

California's Drought

California is facing one of the worst droughts on record. In April 2015, the Governor issued an Executive Order requiring the State Water Resources Control Board to impose restrictions to reduce the consumption of potable urban water usage by 25%. The Board adopted those regulations in July and they became effective December 1, 2015. These regulations apply to all new projects and large landscape rehabs.

Many residents have inquired about information regarding what they can and can't do in their front yards. The City has prepared this informational brochure to help homeowners who are trying to reduce their water consumption by improving their landscaping and water practices to a more drought-friendly model while beautifying their homes and neighborhoods.

For ease of use, we have divided your front yard and parkway into 3 parts:

- ◆ Non-Decorative Hardscape includes your front walk and driveway. These are usually areas that don't allow water to sink into the ground.
- ◆ Decorative Hardscape includes, stepping stones, mulch, decomposed granite or rock, and other similar materials. These surfaces allow for water penetration. Remember to include mulch in your planting beds to help retain the water you will be using.
- ◆ Landscaping must be made up of drought tolerant materials and must make-up at least 50% of your front yard. Artificial turf may be used in the front yard, but not in the parkway.

One of the most important elements of a water wise landscape is the sprinkler system. New landscaping must use drip or micro spray sprinklers.



Resources

For more ideas on how you can improve curb appeal while reducing your water consumption, as well as measures to help you to be water-wise in other areas, check out the following websites:

[City of Alhambra](http://www.cityofalhambra.org)
www.cityofalhambra.org

[California Native Plant Society](http://cnps.org/cnps/grownative)
<http://cnps.org/cnps/grownative>

[Metropolitan Water District of Southern California](http://www.bewaterwise.com/gardenspot.html)
<http://www.bewaterwise.com/gardenspot.html>

If you are planning a new landscape project for your front yard and/or parkway and have questions, the staff in Development Services is happy to assist you. Contact us at 626-570-5034.

Please Note

The State of California has revised their water efficient landscape regulations. The new regulations took effect on December 1, 2015. The City has updated its regulations to reflect those changes. Please check the City's website for more information.

Congratulations & Keep up the Good Work

The City of Alhambra and its residents have been working hard to reach the mandatory reduction of 24%, and we are proud to report that Alhambra met its goal for July 2015 with a reduction of 27%. This is great news, but the drought continues, as it will for some time, and we must continue to be water wise.

For Questions, please contact



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City of Alhambra

Front Yard Landscape Guidelines



Saving Water can be Beautiful!



Planning Your Landscape

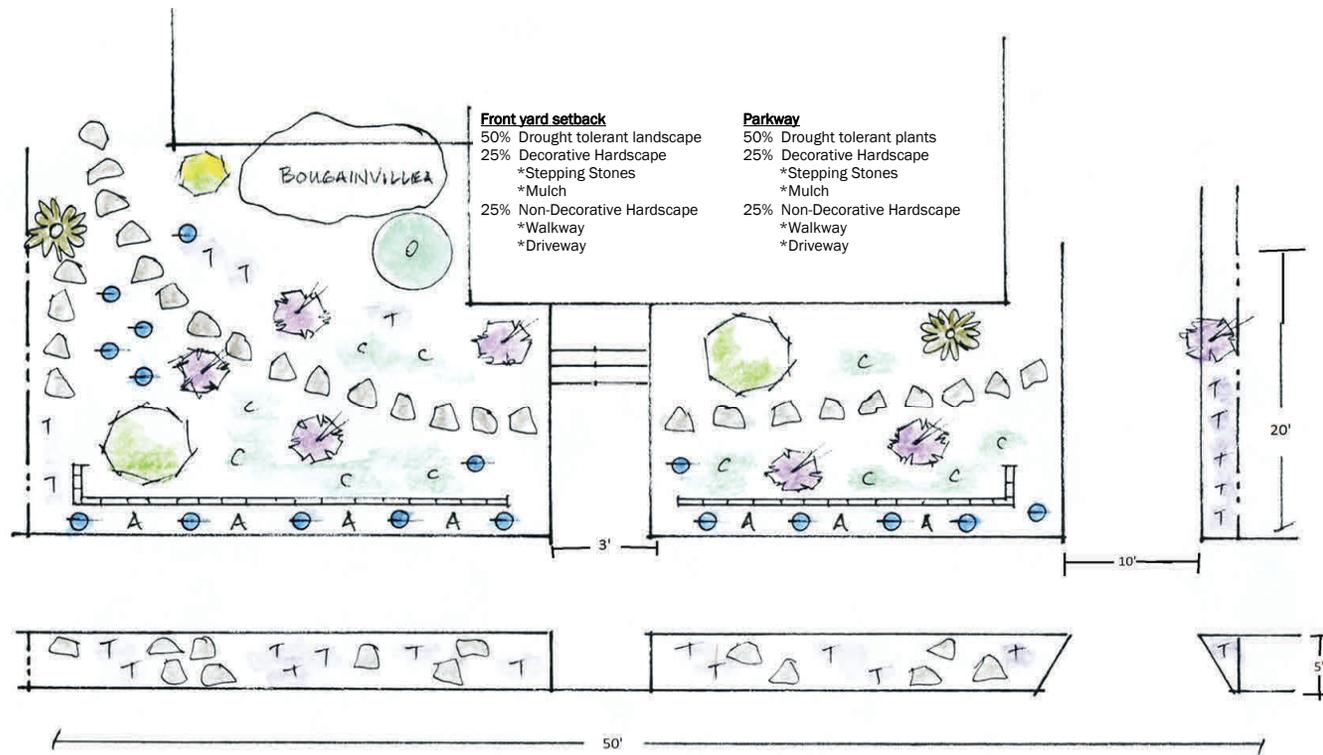
Before starting your project, measure your front yard. Measure from the front of your house to the sidewalk and from property line to property line (including the driveway). This will give you the approximate square footage you have to work with.

Measure your driveway and front walkway (either the one you're keeping or the one you're planning). Together these cannot exceed 25% of the total front yard.

Next, lay out your planting plan. Remember 50% of your landscaping must be drought tolerant landscape material. Artificial turf is allowed in the front yard, but not in the parkway. The City strongly encourages the use of plant materials other than turf when planning your landscaping. Make sure you consider the amount of sun and shade in your plan and the water requirements of your planting materials. There are many resources available to help you pick drought tolerant and/or native plants for your garden.

Don't forget the irrigation options to ensure that you keep your plants alive and beautiful. You've worked hard on this, so make sure it lasts.

Lastly, determine the type of material you're going to use to fill in the space between your plants, such as mulch or stone.



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|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Front yard setback | Parkway |
| 50% Drought tolerant landscape | 50% Drought tolerant plants |
| 25% Decorative Hardscape | 25% Decorative Hardscape |
| *Stepping Stones | *Stepping Stones |
| *Mulch | *Mulch |
| 25% Non-Decorative Hardscape | 25% Non-Decorative Hardscape |
| *Walkway | *Walkway |
| *Driveway | *Driveway |

Rules for Front Yard Landscaping		
50% Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drought tolerant and/or California native plant material, this includes artificial turf 	25% Decorative Hardscape (Permeable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stepping stones Mulch Decomposed Granite 	25% Non-Decorative Hardscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkway Driveway
Rules for Parkways		
50% Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live drought tolerant and/or California native plant material Artificial Turf is not allowed. Turf must comply with State regulations Loose rock and thorny plants are discouraged 	25% Decorative Hardscape (Permeable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stepping stones Mulch Decomposed Granite 	25% Non-Decorative Hardscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkway Driveway