USING THE BAY-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING STANDARDS

To Implement Low Impact Development in the San Francisco Bay Area

Complying with New Stormwater Requirements for New and Redevelopment Projects

Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program -- June 8, 2010
Teresa Eade, Senior Program Manager, StopWaste.Org
What is Bay-Friendly Landscaping?
BFL Water Quality Practices
Bay-Friendly Landscape Resources
Bay-Friendly Landscaping Is...

A whole systems approach to the design, construction & maintenance of the landscape.
Benefits of Bay-Friendly Landscaping

Supports Compliance
with State Federal and local Environmental Regulations.

Ecosystem Services
- Local and global climate regulation
- Purifying air and water
- Storing and conserving water on-site
- Controlling erosion and sediment
- Reducing flood and fire hazards
- Recycling plant debris and nutrients
- Increasing pollinator populations
- Supporting habitats
- Enhancing human health by reducing toxics and reconnecting with nature (biophilia)
Bay-Friendly Landscape Scorecards

- Civic, Commercial & Multi-Family
- New Homes

Credit Categories

A. Site Planning
B. Grading & Stormwater
C. Earthwork & Soil Health
D. Materials
E. Planting
F. Irrigation
G. Maintenance
H. Innovation

Flexibility & Education
Bay-Friendly provides a comprehensive approach to water quality
MINIMIZE SITE DISTURBANCE

- On Greenfield sites protect topography, vegetation & hydrology
- On previously developed sites restore vegetation and hydrology
MINIMIZE IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

- 25%, 33%, 50% or more of the paving is pervious
- No impervious surfaces directly connect to stormdrains
CAPTURE & FILTER STORMWATER

- Capture & filter runoff from parking lots into landscape based treatments

- Capture & filter 85% or 100% of average annual stormwater
• Bioswales don’t have turf and have minimum of 18 inch flat bottoms
• Downspouts are directed to planters or swales or landscape
SOIL HEALTH

- Assess the soil & test drainage
- Remove and store topsoil before grading
- Protect soil from compaction
- Aerate compacted soils
- Feed soils naturally, avoid synthetic fertilizers
AMEND THE SOIL WITH COMPOST

- Required: Incorporate compost to bring soil organic matter content to 3.5% or 1” application
- 5% organic matter
- STA certification

Jack London Gateway, Oakland,
AMEND THE SOIL WITH COMPOST

Compost Benefits:

• Improved water holding capacity
• Improved structure & aeration
• Reduced erosion & runoff
• Soils require less irrigation

Increased water infiltration up to 125%-

Jack London Gateway, Oakland
Mulch

- **Required:** Protect all soil on site with 3” of mulch  *CA-WELO requires 2”
- **Recommend** recycled mulch from local organic materials
Mulch Benefits:

- Slowly adds organic matter to the soil
- Prevents soil compaction
- Improves soil structure
- Increases infiltration
- Reduces weed growth
- 2” of mulch can cut water loss by 20%
- Reduces crusting, erosion & runoff
• Sheet Mulch for weed control
• Synthetic pre-emergents are prohibited.
PLANTINGS

- Required: No invasive species
- Minimize turf
- Required: 75% of all non-turf plants are low water
- At least one large stature tree is planted
- Landscapes will have a minimum of 20 distinct species – with an increasing scale for larger landscapes

Doyle Hollis Park, Emeryville
HIGH EFFICIENCY IRRIGATION

- **Required:** weather based irrigation controller *CA-WELO*

- **Required:** Sprinkler and spray heads are not specified in areas less than 8’ wide *CA-WELO *EBMUD
Rainwater Harvesting

- 10%, 50% or 100% of water requirements met with harvested rainwater

StopWaste.Org office, Oakland
MAINTENANCE

• Bay-Friendly Model Maintenance Specification for long term maintenance
• Protect Soil from compaction
• Use natural fertilizers
• Mulch regularly
• Use IPM or OPM
• Hire BF Qualified Professional

Shinsei Gardens, Alameda
STANDARDS
BAY-FRIENDLY TOOLS

• Publications:
  – Bay-Friendly Landscape Guidelines
  – Mulch
  – Grasscycling
  – Using Salvaged & Recycled Content Materials.

• Plant lists
  – Natural Hedges
  – Rain Gardens
  – Lawn alternatives

• Model specifications
  – Maintenance
  – Soil & Earth work
  – Planting
  – Bay-Friendly bid language

• Case Studies

www.BayFriendly.org/tools
Bay-Friendly Rated Landscape

24 Bay-Friendly Rated Landscape Projects

- 65 Acres
- Civic & Commercial Buildings, Parks, Streetscapes & Affordable Housing
- Compatible with LEED & GreenPoint Rated

Bay Street Plaza, Emeryville
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<th>Member Agency</th>
<th>Civic Mandatory Policy</th>
<th>Threshold for Covered Projects</th>
<th>Private Sector Policies</th>
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Bay-Friendly Training
For Landscape Professionals

- Landscape Training & Qualification Program
  - For Maintenance Professionals
  - Design Professionals
  - 400 professionals recognized as “Bay-Friendly Qualified”

- Coming soon Bay-Friendly Landscape Raters
HOME GARDENER TRAINING

- Bay-Friendly Gardening Workshop Series
- Bay-Friendly Garden Tour
- BF Nursery Partnerships
- Guidebook: *Bay-Friendly Gardening*
Regional Bay-Friendly Coalition

www.bayfriendlycoalition.com

• Non-Profit Organization
• Exists to bring the rating system to a regional scale
• 42 member agencies in 8 counties; endorsed by ABAG; more than 23,000 guidance documents distributed to date
• Bay-Friendly Landscaping Tour & Conference -- September 16 & 17
LEARN MORE

www.BayFriendly.org
For case studies, scorecards and publications

&

www.BayFriendlyCoalition.org
To learn how to join the Coalition

Bay-Friendly Landscape Conference
September 17, San Francisco