



Don't Create a Dead Zone

Landscape with native plants and trees!



**Don't cover your garden
with plastic lawn!**

Make it a living zone with plants for birds,
bees, and butterflies

Benefits of a living native plant landscape:

- Plants are the foundation of your urban ecosystem!
- Feeds birds, our endangered bees and butterflies
- Cleaner water & air, and a natural cooling effect
- Absorbs greenhouse gas which causes climate change
- Restores your watershed to what naturally grows in the region
- Low water use, and may use none once established
- Low maintenance/easy care, using select plants
- Looks great. Some irrigation in summer may be needed to keep it fully green and flowering
- Keep your river (drinking water) clean. Landscape is a biofilter
- Living gardens remove pollutants and reduces nutrient load
- Keeps your house and outdoors cooler due to low radiant heat, shade, and evaporative cooling
- Retains water and provides oxygen

*Gardening is soothing for the soul.
Ask any gardener!*

*Don't like gardening? A well-designed
native landscape only needs maintenance a
few times per year*

*A natural landscape often has
10-30 birds foraging!*

Do you really want to cover the great outdoors with shreds of plastic?



Problems with Artificial Turf

- Creates a dead zone around your home with shredded plastic
- Weeds still can grow on edges and through it
- Zero benefit for the environment. Birds will go hungry!
- Foot traffic can wear it out, wind and water can cover it
- Any animal waste, spit or blood does not decompose due to lack of biological activity. Needs to be washed/raked
- Hard surface to play on, may cause more injuries
- Gets hot and radiates your home and outdoor areas with heat and which adds to higher cooling bills
- Must be disposed of at the end of its life and is not recyclable
- Aesthetically unappealing fake look

Lawns are an adopted aesthetic from wet climates.

Consider the beauty of the natural habitat of where you live



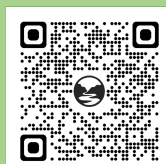
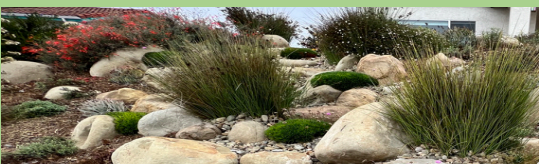
Acceptable uses of artificial turf

- Very small areas (a few square feet)
- Areas that would otherwise be paved
- Special applications for sports, although most athletes are wary of artificial turf

A message from:

FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CLARA RIVER, a non-profit that seeks to protect and preserve the cultural and biological resources of the Santa Clara River Watershed.

For more information on native plants landscaping and learn more about your watershed and river go to fscr.org



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THE SANTA CLARA RIVER