil. The mulch holds in water, so less irrigation is required.

When downspouts are directed to these landscapes, living soil becomes a giant sponge that helps keep plants healthy and happy, whether it's raining or we're in a drought.

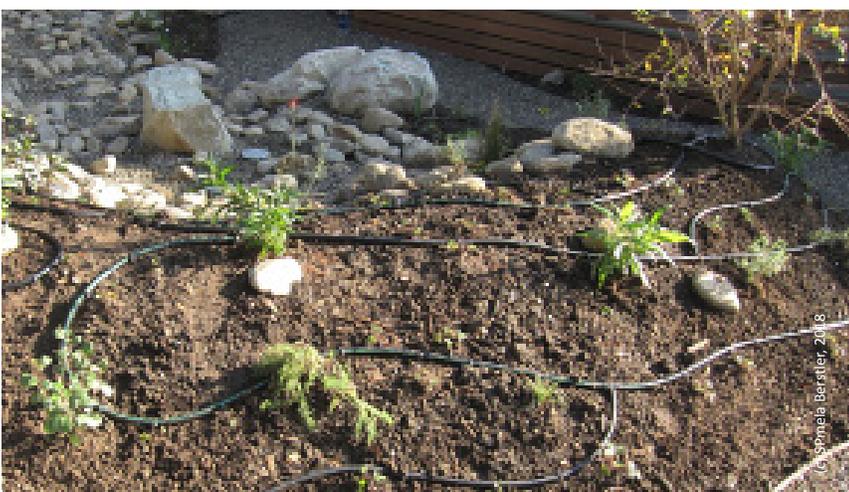
## Climate-appropriate **Plants Reduce Irrigation** needs.



Selecting climate-appropriate plants like those from your own local native plant communities, makes your garden automatically adapted to the rainfall, temperature and other weather patterns of your area.

Local native plants benefit the local native birds and insect species by providing food and nesting materials! There are many climate-adapted evergreen and long-flowering native plants. When you use them in your garden, you get year-long interest and a garden filled with life, on reduced summer irrigation.

## **Efficient Irrigation** supplements rain.



There may be years when there isn't enough rain, or you may have plants you love that struggle to thrive in the long, hot summers. In those cases, you want to apply supplemental water through a highly efficient irrigation system.

Efficient irrigation makes sure every drop of water applied to the landscape stays there for the benefit of the plants. By using soil moisture sensors and/or weather-based "smart" irrigation controllers, low flow spray nozzles, and drip irrigation, you can keep your landscape healthy without wasting water.

You also can reduce your irrigation use just by paying more attention to it. Grab a cup of coffee and get to know your irrigation controller!