

See How These Residents Saved Water, Changed Their Lawns to Beautiful Water Wise Landscapes, and Got a Rebate!

Summer time is when outdoor water usage is on the rise in Santa Barbara, but not for these residents. Meet Silvia, Amy, and Kay- three residents who have participated in the City's Smart Landscape Rebate by removing their lawns and upgrading to beautiful water wise gardens.

Needing a change from their high maintenance, water guzzling, and uninspiring lawns, these residents took advantage of the rebate program to overhaul their irrigation systems and install new water wise plants. Along with water savings, lower maintenance (no mowing!), and more color and beauty, each property has received great feedback from neighbors and passersby alike.



Silvia's garden before



Silvia's garden after

Silvia decided to make the change when she realized that watering her lawn was causing moisture to accumulate under her house. She received advice from local nurseries on plant selection, and with the help of her contractor they removed the lawn and installed her new landscaping and hardscape in only 3 weeks! She also had her old sprinkler system removed, but since her new plants only need water to get established, she chose not to get a new irrigation system installed. "There is no point in putting in a new irrigation system because in one year my plants will need minimal water," said Silvia.

As her plants have become established, she has received many compliments from her neighbors- and her landscaping has inspired others to similarly change their landscapes. Another great benefit? As Silvia stated, "I was spending a lot of money on the water bill and I was surprised because I just received the bill and it was one third of last year's water usage for this month!"

On the other side of town, Amy was motivated to take out her old lawn last spring: "I got tired of the way it looked, it was an uninspired looking lawn, we were watering it and my husband was mowing it but we weren't using it very much." With the help of her garden designer, her new landscape has been less maintenance thanks to a weed cloth and soil preparation to inhibit the lawn from coming back. Whereas the lawn had pop-up sprinklers, the new water wise landscaping has a much more efficient drip irrigation system in place. Along with a colorful new plant palette, Amy enjoys the fresh new fragrances of her water wise garden.



Amy's garden before



Amy's garden after

Another rebate participant, Kay, has taken delight in the way her plants bloom in various stages throughout her garden, quite a change from her basic front lawn. They originally installed their lawn shortly after buying the house, and soon thereafter had irrigation problems. “We put sprinklers in when we put the lawn in and they weren’t efficient, they watered all over the sidewalk,” Kay said. After having years of irrigation problems, they upgraded their front yard to a water wise garden with a simple, efficient drip system.

The maintenance has been easier and the rebate program was a great help in upgrading to their new landscape. Now that their lawn nightmares are over, Kay reflects: “I would hope that people realize the high water usage that is entailed with having a lawn, we certainly did.”

If you would like to lower your water bill and have a beautiful landscape, call (805) 564-5460 to schedule your pre-inspection, or visit www.SaveWaterSB.org



Kay's garden before

Photo credit: Carol Bornstein



Kay's garden after