



CITY OF PIEDMONT

Park Commission Agenda
Wednesday, August 4, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference

COVID 19 ADVISORY NOTICE

Consistent with Executive Orders No. N-25-20 and No. N-29-20 from the Executive Department of the State of California, the Park Commission meeting will not be physically open to the public and committee members will be teleconferencing into the meeting via ZOOM Teleconference.

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can participate in the meeting in several ways:

- Computer or smart phone: Click on <https://piedmont-ca.gov.zoom.us/j/81613027284>
- Computer or smart phone: Click on https://piedmont.ca.gov/government/meeting_videos and select the Park Commission meeting
- Telephone: Dial (669) 900-9128 and enter webinar/meeting number 81613027284
- Television: Watch on KCOM, Comcast Channel 27 or AT&T UVerse Channel 99

To participate in the meeting by providing public comment, members of the public may use the ZOOM platform to make live, verbal public comments. To speak to the Commission, click the "Raise Your Hand" button when the item on which you would like to comment is called. If you are connected to the meeting by phone, please dial *9. When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will call your name and unmute your line, at which point you will have three minutes to address the Commission. After the allotted time, you will then be re-muted. Instructions of how to "Raise Your Hand" is available at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/205566129%0D-Raise-Hand-In-Webinar>

Any member of the public who needs accommodations should email the City Clerk at cityclerk@piedmont.ca.gov or call (510) 420-3040 who will make their best efforts to provide reasonable accommodations to provide as much accessibility as possible while also maintaining public safety in accordance with the City procedure for resolving reasonable accommodation requests. Information about reasonable accommodations is available on the City website at <https://piedmont.ca.gov>.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Forum

This is an opportunity for members of the audience to speak on an item not on the agenda.

Regular Agenda

1. Approval of Park Commission Minutes for June 2, 2021
2. Update on EBMUD Pipeline Replacement Project on Manor Drive

3. Update on Highland-Guilford Steps and Handrail Project and Adjacent Mature Coast Live Oak
4. Update on Drought Response in Parks and Open Spaces
5. Update on Regulation of Glyphosate Products in the City of Piedmont
6. Update on Heritage Tree Signage in the Parks
7. Update on “Walking the Perimeter of Piedmont” – A Self -Guided Walking Tour
8. Monthly Maintenance Report: Park, Open Space, and Street Tree Update for the Months of June and July 2021

Announcements, old business and consideration of future agenda items

Adjourn

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Park Commission are available for public inspection in the Public Works Department during normal business hours.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (510) 420-3040. Notification at least two business days preceding the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

In accordance with G.C. Sec. 54954.2(a) this notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall bulletin board and also in the Piedmont Police Department on July 30, 2021.

DRAFT
PIEDMONT PARK COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, June 2, 2021

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Park Commission was held June 2, 2021, via teleconference, consistent with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and the Alameda County Health Official's Order #20-04. In accordance with Government Code Section 54957(b), the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on May 28, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Dunlap called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL Present: Chairperson Patty Dunlap; Commissioners Amber Brumfiel, Betsy Goodman, Jim Horner, Brian Mahany, Eileen Ruby, Robin Wu

Staff: Public Works Director Daniel Gonzales, Parks and Project Manager Nancy Kent, Public Works Supervisor Nick Millosovich, and Administrative Assistant Mark Enea

PUBLIC FORUM There was no **Public Testimony**

REGULAR AGENDA The Commission considered the following items of regular business:

Minutes – 05/05/21 Commissioner Horner clarified his comments regarding the Spring Tree Planting Update as the sloping site may cause the pathways to be reconstructed in different locations and, consequently, affect the locations of the tree plantings. He suggested staff develop some plans before the trees are planted.

Resolved, that the Park Commission approves the Park Commission meeting minutes of May 5, 2021 as amended.

Moved by Ruby, Seconded by Goodman

Ayes: Brumfiel, Dunlap, Goodman, Horner, Mahany, Ruby, Wu

Noes: None

Absent: None

Street Tree Removal at 227 Magnolia Ave. Parks and Project Manager Nancy Kent reported the liquidambar tree was reviewed in April 2019, and the tree's condition is ranked as very poor. She reviewed damage caused by the tree and advised that the replacement tree will be a Chinese pistache.

Public Testimony was received from:

Emily Weisner indicated that the tree is badly disfigured and that a future landscape project for her property includes trees.

Chairperson Dunlap read a letter from the Fongs at 118 Magnolia Avenue in support of the removal.

Commissioners noted the poor condition of the tree and the benefits of replacing the liquidambar with a Chinese pistache and suggested removing the surface roots along with the tree.

Resolved, that the Park Commission approves the removal of the liquidambar street tree with tag number 27 at 227 Magnolia Avenue and the planting of a Chinese pistache in its place.

Moved by Ruby, Seconded by Wu
Ayes: Brumfiel, Dunlap, Goodman, Horner, Mahany, Ruby, Wu
Noes: None
Absent: None

**EBMUD Pipeline
Replacement Project
Update**

Ms. Kent presented information regarding the community meeting, the EBMUD project, City improvements, and street tree preservation and replanting processes. She noted additional outreach to inform residents about the project.

There was no **Public Testimony** on this matter.

Dracena Park Update

Ms. Kent reported copper post caps were installed on the Becker bridge to address vandalism and summarized vandalism to the oval lawn, bioswale, and bathroom. She advised that Piedmont Police Department is working with the Public Works Department to address the issue which will include additional patrols by the Community Service Officers (CSO) .

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners discussed temporarily installing motion-detecting cameras and signage stating the consequences of vandalism.

**Japanese Maple at the
Team House Update**

Ms. Kent related the history of the Japanese maple tree, the diagnosis of an Armillaria infection, and options for a replacement tree.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Chair Dunlap proposed a future discussion of memorializing a Heritage Tree after its removal.

**Monthly Maintenance
Report – April**

Public Works Supervisor Nick Millosovich indicated staff has maintained vegetation around City Hall and pedestrian pathways, planted seven trees, removed debris from creeks, installed memorial benches, and spread mulch in parks and medians.

Ms. Kent thanked Piedmont Garden Club for preparing hanging flower baskets for Community Hall.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners agreed not to schedule a July 2021 meeting.

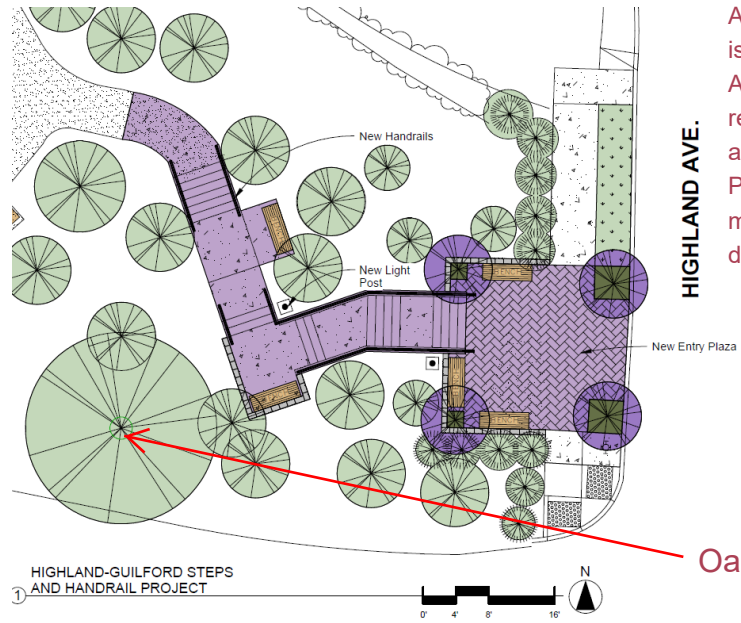
Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Dunlap adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.



Location of Oak in
Piedmont Park



A mature Coast Live Oak adjacent to the proposed project is in decline and has been on a watch list for several years. A recent arborists review found that the tree is unlikely to recover or thrive and will need to be removed. PBF can assist the City with a replacement tree through the memorial tree program. The replacement tree has not been determined.

Oak is adjacent to proposed project



Distant view of bare branches of oak
-looking east



View of oak looking west

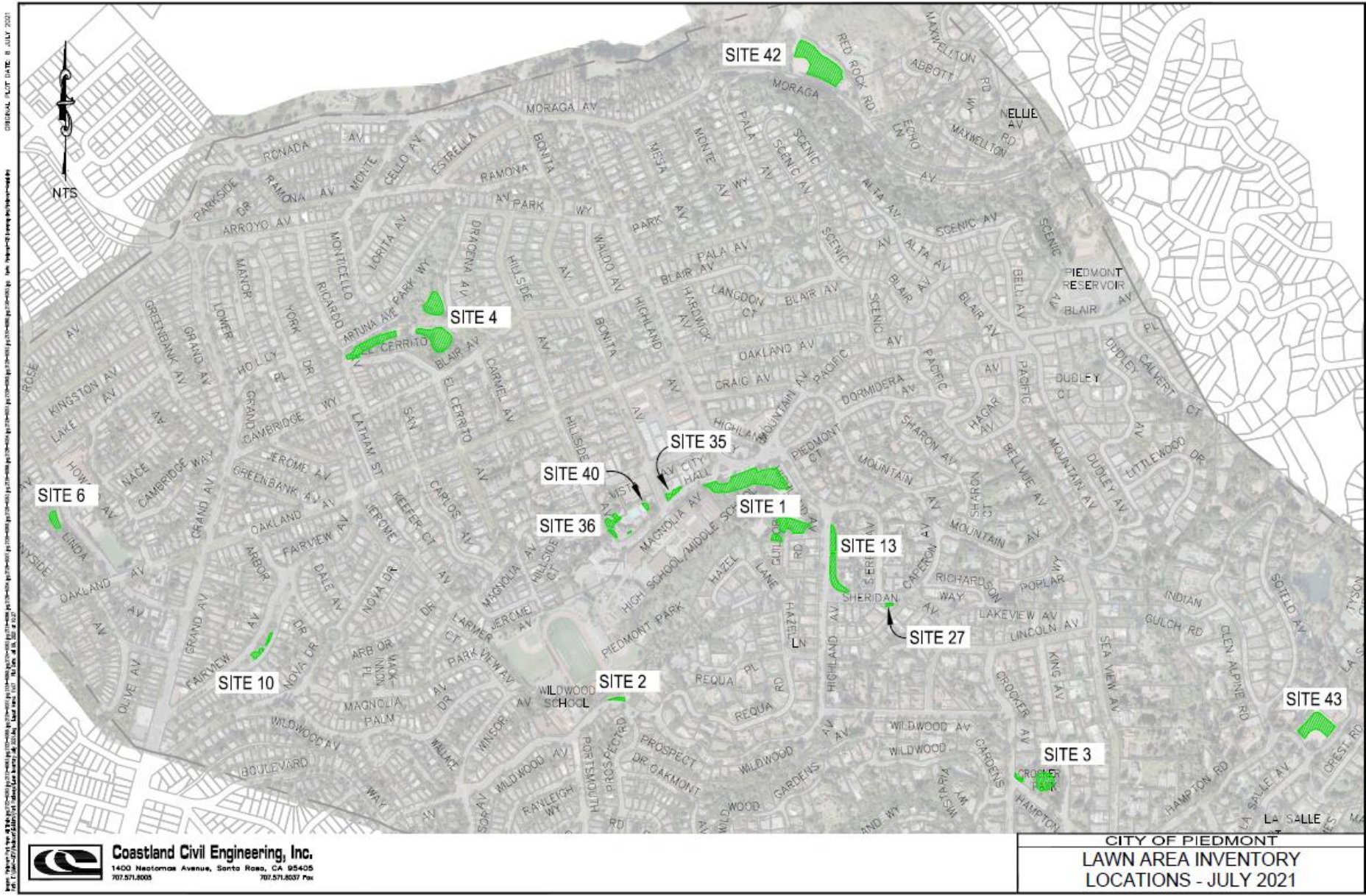


View of oak looking north

August 2021

Update on Drought Response in City Parks and Open Spaces

Resources for Residential Landscapes



Working with Coastland Engineers, lawn areas in City parks have been mapped. Public Works is monitoring water use and making adjustment to the irrigation systems to comply with EBMUD’s voluntary 10% water reduction request. See chart with site identification numbers and acreage.

	CITY OF PIEDMONT		
	LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATIONS		
	PROJECT SITES WORK MATRIX		
SITE NO.	SITES	Approx. S. F. of Lawn area	TURFLAWN MAINT.
	PARKS		
1	Piedmont Main Park	59236	•
2	Wildwood Entrance to Pied Main Park	1201	•
3	Crocker Park	11390	•
4	Dracena Park	49063	•
5	Blair Park		
6	Linda Beach Park and Dog Run (west side)	4418	•
	MEDIANS		
7	Moraga Ave. Cemetery Wall		
8	Lower Grand Ave. Median & Islands		
9	Nova Ave. Circle		
10	Fairview Ave. Median	3329	•
11	San Carlos Ave. Median		
12	Piedmont Court Median		
13	Highland Ave. Strip	14526	•
14	Scenic Ave. Circle		
15	Hall Fenway		
16	Inverleith Terrace Median		
17	Trestle Glen Rd. Median		
18	Marlborough Court		
	TRIANGLES		
19	Hampton Huntleigh Triangle		
20	Hampton Lexford Triangle		
21	Estates Triangle		
22	Jerome Ave. Triangle		
23	Wildwood Ave. Triangle		
24	Seven Corners Triangle		
25	Oakmont Ave. Triangle		
26	Caperton Ave. Triangle		
27	Caperton Lawn	924	•
28	Indian/Hampton Rd. Triangle		
29	St. James Ave. Triangle		
30	St. James Circle at Cambrian		
31	Linda Kingston Triangle		
32	Ramona Ronada Triangle		

SITE NO.	SITES		TURFLAWN MAINT.
	CIVIC FACILITIES		
33	City Hall		
34	Community Hall		
35	801 Magnolia Ave.	2477	•
36	Piedmont Recreation Center	5209	•
37	Veterans Hall/Police Station		
38	Piedmont Comm. Church Bus Stop		
39	Piedmont Playschool @ Hampton Park		
40	Piedmont Aquatics Center	1042	•
	ATHLETIC FACILITIES		
	Linda Beach Park & Tot Lot (East side)		
42	Coaches Field	40427	•
43	Hampton Sports Field & Park	20141	•
44	Recreation Center Basketball Courts		
45	Kennelly Skate Park		
	TENNIS COURTS		
46	Guilford Ave. Tennis Courts		
47	Recreation Center Tennis Courts		
48	Linda Beach Park Tennis Courts		
49	Hampton Park Tennis Courts		
	Total S.F. of Lawn Area in Parks	213383	


The City of Piedmont has thirteen park and open spaces with lawn for a total of 213,383 Sf or 4.8 acres of lawn.

The City in coordination with our maintenance contractor is evaluating where we can reduce water consumption and reduce demand in our municipal landscapes. The maintenance team is focusing on maintaining healthy soil profiles and mulch layers, using drought tolerant and native plants for any new installations and monitoring our irrigation systems in the field and on line using the EBMUD website.


My Water Report Program

[Home](#) / [Water](#) / [Conservation and rebates](#) / [My Water Report Program](#)


EBMUD offers a FREE online portal to all customers to help track and manage water use.



LOG ON
Register to access your data



GET NOTIFIED
Sign up for alerts



SAVE
Money saving actions

Step 1: Sign in

First-time user: make sure you have your EBMUD account number on hand, and follow these instructions.

Step 2: Set up leak and high use alerts

Notifications via text message or email are helpful when you use autopay for bills, and might not notice an important increase in your water bill.



My Use Notifications

You will be notified when you use over **2X** times your normal use.

[Rebates](#)

[Residential](#)

[Leaks and high bills](#)

[Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional](#)

[Commercial Irrigation](#)

[Water conservation publications](#)

[Conservation links](#)

[WaterSmart gardener](#)

[Water conservation appointment request](#)

[WaterSmart tips](#)

[My Water Report Program](#)

[Report water waste](#)

Sign in here



Source:

<https://ebmud.com>

Residential

[Home](#) / [Water](#) / [Conservation and rebates](#) / [Residential](#)

Troubleshoot high bills and leaks

Resolve a sudden or unexpected spike in your water use with these tools.

Leak Resolution ***NEW***

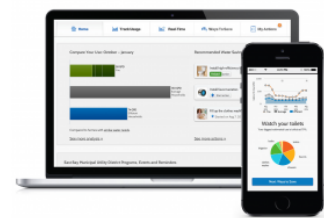
Investigate unusually high water use with an easy to use, interactive guide that helps you identify and eliminate the reason for your high bill. You will need an EBMUD account number and last name to login.

DIY Guide for Leaks and High Bills

Leaks are often the cause of high bills. The good news: you can do many of the repairs yourself! Consult these resources to identify and repair common leaks, and for a printer-friendly guide, download Looking For Leaks, available in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

Ways to conserve water

These services ensure your home is water and energy efficient, and can help save water and money.



My Water Report Online Portal

Small steps can make a big difference! Just click on the My Water Reports link on your EBMUD account page to sign up for use notifications, track your water history, set leak alerts, and discover ways to save.

Home Survey Kit

Illustrated step-by-step instructions take you through your home to read your water meter, test the flow rate of your water fixtures, and perform a toilet leak dye test. Return a completed worksheet to

get FREE water-saving devices, if any are needed.

Telephone Consultation

This is a free service intended to supplement the do-it-yourself Home Survey Kit. Use the appointment request form to set up a 15-20 minute phone call with a water conservation specialist. During the telephone consultation, a water conservation specialist will determine the need for an in-person visit.

Take action and learn more

Rebates

► Residential

[Homeowners associations \(HOAs\)](#)

[Save like a Pro](#)

[Watersmart calculator](#)

[On-bill financing](#)

[WaterSmart Home Survey](#)

[Toilets and clothes washers](#)

[Leaks and high bills](#)

[Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional](#)

[Commercial Irrigation](#)

[Water conservation publications](#)

[Conservation links](#)

[WaterSmart gardener](#)

[Water conservation appointment request](#)

[WaterSmart tips](#)

[My Water Report Program](#)

[Report water waste](#)

WaterSmart Center

Your resource for services and incentives for home and business, publications, workshops, events and more.

Report Water Waste

Let us know about water waste in your area.

Contact Us

E-mail: waterconservation@ebmud.com

Phone: 1-866-403-2683

WaterSmart gardener

[Home](#) / [Water](#) / [Conservation and rebates](#) / [WaterSmart gardener](#)



Welcome to our resource center for outdoor water conservation!

Create a Water Wise Garden

Water Conservation provides tools and resources to help you create a water-efficient landscape at your home.

Apply for a Rebate

Get up to \$2,000 to replace your thirsty lawn, upgrade inefficient irrigation, and safely divert laundry water to your garden.

Lawn to Garden Design Center

A step by step guide with resources and how-to videos to transform your lawn to a snazzy water wise garden.

Hiring a Landscape Professional

Qualified professionals create landscapes that conserve water and soil, reduce waste, and prevent pollution.

What to Plant

Invest in a healthy, resilient garden by selecting water wise plants and trees that use little or no water once established.

Compost and Mulch

Find out how to save water and beautify your garden with compost and mulch, and save money with our mulch coupons.

WaterSmart Garden Grants

Grants are available to community organizations who create public garden projects that demonstrate water conserving principles.

Rebates

Residential

Leaks and high bills

Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional

Commercial Irrigation

Water conservation publications

Conservation links

► WaterSmart gardener

WaterSmart plants

Everything mulch

Plants and Landscapes For Summer-Dry Climates

The lawn goodbye landscape gallery

WaterSmart garden grants

Landscape Advisory Committee

Sustainable landscape map

Video Gallery

Firescaping

Lawn to Garden Design Center

Rainwater harvesting

Water conservation appointment request

WaterSmart tips

My Water Report Program

Report water waste

WaterSmart Center

Your resource for services and incentives for home and business, publications, workshops, events and more.

Source: <https://ebmud.com>

Rebates

[Home](#) / [Water](#) / [Conservation and rebates](#) / [Rebates](#)

i For the quickest response to your application, please email your application to waterconservation@ebmud.com. For mailed-in applications, response time is up to two weeks.

EBMUD's Water Conservation programs are designed to help save water and money.



Lawn Conversion

Invest in long-term drought resilience by modernizing your garden with water-wise plants - **double** your rebate to \$1.50/sq. ft. with the *new* super or median strip rebate!

Flowmeter Rebate (Up to \$200)

Don't wait two months for your next high bill. Use remote flow sensing technologies to monitor usage and get near real-time notifications.

Mulch and Compost Coupons (FREE)

Save water, beautify your garden, and enhance soil health with our coupons for mulch at popular local nurseries.



Efficient Irrigation Upgrades

Revamp your irrigation system with technology proven to reduce waste and irrigate efficiently, like drip irrigation, self-adjusting "smart" controllers, and high-efficiency nozzles.

Graywater Rebate (Up to \$50)

Put your laundry water to good use on your landscape, and get a rebate of up to \$50 for a graywater system 3-water diverter valve.

Water-Saving Devices (FREE)

Your faucets and showerheads might be wasting water. Find out if you qualify for water-saving devices by ordering our free [Home Survey Kit](#).

› Rebates

- Lawn conversion rebate
- Irrigation equipment rebate
- Flowmeter rebate
- Graywater rebates
- Customized rebates
- Commercial clothes washer rebates
- Pre-rinse spray nozzle program
- Free conservation items

Residential

Leaks and high bills

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Commercial Irrigation

Water conservation publications

Conservation links

WaterSmart gardener

Water conservation appointment request

WaterSmart tips

My Water Report Program

Report water waste

WaterSmart Gardener

EBMUD's resource center for outdoor water conservation.

Contact Us

E-mail: waterconservation@ebmud.com

Source: <https://ebmud.com>

East Bay Municipal Utility District x +

ebmud.com/water/conservation-and-rebates/water-conservation-appointment-request/

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

Search EBMUD...

Customers Water Wastewater Recreation About us

Water conservation appointment request

Home / Water / Conservation and rebates / Water conservation appointment request

Please complete and submit this form and a Water Conservation Representative will contact you, typically within two business days. (Please provide your phone number on the form below.)

* = Required.

Type *

☐ Residential

☐ Multi-family

☐ Commercial

Name *

Please enter your whole name here.

Business Name

Please enter your business name here.

Address *

Please enter your address here.

City *

12345-1234

Zip *

Account Number

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Source: <https://ebmud.com>

Irrigation Tip #1: Check for Overwatering



Did you know?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that as much as 50% of the water used outdoors is wasted due to inefficient watering methods. Overwatering is a common issue, particularly during the cooler seasons or after rain. Plant roots need water to survive, but they also need oxygen! Soil that is constantly wet won't allow your plants to "breathe".

Water carefully and make your garden thrive with healthy, vibrant plants!

What to do next

Check your plants. If they're showing the following signs, cut back on the amount of water.

- Plant leaves are wilting, but the soil is moist or the plant appears to have enough water.
- Plant leaves are turning brown, but are still soft. If the leaves are turning brown because the plant needs more water, the leaves will feel crispy.
- Plant leaves are turning yellow. Normally, this is accompanied by stunted growth or leaf loss.
- Signs of edema are appearing on stalks or leaves. Plant edema occurs when the roots of a plant absorb more water than they can use. The extra water causes pressure to build up in the stems and leaves. Eventually, the pressurized cells burst. The result is tan, brown or white spots, which often look like lesions, warts, or blisters.

Always remember to check the soil for moisture before you water. If soil is wet 2-4 inches down, no more water is needed.

Consider installing a weather-based irrigation controller or soil moisture sensor, which will automatically determine if your plants need water.

Irrigation Tip #2: Check Moisture level



Did you know?

Irrigation accounts for up to 90% of outdoor water use, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Unfortunately, much of that water is wasted due to inefficient irrigation practices and over-watering. By checking soil moisture first, you can ensure that your plants are getting the appropriate amount of water.

What to do next

Rather than following a regular irrigation schedule, check the soil for moisture before you water. It's easy: Just stick a spade, shovel, or soil probe into the ground before adding water. If the soil is moist 2-3 inches down, no more water is needed.

Don't want to spend your time checking the soil moisture?

Consider installing a weather-based irrigation controller, which will automatically adjust the frequency and amount of irrigation when there are changes in temperature and precipitation. [Search for a weather-based controller](#) that you can install at your home.

Irrigation Tip #3: Install Soil Moisture System



Did you know?

One of the most common irrigation errors is overwatering the landscape. By adding a soil moisture sensor (SMS) to your timed irrigation controller, you can reduce water use by preventing irrigation when the soil is wet. An SMS contains both a controller and a sensor, but it is easier and less expensive to install than a weather-based irrigation controller. An SMS measures soil moisture content and prevents irrigation when it is not needed.

What to do next

- Search online or visit your local lawn care store to purchase an SMS system.
- Install and program your new SMS system using the instructions in the product manual.
- Make sure to place the sensor in a location that best represents the overall soil moisture condition of the site.

Irrigation Tip #4: Watering Guide



Did you know?

The key to water-efficient irrigation is to adjust your irrigation controller regularly. The amount of water a plant needs changes depending on the amount of rainfall, length of daylight, and other seasonal factors.

It may be warm during spring and fall months, but shorter days may mean your plants need less water. During the winter months, when days are short and precipitation is more common, irrigation may not be necessary at all.

What to do next

Adjust your irrigation controller as the seasons change:

- Find out how to program your controller using these [online reference guides](#).
- Consider your local climate and reduce irrigation frequency during cooler, wetter months. See the [EBMUD Watering Guide](#) for further details.
- Use your thermostat as a guideline: when you adjust the temperature of your home as the seasons change, adjust your irrigation controller, as well.

Don't know if you'll remember to do this? Upgrade to a weather-based irrigation controller, which will automatically adjust to changes in the seasons.

Irrigation Tip #5: Create Irrigation Zones



Did you know?

It's important that your irrigation system is providing your landscaping with the proper amount of water. Since not all plants require the same amount of water, it is best to put similar plants in the same irrigation zone. If it is impossible to plant similar plants in the same zone, or if dissimilar plants already exist in a single zone, consider purchasing an irrigation zone splitter. The zone splitter will divide a single irrigation valve into two and help reduce overwatering.

What to do next

Visit your local lawn care store or search for irrigation zone splitters that you can purchase online.

Irrigation Tip #6: Adjust Watering Times- Water Dawn or Dusk



Did you know?

The middle of the day is the least efficient time to water your plants. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense Program, up to 30% of water can be lost to evaporation during midday.

At dawn and dusk, when the sun is low in the sky, evaporation rates are minimal and the wind tends to be calm enough that it doesn't blow water away. Early morning watering also helps prevent the growth of fungus and is the best defense against slugs and other garden pests.

What to do next

- If you have an irrigation controller, program it to water at dawn or dusk.
- If you use a gardener, talk with him/her about water conservation and efficient irrigation practices. Make sure that he/she is only watering at appropriate times.
- After changing the time you water or irrigate, carefully monitor lawns and plants for signs of excessive hydration. If grass or plants begin to yellow, have droopy leaves, or show signs of mold growth, the frequency of watering will need to be reduced.

Tired of watering by hand or ready for an irrigation controller upgrade? Consider selecting a weather-based controller. Not only can it be timed to water at dawn or dusk, it will also adjust to local weather conditions and save you even more money and water. [Find and compare](#) weather-based controllers.

Irrigation Tip 7: Water Deeply, Less Often



Did you know?

Emergency drought restrictions prohibit watering more than twice a week and watering in a way that creates runoff.

When watering your yard, water deeply and infrequently. Allow the top inch of soil to dry in between watering to promote deep root growth and healthy plants.

Shrubs have deep root zones, and trees generally have the deepest root zones. When watering turf areas, clay soil, or on slopes, long runtimes result in run-off. Break your watering time into two to four shorter cycles, ideally four minutes.

A good rule of thumb: the height of the plant above ground can mirror the relative depth of the root zone underneath. Watering too deeply, beyond the root zone, wastes water.

Inappropriate frequent, shallow watering forces surface rooting of plants that otherwise would have deeper roots and a large reservoir of water on which to draw during hot spells.

What to do next

Setup a watering schedule with frequency and duration appropriate to your plants and irrigate to fill the root zones. Look online or speak to a professional at a local nursery for guidance. Some tips:

- Manually check the soil around plants before watering them. Stick a shovel, spade or soil probe into the ground. If the soil is moist 2-3 inches below the surface, no additional water is needed.

- Water trees deeper than plants with smaller root systems.
- Watch for signs of excessive over watering, such as yellow leaves, mold growth and wilting. If these symptoms are present, reduce watering frequency and amount.

Source: <https://ebmud.com>

Irrigation Tip 8: Switch to Drip Irrigation



Did you know?

Irrigation accounts for up to 90% of outdoor water use, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Upgrading your irrigation system can save substantial amounts of water and even increase plant health.

Drip irrigation applies water at or near the ground and directly to the roots of plants. This method eliminates water loss due to runoff, wind, and evaporation. The amount of water delivered can be controlled by varying the length of time the system runs or the type of emitters. A drip irrigation system will use **20-50% less water** than a conventional irrigation system.

What to do next

- For smaller projects, visit your local hardware store to purchase a drip irrigation kit that you can install yourself, to convert all or part of your existing sprinkler system to drip.
- For larger projects, call a local landscaper to discuss irrigation options for your home.

Irrigation 9: For Lawn and Large Planting areas: Upgrade to Rotary Sprinkler Heads



Did you know?

Compared to traditional sprinkler heads, rotating spray nozzles apply directed, uniform water distribution to your landscape and thereby minimize runoff. They use 20% less water than conventional heads.

What to do next

1. Take an inventory of the nozzles you currently have. Determine how many are full-circle, part-circle or fully adjustable.
2. Decide how many nozzles you are going to replace.
3. Once new nozzles are installed, evaluate your irrigation system and adjust your watering schedule as necessary.

Source: <https://ebmud.com>

Landscape Tip 10: Maintain a Healthy Soil and Mulch Layer and Consider Sheet Mulching



Did you know?

A garden without mulch is like a magician without her best trick.

Mulch is one of the best urban soil builders you can find. It loosens and aerates the soil, allowing water to sink deep into the root zone. Mulch enhances the fertility and overall health of the soil. And, it saves water, time, and money. Finally, mulch beautifies your garden by filling in open spaces and bare ground. In the eyes of real estate agents and home buyers, this adds value to your property.

A 3" layer of mulch benefits your garden in the following ways:

- The soil is better able to retain moisture, cutting water use
- Organisms in the soil are fed by the breakdown of organic material
- Nutrients are freed up for use by plants, reducing the need for fertilizer
- Weeds are kept under wraps, reducing or eliminating the need for herbicides
- Plant roots are insulated against temperature extremes
- Soil erosion due to rain and wind is held to a minimum

Leaf litter from your own property is a very good source of mulch. Or, consult your local nursery or garden center about the best type of mulch for your garden and the best way to apply it. Be sure to keep mulch several inches away from the base of trees and shrubs to prevent damage to the plant through rot and disease.

Sheet Mulching

Sheet mulching is a relatively inexpensive, quick, and physically less demanding way of converting lawns or dealing with weeds as it does not require digging and turning of the soil.

Sheet mulching mimics the way that nature recycles nutrients and builds the soil on the forest floor. This tried and true landscaping technique breaks down organic material right on the spot. It works especially well in weedy areas. And, if you're converting your lawn to a water-efficient landscape, it eliminates the need to haul away the lawn.

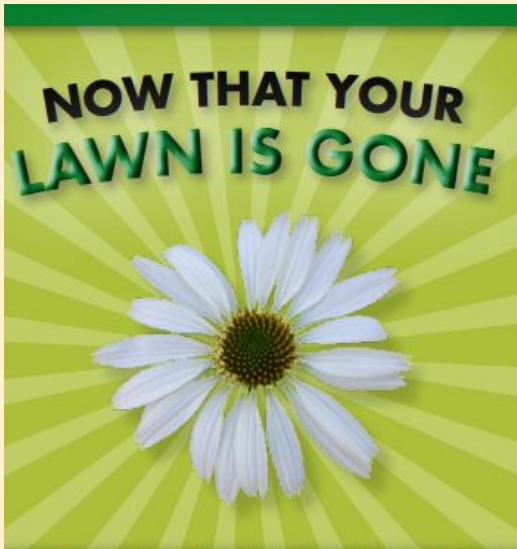
Also called "lasagna gardening," the basic concept is to place layers of a variety of nitrogen and carbon rich materials on top of the soil, allowing the layers to break down into usable nutrients over time--composting right into the garden itself!

For information about mulch and sheet mulching see:

- [EBMUD's mulch coupon program](#)
- [Bay-friendly landscape mulch guide](#)
- [Alliance for Water Efficiency mulch resources](#)

Source: <https://ebmud.com>

Landscape Tip 11: Caring for Sheet Mulched Gardens



Caring for Your Bay-Friendly Garden

POST SHEET MULCHING CHECKLIST:

- ✓ **Regularly check for water.** Depending on the season and the size of your new plants, you should plan to check your soil every few days. If the soil is dry down to the roots, it is time to water. If the soil is still moist, hold off for a few more days and check again.
- ✓ **Keep an eye on your plants.** Check to be sure your plants are staying healthy. A bit of transplant shock is normal in the first couple of weeks, but after that plants should be green and perky. Drooping or yellow leaves may be a sign that something is wrong. If you suspect a problem, take a photo of the problem plant and visit your local nursery to ask for help diagnosing the problem. If a lot of plants are dying, it could be due to improper planting or watering—plants placed too high or too low, roots not broken up during planting, too much or too little water.
- ✓ **Check your mulch and cardboard.** Some of your mulch may be displaced due to pets or other garden visitors. Be sure to keep the cardboard covered with a layer of mulch to maintain an orderly appearance and prevent it from blowing away.
- ✓ **Weeds? Pull any you see.** If there is a large area of weeds, it could be where cardboard coverage isn't complete or the cardboard got ripped.
- ✓ **Stay in touch with other gardeners.** You will likely come across a mysterious bug or plant in your garden. Compare notes with neighbors, nursery staff or friends – it is highly probable someone else will have wisdom to share from a similar experience. Or, join our Lawn to Garden Facebook group to share pictures and get advice from other gardeners (www.facebook.com/groups/FromLawntoGarden/).



POST SHEET MULCH: YEAR 1

Your new garden has likely changed quite a bit over its first year—some plants are becoming more established while others may not have made it through the dry season; your cardboard and mulch has started decomposing; an irrigation system has been put into place.

FIRST YEAR CHECKLIST:

- ✓ **Reapply mulch & topdress with compost.** Keep your soil healthy and plants thriving by adding fresh compost around existing perennials, shrubs and trees. Replenish mulch with a fresh layer of wood chips to help with weed control and water conservation. Add cardboard to any weedy patches.
- ✓ **Fill in plants.** Some plants may not have made it through their first year—don't despair, this isn't unusual. Add new plants in these empty places. You may be able to divide some of your successful plants or sow wildflower seeds in the winter. Remember to choose plants adapted to your microclimate and allow space for plants to grow by avoiding overplanting.
- ✓ **Check irrigation.** The first year of watering is important for establishing your new plants. After the first year you may be able to slowly cut back on water for some native and drought-tolerant plants. Keep an eye on them to be sure they remain vibrant and adjust your watering needs accordingly. If you have a drip or other irrigation system, check your lines for leaks, and where necessary adjust emitters based on current plant needs.

4

ONGOING MAINTENANCE & TIPS: YEAR 2 AND BEYOND



PLANT UPKEEP

Lawns require regular mowing, watering and feeding. Replacing a lawn with a diverse plant palette minimizes those weekly chores. However, your new plants will still need basic upkeep to maintain their health and appearance.

A diverse garden will include annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees—but likely the majority will be perennials. Carefully selecting the right perennials for your garden can make maintenance easier, often reduces irrigation needs, and creates less waste.

After choosing a plant palette well suited to our Mediterranean climate, and your local microclimate, maintaining healthy plants becomes a matter of paying attention to watering needs, keeping an eye out for pests, feeding your soil, and pruning throughout the year—best practices for each of these tasks are outlined further in this guide.



Remember...

During the first year your most important job for maintaining healthy plants is simply keeping them alive! Make sure your plants are properly watered and weeds are removed to avoid competition. Typically, no pruning is necessary during the first year of growth, although you may want to remove spent flowers at the end of their bloom cycle.

5

<http://www.lawntogarden.org/maintain-your-garden>



Landscape Tip 12: Minimize Non-organic Fertilizer Use



Did you know?

Fertilizer may make plants grow faster, but it also increases water consumption. Plus, it contributes to stormwater runoff that pollutes nearby bodies of water with excessive levels of nitrogen and phosphorus.

What to do next

If possible, eliminate fertilizer use. Try applying composted grass and leaves to naturally provide your yard with nutrients.

If you do fertilize, follow these tips from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

- Have your soil tested for pH levels, which will help you determine which fertilizers and supplements are needed.

If you do fertilize, follow these tips from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

- Have your soil tested for pH levels, which will help you determine which fertilizers and supplements are needed.
- Use a slow-release organic fertilizer to release nutrients at a slow, steady rate. Spot treat weeds or pull them, rather than using broad application techniques.
- Read and follow all label directions to avoid over-application and runoff.
- When applying fertilizer, leave a buffer strip around the perimeter of your yard and do not apply fertilizer within it.
- Do not apply fertilizer to frozen ground or paved surfaces.
- Raise your lawnmower blades and leave grass clippings after you mow. This will naturally provide nutrients to your lawn, reduce water need, and reduce runoff.

Landscape Tip 13: Create a Rain Garden



Did you know?

Slow it. Spread it. Sink it. Store it! These are four cornerstones of effective stormwater management. According to the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District, roofs, walkways and other impervious surfaces alter natural hydrology, increasing stormwater runoff. This has a variety of impacts including streambank erosion, degraded wildlife habitat, potholes, damage to structures, and in severe cases, land and mud slides. Fortunately there are simple, low-cost things that we all can do to help decrease stormwater runoff from our properties while beautifying our landscapes.

What to do next

Develop a rain garden or a rock garden in your property.

A rain garden is a specialized landscape design that captures stormwater runoff and allows water to sink back into the ground. It uses plants to remove pollutants and improve infiltration allowing water to soak back into the ground. A rain garden design can be as simple as a shallow depression filled with plants that can flourish in both moist and dry conditions.

Swales are shallow channels designed to slow water down, spread it out and allow it to sink into the soil. Swales can be vegetated or rock-lined (sometimes called dry creek beds). A rock-lined swale uses rock instead of vegetation to infiltrate and convey runoff.

Start planning your rain or rock garden. Download your guide from the [Conservation District](https://ebmud.com).

Source: <https://ebmud.com>

Go From Lawn to Garden

Did you know that you don't need chemicals to kill your water-thirsty lawn? Sheet mulching is an easy process of layering cardboard and mulch right on top of the grass. Plus, you can plant your new garden straight into the mulch. Our [Lawn to Garden website](#) has resources that will make your lawn conversion projects easier, including a directory of vendors who provide bulk compost, mulch and other sheet mulch materials.

The Benefits of Sheet Mulching:

- Saves time, money, and water.
- Builds healthy soil.
- Creates attractive drought-tolerant gardens.
- Eliminates the need for grass- and weed-killing herbicides.

[Visit our Lawn to Garden Website](#)

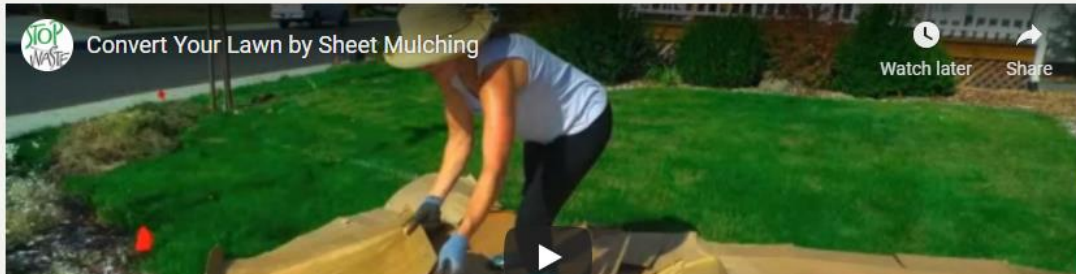


Before sheetmulching...



Convert your Lawn by Sheet Mulching

Sheet mulching is an easy process of layering cardboard and mulch right on top of the grass. It makes room for a low-water landscape and builds healthy soil.



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The Compost Cycle

The compost cycle below closes the loop on organic waste by turning items like yard trimmings and food scraps into compost, a rich soil amendment. Compost helps grow healthy landscapes and edible crops, and when the waste from these activities is composted, the cycle begins again!

Incorporating compost is one of the best ways to create a healthy landscape: it enhances fertility, soil structure, and improves nutrient and water retention. For edible gardens, compost helps grow healthier plants that produce higher yields of more nutritious produce. Making and using compost are also potent [carbon farming](#) practices that can reduce climate change. To learn more about gardening, visit the [home and community gardening section](#).



1. Sort and Collect Organics

- [Stop Food Waste First](#): edible food is too essential to waste! Find tips that will help you prevent food waste and save money.
- [Green Bin Sorting](#): learn what can go in your green bin.
- [Backyard Bin Sorting](#): learn what to put in your backyard bin.
- [Worm Composting Sorting](#): learn what to put in your worm bin.

2. Make Compost

- [Using your Green Bin](#): get more information about your city's curbside composting program.
- [Backyard Composting](#): learn how to make compost in a backyard bin.
- [Composting with Worms](#): find all the information you need to set up a worm compost bin.
- [Composting on Urban Farms](#): download an in-depth guide for support in becoming an expert composter.
- [Build or Buy a Compost Bin](#): explore different types of compost bins and find one that works for you.

3. Buy Compost

- [Compost Vendors](#): find vendors who sell compost.
- [Go from Lawn to Garden](#): our Lawn to Garden website has resources that will make your lawn conversion projects easier, including a directory of vendors who provide



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Home and Community Gardening

The Compost Cycle

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- Worm Composting
- Using Compost in the Garden
- Build or Buy a Compost Bin

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BROCHURES

Bay-Friendly Plant Lists

[View Downloads](#)

These Bay-Friendly plant lists can be downloaded in PDF or Excel format.

- **Top Plants for the Bay Area:** Find California natives and other plants suited to the Bay Area's Mediterranean climate.
- **Alternatives to Bay Area Invasive Plants:** Consider these alternatives to plants designated by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) as problem plants in the Bay Area.
- **Lawn Alternatives & Groundcovers:** Instead of conventional, water-thirsty turf grass, try planting these beautiful, Bay-Friendly alternatives.
- **Plants for Bay Area Plant Communities:** Discover plant species found in the most common Bay Area plant communities: Redwood Forest, Valley and Foothill Woodland, Coastal Prairie, Northern Coastal Scrub and Valley Grassland.
- **Plants that Attract Butterflies:** Butterflies are often very selective in their choice of host plants that provide food for the caterpillars. Consider planting plants that provide nectar for butterflies and food for and larvae.
- **Plants for Natural Hedges that Don't Need Shearing:** Shearing is labor intensive and creates a lot of plant waste. Consider these plants for more natural hedges.
- **Plants for Vegetated Swales:** Consider these plants for bioswales designed to slow or prevent the flow of stormwater off a site



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Carbon Farming

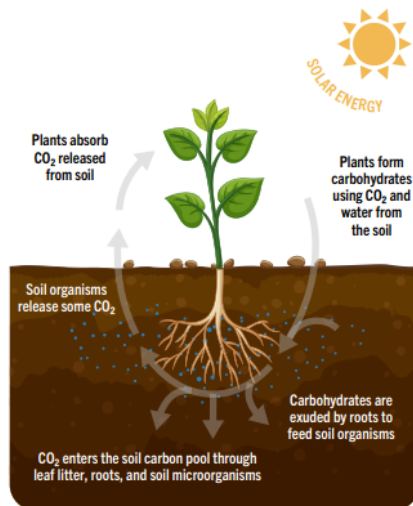
Carbon farming not only helps mitigate climate change, but also creates thriving landscapes that are more resilient to drought and flooding.

What is Carbon Farming?

Carbon farming practices draw carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in the soil, a process called carbon sequestration. These techniques focus on growing healthy plants and building up soil microbes. Plants naturally absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during growth and their roots exude it as carbohydrates that nourish soil microorganisms. When the microorganisms and plants die they break down and build up the carbon stored in the soil. StopWaste is using compost to fight climate change on our rangeland property in the Altamont Hills in Livermore. [Read more](#) about that project, and find resources on carbon farming below.

Carbon farming practices for gardeners and landscapers:

- **Feed your soil with compost** to encourage microbial activity and plant growth. Compost also improves the water-holding capacity of soil, making it more resilient to drought and flooding.
- **Maximize continuous living roots** by establishing woody perennial plants. If you grow annual vegetables, plant cover crops after you harvest and alongside your crops. Plant roots exude carbohydrates that feed soil microbes.
- **Keep unplanted areas covered** with a thick [layer of mulch](#) such as wood chips, straw, tree leaves, or compost. Mulch helps soil retain moisture, encourages microbial activity, and prevents erosion. Groundcover plants and low cover crops also act as "living mulches" and are an excellent mulching solution.
- **Minimize disturbance.** Erosion, compaction, and rototilling can harm soil microbes and release carbon to the atmosphere. Instead of tilling, try [sheet mulching](#) when preparing your garden beds.
- **Avoid synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides** which harm the microorganisms that play an important part in storing carbon in the soil. Also, applications of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer can cause nitrous oxide emissions, a greenhouse gas that traps 300 times more heat than carbon dioxide.
- **Maximize biodiversity.** The more diverse the above ground [plant community](#) is the more diverse the below ground soil food web will be.



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Update on Regulation of Glyphosate Products in the City of Piedmont

CITY OF PIEDMONT CALIFORNIA



July 6, 2021

Public Works Department

To: Daniel Gonzales, Director of Public Works
From: Nancy Kent, parks and Project Manager
Re: Regulating Glyphosate Products

Recently, Public Works was asked by several residents to investigate how the City could prohibit the use of glyphosate products, such as Roundup, within the City for both public and private landscapes.

California law prohibits cities from creating local ordinances that ban the use of pesticides and that includes glyphosate. The state controls pesticide use through the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Though Piedmont cannot adopt a local ordinance banning public and private glyphosate product use, Public Works and their landscape maintenance contractors have led by example and for the last 15 years have not used pesticides or herbicides in their maintenance practices for our public landscapes.

For our residential landscapes, the City can continue to provide information on safe alternatives to glyphosate products and through the Clean Water program, Public Works staff provides information and handouts at the Harvest Festival and 4th of July celebration. At the City's first Sustainability event last year, Our Water Our World provided the public with hands on alternatives to harmful pesticides in garden use.

Additional information on RoundUp is listed below.

- **What is RoundUp:** Roundup is the brand name of a systemic, broad-spectrum glyphosate-based herbicide originally produced by Monsanto, which Bayer acquired in 2018. Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in the United States.
- **How does it work on plants:** Glyphosate is non-selective, which means it will kill just about any plant it comes into contact with. (If you overspray or spray on a windy day,

wherever the chemical lands, it will damage or kill plants. Although predominately used to kill weeds or noxious plants, it is not designed to specifically kill weeds- it will kill non-targeted healthy non- invasive plants as well.) Once the compound is applied, plant leaves absorb and pass it throughout the plant down to the roots. It prevents plants from making certain proteins they need to grow.

- **Glyphosate products are not Used by PW or our Landscape Maintenance Contractor::**

As part of our Clean Water Program: ACCWP- the City developed an Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM) in 2010. It is attached for reference. According to Dave Frankel the City's Maintenance Staff has not used glyphosate products in the City for over 15 years. This was largely driven by concerns expressed by residents and PW determination to find other methods for controlling weeds in our parks. Our IPM policy is now part of our maintenance contract with Terra Landscaping our landscape maintenance contractor. Weeds are not sprayed but are handled by physical removal and maintaining a mulch layer to prevent weed growth. In summary, we do not have any pesticides or herbicides at the Corporation yard and City Staff and our landscape maintenance contractor do not spray pesticides in the City.

- **Required reporting of pesticides, herbicides and chemicals used in the landscape or in pest management:** As part of our ACCWP annual report we report municipal pesticide use. For Piedmont, the only chemicals reported are the pest treatment products used by Clark Pest Control around the outside of our buildings. The majority of their use is for rodent control and contained in bate boxes. The City also use Gringrich Horticultural for mole, vole and gopher removal. This work is done by underground traps and no chemicals are used in that work.

- **Can herbicides such as RoundUp be regulated by municipalities through local ordinances:** No. For reference information from ACCWP :

California law (Chapter 1386, Statutes of 1984,) states that no local government may prohibit or in any way attempt to regulate any matter relating to the registration, sale, transportation, or use of pesticides, and any of these [local] ordinances, laws, or regulations are void and of no force or effect.

- **Can herbicides such as RoundUp be banned for residential use in Piedmont:** No, the City cannot have an ordinance banning municipal or residential use of pesticides. The City can have a policy, as we do, that in practice, no pesticides are used by city staff or city maintenance contractors.

- **How can we help our residents find alternatives to RoundUp:** Our Clean Water program supports Our Water Our World Program- (OWOW)
 - *The purpose of the Our Water, Our World (OWOW) program is to raise awareness of the connection between pesticide use and water quality and provide information to consumers at the point-of-purchase about integrated pest management (IPM) and less-toxic alternatives that are not causing water quality problems. For more info.: <http://ourwaterourworld.org/>*
 - OWOW has developed signage and messaging at retail outlets such as Home Depot with displays of alternatives to RoundUp. Our residents can look for those displays at garden centers. They have a great website and even a pest "Identify a Bug" tab.

- **Public Outreach by the City:**

- In February 2020, Public Works along with Piedmont Garden Club and Piedmont Connect had an informational open house focused on sustainable practices for residential landscapes. Our Water our World had a table at our event and we had very positive feedback about the information provided and non- pesticide alternatives for treating pests in residential landscapes.
- Staff hosts a table at the Harvest Festival and 4th of July with information on safe alternatives for pest management in residential gardens.
- Staff is also working with Piedmont Connect on a Drought Symposium in September for our residents as part of that event we hope to have OWOW present safe pesticide alternatives.

CITY OF PIEDMONT

CALIFORNIA



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

This pest management policy shall apply to all pest control and pesticide use within the City of Piedmont, by the City. Piedmont seeks to implement effective and appropriate pest management programs throughout the community, which minimize and/or eliminates the use of pesticides. City contractors, community agencies receiving funding from the City, and all persons are encouraged to voluntarily follow the City's Pesticide Management Policy when engaged in pest control and pesticide use within the City.

The definition of a pest is: any organism which adversely interfere with aesthetic, health, or economic goals of humans. The definition of a pesticide is: any substance or mixture of substances which is used to kill, repel, suppress, or mitigate any pest.

Pesticides shall be assumed to be hazardous. Reasonably available non-pesticide alternatives should be used preferentially. For all pest problems the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) scheme outlined below should be followed with non-chemical management tactics used first:

1. Design and construct indoor and outdoor areas to reduce and eliminate pest habitats.
2. Modify management practices including watering, waste management, and food storage.
3. Modify pest ecosystem to reduce food and living space.
4. Use physical controls such as hand weeding, traps, and barriers.
5. Use biological controls—introducing or enhancing pest natural enemies.
6. The use of chemicals shall be considered as a last resort and selected and used by a licensed Pest Control Operator in accordance with pesticide selection criteria as stated below.

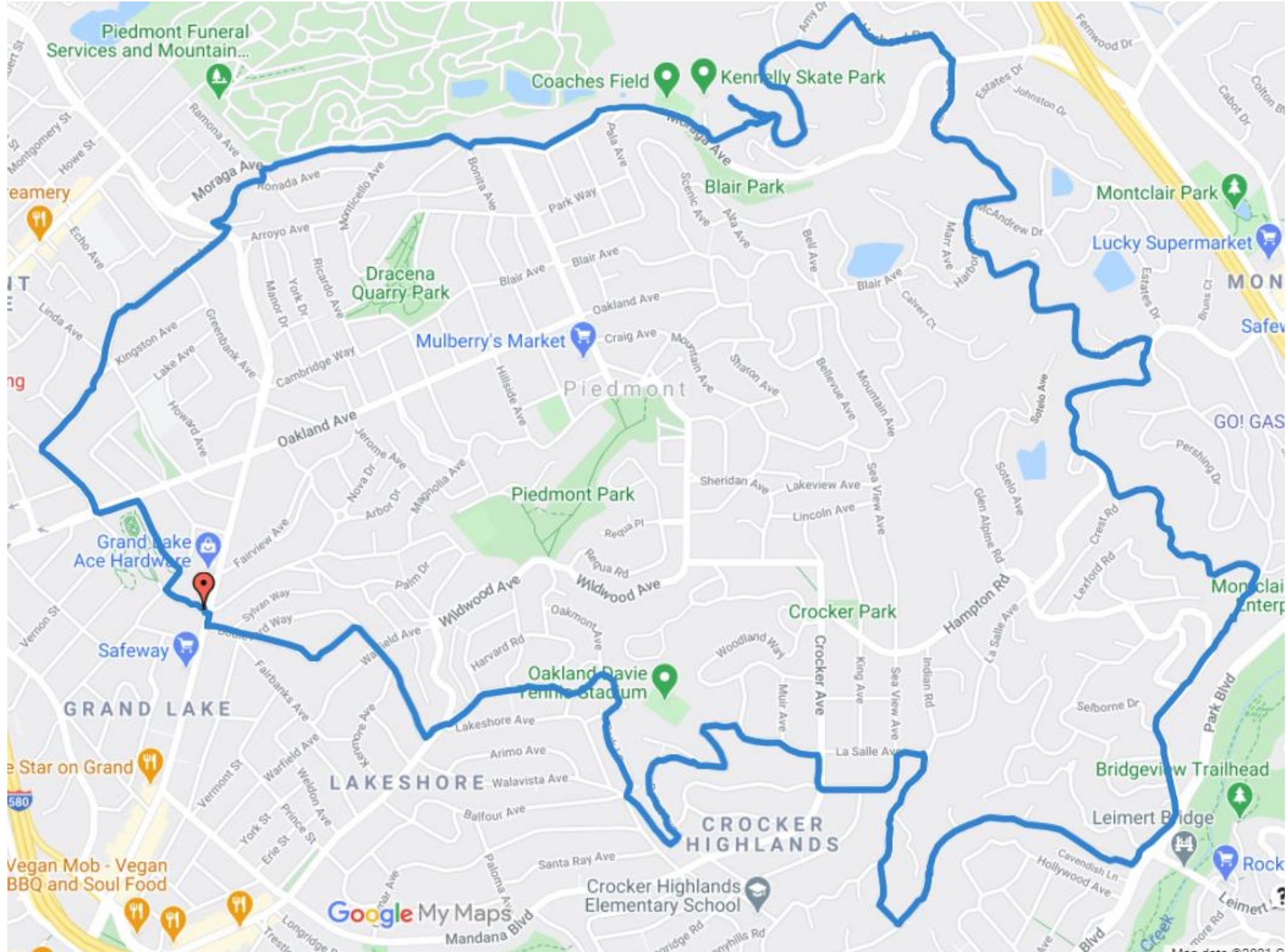
The hazard (risk of harm) associated with a pesticide use is primarily a function of the chemical's intrinsic toxicity and the extent and frequency of its use. Except for the control of a pest which threatens the public health or where hazard and exposure to people, wildlife or the environment is expected to be minimal, any pesticide determined to have evidence of causation of cancer, birth defects, mutations, or other severe chronic health effects is banned from use.

Ongoing education to acquaint city employees and the public with the IPM approach will be provided by trained staff.



Self- Guided Tour Map

EXHIBIT A



Pedestrians walking the route need to exercise caution and where sidewalks or crosswalks are not accessible or clearly marked, be aware of surrounding conditions and approaching traffic.

Walking the Perimeter of Piedmont

Self- Guided Tour Directions

Walking the Perimeter of Piedmont

Distance: 8.5 miles

Vertical climb: 1,900 feet

This walk takes you all the way around the City of Piedmont. The route guide starts on Grand Avenue near the Ace Garden Center and proceeds clockwise around town. Going clockwise avoids walking up steep Trestle Glen Road.

Walk up Jean Street toward the Morcom Rose Garden and watch for a public staircase on the right, just past the last apartment building before the garden. Note there are two staircases; the public one is past the telephone pole. Turn left at the top of the stairs onto Olive Avenue and then left on Oakland Avenue.

Going up Oakland Avenue, you will see a small "Leaving Piedmont" sign. This route passes back and forth between Piedmont and Oakland, and there are few signs like this. At other points, the transition can be seen in pavement colors or by the changes in street signs, as Oakland's are larger.

From Oakland Avenue, turn right on Monte Vista Avenue and then right on Kingston Avenue. You will see the pavement change as you reenter Piedmont along Kingston. At the small triangular park, keep left to Rose Avenue and follow it to Grand Avenue. Cross at the stoplight and go up Ronada Avenue, then left on Ramona Avenue and right onto Moraga Avenue, which you will follow for many blocks. The large concrete wall along one side of Moraga separates Piedmont from the Mountain View Cemetery. Above Monte Avenue, you will enter a strange, fenced section that keeps people from climbing down into gulch below and the cemetery beyond. You will come upon Coaches Field, which was built by filling in part of that gulch.

After the Coaches Field parking lot entrance, look for the "Red Rock Rd" sign. Between it and the first house past it, turn left to go up a steep trail. This climb passes by interesting houses and, after 15 stairs, beautiful oak trees. You are on Piedmont's prettiest hidden walk.

Above 24 more stairs shaded by redwoods, the trail runs into Abbott Way, a dead-end street that terminates about a block to the left. A spectacular view at the end makes this somewhat hilly, 5-minute side trip worth the extra effort.

Afterward, go back on Abbot Way to Maxwellton Road and turn left. Look over the roof of 81 Maxwellton across Moraga to see the face of the dam that formed Piedmont Reservoir. It was built in the 1890s and taken out of service in 2003. Continue up Maxwellton to the Oakland line, which is the highest point in Piedmont.

At this point, you could retrace your steps and go down Maxwellton to Moraga Avenue, but that part of Moraga is unsafe for walkers, and there is no connection with the highest Piedmont streets on the other side of Moraga, so the next part is on Oakland streets. Stay on Maxwellton – you will need to veer right at the intersection with Amy Drive – to Harbord Drive and turn right. Carefully cross Moraga and continue on Harbord. Climb to the highest point on this route, near the intersection of Harbord and McAndrew Drive, follow Harbord downhill, and turn left on Wood Drive. This leads you to La Salle Avenue.

Here you have a choice. You can turn right on La Salle and walk down into Piedmont. Stay aware of cars, as there is no sidewalk along La Salle in this stretch and several blind curves. As you reenter Piedmont just above Tyson Circle, you can smile with the knowledge that you are halfway done and

the remainder is nearly all downhill. Carefully cross at Crest Road and then turn left onto Somerset Road. The house at 99 Somerset is noteworthy because it has a funicular that goes up the hill from its garage.

Alternatively, you can avoid the pedestrian-unfriendly stretch of La Salle by crossing it from Wood to Estates Drive and then turning right on Pershing Drive, which has nice views and runs parallel to Somerset.

From Somerset or Pershing, turn right onto Estates Drive and go to Park Boulevard. If you are a purist and want to cover Piedmont completely, you must turn left and walk up Park Boulevard to the Oakland line, but the speeding cars make this stretch unpleasant, and there is nothing marking the border. You can skip upper Park Boulevard with a clear conscience.

From Estates, turn right to go down Park Boulevard past the church, and turn right onto Trestle Glen Road. The first part is steep downhill and you are glad you chose the clockwise direction. There are a number of interesting houses, but look for 1580 and 1586 Trestle Glen on the right, because you need to turn between these two onto a path. As you follow this path and climb its 115 steps, think of the fit kids that take these steps every day to Crocker Highlands School above.

The steps land you at the end of dead-end Bowles Place. Go up Bowles and then turn right onto Sunnyside Road, which turns into Indian Road at the Piedmont line. Turn left on La Salle Avenue, left on Sea View Avenue, right on Ashmount Avenue, right on Crocker Avenue, and left again on La Salle Avenue to hug the perimeter of town.

Two blocks away from Crocker, turn left from La Salle onto Florada Avenue, which becomes Portal Avenue at the Oakland line. After admiring the sculpture in front of 863 Portal Avenue (is it the homeowner?), take the path on the right between 831 and 839 Portal. Walk halfway to the next street, then turn right again onto a grassy, tree-shaded path that ends near the top of Walavista Avenue.

Turn right on Walavista, then a quick left on Park Lane and right on Oak Road to the Davie Tennis Stadium, into which you should poke your head to step back in time. Then return to Oak Road and go left on Oakmont Avenue, right on Harvard Road, a quick left on Annerley Road, and left back onto Harvard Road, which leads to Lakeshore Avenue. Carefully cross Lakeshore to the right, turn right up Boulevard Way – the final hill – and then left onto Crofton Avenue (of which only a small part is in Piedmont, as evidenced by the change in pavement). Crofton will lead you to the bottom of Boulevard and land you back on Grand Avenue at a liquor store, where you can celebrate your accomplishment of having completed this walk.

Matt Gerhardt

April 2021

Pedestrians walking the route need to exercise caution and where sidewalks or crosswalks are not accessible or clearly marked, be aware of surrounding conditions and approaching traffic.