CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO

SAN BERNARDINO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 17.06
relating to the

WATER WISE LANDSCAPE PROGRAM

became effective on

Friday September 18, 2009
Water Wise Landscape Program

A Water Wise Landscape Program has been approved by the City Council to help owners of single-family residential property that voluntarily wish to convert their grass lawns or other water-intensive landscaping to drought-tolerant vegetation.

It provides a procedure for those owners to obtain a Water Wise Landscaping Permit that would temporarily exempt their property from the Municipal Code provisions that prohibit dead or dry vegetation while complying with Water Wise Guidelines set forth in the Ordinance a within a specified time period.

Participants will be required to display this attractive yard sign to let their neighbors know the property’s landscape is not being neglected.

Application (pdf)
Agreement (pdf)
Guidelines (pdf)
What is a Water Wise Landscape?

• A landscape that uses drought tolerant, California friendly landscaping in lieu of large turf areas, and that uses efficient irrigation
• Consists of water-efficient, drought tolerant and native plant material and may include ground covers, small plants, shrubs and appropriate trees. Buffer areas and bioswales may be included and may be designed with rocks, cobble or decomposed granite, landscaped shrubs or accents, or suitable ground cover.
Homeowners take pride in local Water Wise Landscapes
Each Water Wise Landscape is unique
Coming in Spring 2010
San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation Garden
Located at Cal State San Bernardino
All planted areas must be a minimum of one inch below adjacent hardscapes (sidewalks and driveways) to eliminate runoff and overflow of irrigation water.

Avoid the use of mounded or sloped planting areas that would contribute to runoff of irrigation water onto non-irrigated areas, walks, roadways or structures.

Any turf areas should be set back at least 24 inches from curbs, driveways, sidewalks or any other area that may result in runoff of irrigation water onto streets.

Plants having similar water use should be grouped together so you can water efficiently. These groupings are called “hydrozones.”

Annual color plantings should be used only in areas of high visual impact close to where people can appreciate them. Otherwise perennial plantings should be the primary source of color.

Landscaping must not obstruct or interfere with street signs, lights or road/walkway visibility.
Technical Resources for Water Wise Landscapes

Information about removing turf and getting started with sample design templates, irrigation system retrofitting, and the selection of water-efficient plant materials is available from the following websites and similar sites, and from published literature:


http://www.H2ouse.org

Water Wise Landscape advice is also available at the Water Resources Institute at Cal State, San Bernardino at: (909) 537-7687.
INSTRUCTIONS: To participate in the City of San Bernardino’s voluntary Water Wise Landscape Program (“Program”), complete and submit this signed application to the Development Service Department, located on the third floor of City Hall. Approved applicants will sign a legally binding AGREEMENT and receive a Water Wise Yard Sign that must be posted in the front yard of the applicant’s property at all times. See San Bernardino Municipal Code Chapter 17.06 for more information.

1. Name(s) of Applicant(s):

2. Street Address and Assessor’s Parcel No. of Property:

NOTE: Property must be a single-family residential property in the City of San Bernardino with existing landscaping, and must be owned and occupied by the Applicant(s) continuously during the participation of the Applicant(s) in the Program.)
3. Description of Existing Landscaping That Will Be Replaced:

(Please attach additional pages as needed, including drawings/diagrams if desired.)

4. Description of Water Wise Landscaping That Will Be Installed:

(Please attach additional pages as needed, including drawings/diagrams if desired. NOTE: Landscaping must comply with the Water Wise Landscape Guidelines developed by the Water Resources Institute, California State University, San Bernardino, which are attached to the Water Wise Landscape Agreement that must be signed by the Applicants and submitted with this Application.)
5. **Date On Which Installation Of Replacement Landscaping Will Begin** (Month, Day, and Year): ____________________________

(NOTE: This date must be not later than twelve (12) months from the date of the submittal of this Application.)

6. **Date On Which Installation Of Replacement Landscaping Will Be Completed** (Month, Day, and Year): ____________________________

(NOTE: This date must be not later than the next May 31 immediately following the date on which the installation is to begin)

**Note that any property owner that obtains a Water Wise Landscape Permit but later elects to withdraw must notify the Director of the Development Service Department in writing of the election to withdraw and pay a withdrawal fee of one hundred dollars ($100) for each month the Permit was in effect, prorated day-by-day for partial months.**
My thirsty lawn is retiring!

Water-Wise Landscape

Coming Spring 2010
Thank You

- City Attorney Jim Penman
- Mayor Pat Morris
- Legislative Review Committee
- City Council

Your actions ensure that single family homeowners of San Bernardino wishing to convert traditional landscapes to a Water Wise Landscape have a mechanism to do so... and the City has the legal means to hold residents accountable.

Susan Lien Longville, Director
CSUSB Water Resources Institute