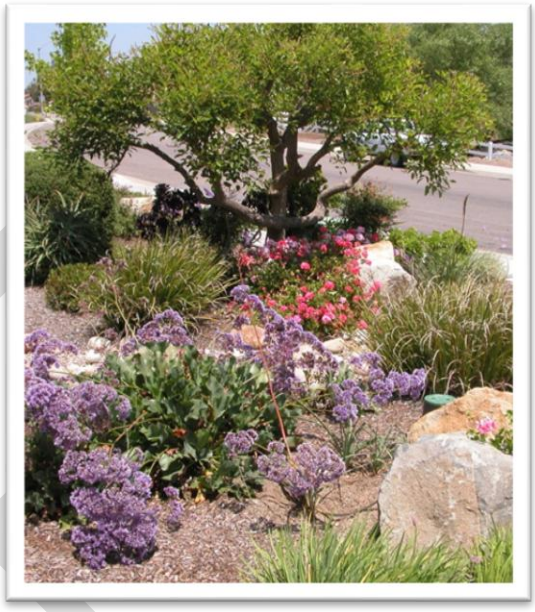
Categorical Benefits:
The Potential of Landscapes

The Multiple Benefits of Sustainable Landscaping

- Save Money
- Save Maintenance Time
- Save Water
- Save Energy
- Reduce Emissions
- Reduce Irrigation & Stormwater Runoff
- Reduce Green Waste
- Reduce Pesticides & Herbicides
- Improve Water Quality
- Improve Wildlife Habitat
- Foster Healthy Soils
- Proliferate Native/Climate Appropriate Plants
- Beautify the Urban Environment



LANDSCAPING CATEGORY	EXPECTED BENEFIT
Water	
Water Use	ACTION: Ensure all on-site water use is as efficient as possible and is responsive to weather events and system malfunctions/leaks
Irrigation Fixtures	Save potable water, save energy
Irrigation Controllers	Save potable water, save energy
Water Features (fountains/pools)	Save potable water, save energy
Water Sources	ACTION: Irrigate with rainwater, recycled water, and graywater, using potable water sparingly as a supplemental water supply
Rainwater	Save potable water, save energy, build healthy soils with natural water supplies, minimize stormwater runoff
Recycled water (on-site or supplied)	Save potable water, save energy
Graywater	Save potable water, save energy
Potable water	Save potable water, save energy
Water Quality	ACTION: Maximize stormwater on-site retention and filtration (decrease runoff) to increase natural reclamation of stormwater resources / filtration of stormwater from hardscapes
On-site Retention/Filtration	Improve water quality in groundwater and surface water

LANDSCAPING CATEGORY	EXPECTED BENEFIT (Continued)
Plants	
Plant Selection	ACTION: Maximize use of climate appropriate and native plants while minimizing high water use plants and plant water needs and reducing reliance on synthetic supplements and prescribed mechanical maintenance; preserve and integrate trees into landscapes
Turfgrass or High Water Use Plants (i.e., seasonal beds)	Save water, save energy, reduce emissions
(Increase) Climate Appropriate, Habitat-Building, & Native Plants*	Save water, save energy, sequester carbon, filter air, provide habitat for pollinators and other species, improve quality of life, reduce emissions
(Integrate) Trees	Save energy, improve quality of life, mitigate the urban heat island effect
Plant Placement	ACTION: Space plants for maturity and water/light/soil needs
Hydrozones	Save maintenance time, maximize plant health, save water
Plant Coverage	ACTION: Maximize presence of living landscapes in urban environments
% Coverage Requirements	Sequester carbon, filter air, provide habitat, improve quality of life
Land	
Soil	ACTION: Build healthy, friable soils through the integration of organic matter (compost) and mulch, and through the phasing out of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
Compost	Save water (prevent water lost to evaporation and runoff), save energy, increase carbon sequestration potential
Mulch (organic, derived from plant material)	Save water (prevent water lost to evaporation and runoff, save energy
Pesticide/Herbicide Use	Improve surface and ground water quality; decrease urban toxicity for wildlife; decrease landscape costs/inputs
Hardscapes	ACTION: Use hardscapes only in functional spaces (e.g., paths, patios, etc.), make as permeable as possible, and drain to fully permeable soils (e.g., bioswale soils, raingardens); minimize/avoid synthetic materials and over-reliance on non-organic mulch
Weed Barriers	Limit runoff, limit soil compaction
Pavers and Spacing	Limit runoff, limit soil compaction
Rocks, Gravel, etc. (non-organic mulch)	Limit runoff, limit soil compaction
Synthetic Turf	Prevent runoff and soil compaction; prevent microplastics pollution; preserve cooling and carbon sequestration effects of living landscapes
Land-Design Components	ACTION: Integrate topographical variation into landscape design to retain and percolate rainwater and stormwater on site, creating variable hydrozones and minimizing the need for supplemental irrigation
Topography	Save water, save energy, reduce runoff, improve water quality, improve landscape aesthetics
Old Landscape Removal Method	
Turfgrass removal method	ACTION: Minimize/avoid the application of intense heat or synthetic landscape materials, including herbicides, in removing turfgrass to preserve soil biology
Turfgrass Removal Strategy	Build healthy soils, improve water quality