



# Rainwater Harvesting

- Rebates for rain gardens, rain barrels/cisterns
- Available to folks in the Napa River & Suisun Creek Watersheds
- State funding - expires in June 2015





# Rainwater Harvesting

## Benefits:

- Save water
- Reduce stormwater runoff



[www.napawatersheds.org/rainwater](http://www.napawatersheds.org/rainwater)

# Rebates

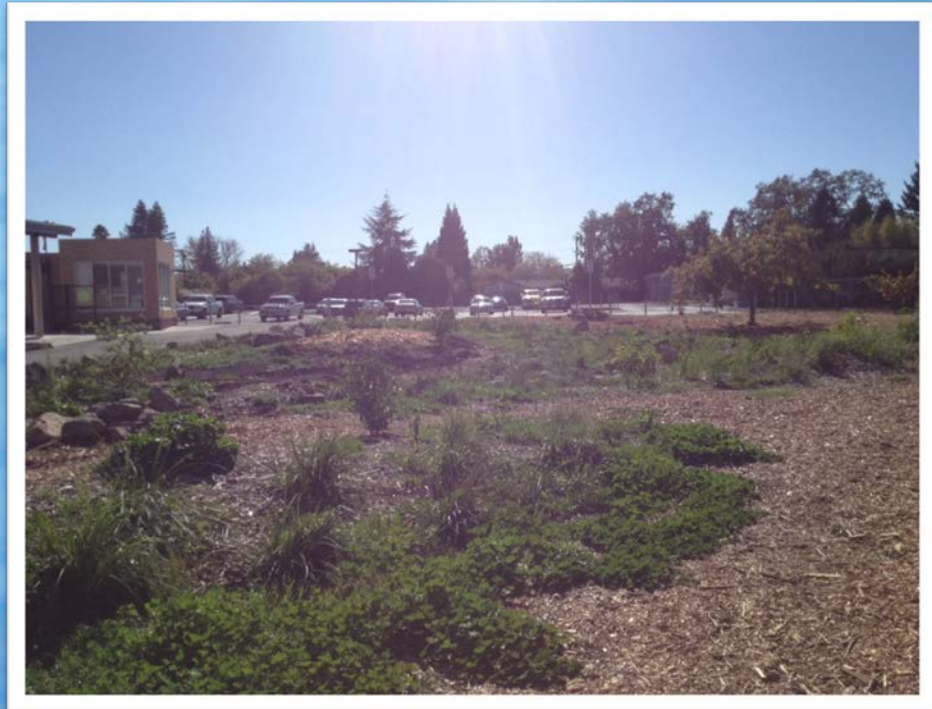
## Barrel and Cisterns

- Rebate of 75% of the cost of materials, subject to maximum of \$2/gallon of barrel/cistern capacity.
- Rain barrels/cisterns must have a minimum capacity of 40 gallons.
- Maximum rebate per household is \$500.  
Maximum rebate per business is \$1,000.

## Rain Gardens

- 75% reimbursement for approved expenses up to \$5/ft<sup>2</sup> of rain garden installed.
- Rain gardens must be minimum of 25 square feet.
- Maximum rebate per household is \$1,500.  
Maximum rebate per business is \$5,000.

# Vintage High School Rain Water Garden



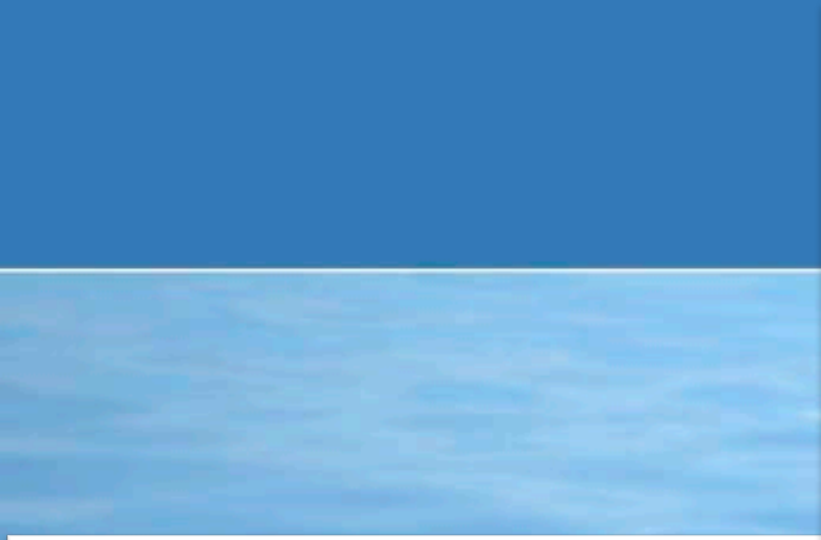












# A Public Rain Garden Showers Benefits on Napa

Napa County Resource Conservation District, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Vintage High School, City of Napa

Partially funded by the Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership Small Grants Program



CITY of NAPA

## Rain gardens are designed to slow and sink stormwater before it impacts streams

Rain gardens can be a low-cost, small-scale way for the community to participate in improving stream health. However, rain gardens in residential areas are rare, and the term "rain garden" is not yet generally understood. To build awareness of rain gardens and Napa County's rain garden rebate program, local agencies developed a demonstration rain garden on a high school campus in 2013. The 13,000 ft<sup>2</sup> garden sits between a large parking lot, a community pool, and Salvador Creek, an urbanized Napa River tributary. The native plant garden shares principles of low-impact gardening, including water catchment, drought-tolerance, lawn alternatives, habitat creation, waste reduction, and soil health. The garden will include signs to convey environmentally beneficial features as well as cultural uses of native plants and is expected to be a hub of landscaping education. Additionally, high school classes plan to use the garden for hands-on lessons in ecology, native plants, and garden design.



Rain garden in August 2013

## Public rain garden promotes concept and County rebate program

### Rebates for Reaping Rainwater!

Cash rebates for rain barrels and rain gardens



Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is offering rebates to residents for rain gardens or rain barrels. For program details and applications, visit:

[www.napawaterboards.org/rainwater](http://www.napawaterboards.org/rainwater)  
Contact: 707.259.6565 or [dn@nwfcd.org](mailto:dn@nwfcd.org)

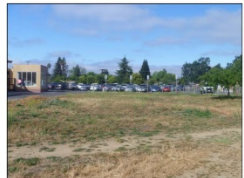
Step into your "eco-footprint" for a shower of benefits!

Reduce your water consumption and save money (water is more expensive than you think). The runoff may pollute streams, harm wildlife and reduce the quality of water.

Rebate: Capture your own's runoff! Use it or give it a place to soak in the ground where it can be filtered by plants and soil. Rebates can be stacked by grants and rebates.

Funding for this program comes from the State of California and the National Flood Insurance Program. It is administered by the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

- County received Proposition 84 grant from Department of Water Resources to rebate rain gardens and barrels in the Napa River Watershed
- At the beginning of project, understanding of rain gardens was limited and few rain gardens existed in urban areas - publicly accessible or otherwise.
- Public demonstration site identified as critical for growing familiarity with concept and awareness of impacts of stormwater pollution.
- Vintage High School sought to improve section of campus near Salvador Creek that received heavy foot traffic, had low aesthetic and habitat value.



June 2013 - Flat, weed-filled section of campus between parking lot and Salvador Creek



Low areas were planted with native, drought tolerant plants that tolerate being inundated with water periodically



Swale built to sink stormwater from parking lot and nearby buildings



August 2013 - Rain garden in first rain

## Working together grows more garden benefits



Landscape designers from the Bay Area participated in workshop that resulted in rain garden design



CONCEPTUAL PLANTING PLAN



Sheet mulching, drip irrigation, and native plant identification were just some of the principles demonstrated in workshops in the garden that took place in fall 2013



- Rain garden design was developed in workshop hosted by County and Bay-friendly Coalition
- City of Napa Water Division showcasing water-wise landscaping techniques, including smart controllers, in garden
- CNPS helped ensure garden features natives that perform well in yards AND can be found in open spaces in the County
- VHS and agencies conduct hands-on lessons in ecology, cultural uses of native plants, low-impact gardening



## Harvesting support form community for long term success

- Napa Valley Can Do, a local volunteer group, will organize regular work days in garden to keep weeds at bay and irrigation functioning
- VHS Key Club will sheet mulch to expand footprint of garden
- VHS Biology classes will add pollinator-friendly native plants to high areas in garden
- Community and VHS students will assist with sign-making, bench, gate, and art installation, and ecological study in the garden.



Garden was designed to require little maintenance, but regular weed-pulling will help maintain visual appeal



We are currently seeking more community partners to assist with developing educational signs and sitting places in the garden