



Application of Ocean Friendly Gardens Criteria

An Ocean Friendly Garden (OFG) is a garden that applies CPR - Conservation, Permeability, and Retention© - to revive the health of our watersheds and oceans

Ocean Friendly Gardens are designed to mimic nature and to restore the natural water cycle by conserving water and reducing runoff that causes pollution at the beach and in our local waterways.

Site Location/ Street Address: _____

Conservation: Reduce outdoor water demand & provide wildlife habitat.

Plants

- Non-invasive and climate-appropriate, unless edible
- Grouped by water need
- At least 10% of the plants are natives

Turf Grass Areas

- No turf grass, OR kept to a minimum AND
- Climate-appropriate (rainfall keeps it healthy), maintained organically, and consider inter-seeding with nitrogen-fixing plants such as clover

Irrigation

- Hand watering OR
- High efficiency irrigation system (drip, rotator sprinkler)
- Automatic irrigation controller, if present, has a rain shut-off device

Permeability: Convert hard surfaces into sponges

Healthy, Living Soil

- 2 to 4 inches of natural, small-sized, mulch maintained on planted areas. Initial application can be up to 6 inches to hold in soil moisture and keep down weeds.
- No commercial fertilizers. If fertilizer is needed, use compost, compost tea, or worm castings.
- No use of pesticides, herbicides or fungicides
- No landscape fabric (weed cloth)

Hardscape

___ Walkways and patios direct rainwater runoff to landscaping. Add permeability with pavers or permeable materials *or* by creating gaps and filling in with gravel or plants. For even more impact, same technique can be applied to driveways.

Retention: Detain the rain that falls on your property.

Re-direct It

___ Rainwater from the roof is directed to landscaping or a permeable area OR

___ To rain tanks that overflow into permeable areas if that is not possible

Soak It Up

___ Use simple contours such as bio-swales, dry creeks, and basins

___ Use of dry wells or similar features if rainfall volume and space constrain your yard

Additional Resources: For list of OFG best practices and additional resources, visit surfrider.org/ofg

OFG Sign will be awarded to any garden that meets the above criteria. Eligible yards and gardens can be posted to the online OFG map: <https://oceanfriendlygardens.crowdmap.com>

OFG Map ___ OK to post the garden _____ Sq. Ft. roof area _____ Sq. Ft. garden area