April 11: Make It Sow
Green Gardening

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Planning Your Landscape

- Set your goals
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Optimize water use efficiency
- Choose green materials
- Consider wildlife
- Reduce yard trimmings
Your Landscape Goals

• What is your goal(s)?

• Would you like to:
  – Attract pollinators?
  – Have color year round?
  – Grow food?
  – Have a low maintenance landscape?
  – Create a relaxing sanctuary?
  – Others?
Stormwater Considerations

Consider ways to reduce run-off and retain rainwater on site

- Redirect down spouts to landscape areas
- Incorporate rain gardens, dry creek beds and/or vegetated swales
- Incorporate rain barrels
Stormwater Considerations

- Permeable pavers
Stormwater Considerations

- Plan to keep soil and mulch onsite
Stormwater Considerations

- Have mulch, soils and other supplies delivered to your yard or driveway
  - Avoid piles on the street
  - Cover piles in case of rain or wind
Stormwater Considerations

• Keep stormwater from landscape construction areas
Pest Control

• Look for less toxic pest control options
• Cultivate a diverse soil
  – contains beneficial organisms that compete with pests
  – sustains nutrients
• Pesticides and herbicides can flow into the storm drain system
• OurWaterOurWorld.org
Soils

• Top soil may have come from another location and/or be compacted
• Incorporate compost, manures and/or other natural fertilizers
• Healthy soils feed and nurture plants
• Check the soil moisture at root level before you water
• Allow water to infiltrate rather than run-off
Plant Choices

• Choose plants appropriate to your soil and micro-climate
• Watch spacing - plan for mature plant size
• Choose low-water plants
• Consider other benefits like pollinators
Plant Choices

• Low-water plants still need regular water during establishment
• Can help to retain soil and reduce weeds
• Consider natives
Irrigation and Alternative Water Sources

• Check your irrigation system
  – Check the timer and replace batteries as needed
  – Run system briefly to look for broken sprinkler heads and lines
  – Pick-up a free sprinkler screwdriver from the City

• Install a weather-based irrigation controller/rain sensor
Irrigation and Alternative Water Sources

• Convert to drip
  – Advantages:
    • More efficient water use if used properly
    • Minimize evaporation
    • Promotes a good soil/water environment
    • Avoid overspray and runoff
  – Disadvantages:
    • Emitters may clog
    • Not as easy to see when not working properly
    • Can be damaged by animals, insects and humans
Irrigation and Alternative Water Sources

• Consider a laundry to landscape greywater system
  – What is greywater?
    • Untreated waste water that has not been contaminated
    • Includes but is not limited to wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom sinks and clothes washers
    • Does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers
Irrigation and Alternative Water Sources

• Laundry to Landscape Greywater Systems
  – No permit typically required
  – Some limitations
    • No spray irrigation
    • No ponding
    • Exterior use only
    • Sub-soil irrigation

* View the greywater presentation at SaveDavisWater.org
Encourage Beneficial Species

• Consider pollinator plants
  – Encourage bees, butterflies and birds

• Install bat and/or barn owl boxes
  – Bats can help keep insects under control
  – Barn owls help to control rodent populations
Choose Green Materials

• Reused lumber for planting beds
  – Yolo County Central Landfill reused lumber
• Wood chips from tree removal companies
• Incorporate other reused, recycled or sustainable building materials
  – Broken tool handles → plant stakes
  – Old baskets → plant pots
  – Newspaper → fold into seedling pots
Mulch

- Increases soil water retention
- Keeps soil and plant roots cool
- Helps to keep dirt on site and out of the storm drain
- Reduces weeds when deep enough
- Must have retention to keep on site
Mulch

Where to find mulch:

• Ask a tree trimming company to drop off chips in your driveway
  – Call around and request chips
  – Find a tree trimming company working near your neighborhood

• Saturday, April 14: Compost and Mulch Giveaway Event
  – 9 AM – 2 PM on Faraday Ave.
Managing Yard Trimmings

• When choosing plants, consider maintenance
• Select plants that grow slowly
• Choose the right plant for the space available
• Try to keep yard materials off the streets
Managing Yard Trimmings

• “Leaf it on site”
  – Mulch mow
  – Leaf mulch
  – Yard trimmings as mulch

• Backyard composting
Managing Yard Trimmings

• Use the cart
  – One cart is given to all customers
  – Serviced every week
  – Additional carts are $5.27 per month

• Cart tips:
  – Fill it up, wait a few days, fill it up more
  – Chop things up first to maximize space
  – Squish it down in the cart
  – Dry out materials first
Managing Yard Trimmings

• Share extra cart space with a neighbor
• Feed the Zoo
• Have it hauled (fees apply)
  – DWR
  – Landscapers
  – Tree removal company (chip and/or haul away)
Resources

• GreenerDavis.org
• DavisRecycling.org
• SaveDavisWater.org
• OurWaterOurWorld.org
• WUCOLS (ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS)

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