



Success Story — Harbor Bay Business Park

Harbor Bay Business Park

Alameda, Calif.

For decades, the landscape medians along Harbor Bay Parkway were sucking up water, using three times more water than was needed to keep the grass looking good. The sprinkler system was watering the landscape inefficiently, which resulted in irrigation run-off and overspray.

Landscape architects from April Philips Design Works and landscape contractor Cagwin & Dorward assisted the Harbor Bay Business Park Association in the design and installation of a new Bay-Friendly (www.bayfriendlycoalition.org) certified landscape. Bay-Friendly practices foster soil health, conserve water, and reduce waste and pollution.

A choice was made at the beginning of the project not to remove the existing lawn, but to use “sheet mulching” instead. Sheet mulching consists of placing layers of cardboard and mulch over the existing grass. The process nurtures the soil, suppresses weeds, and minimizes waste. Members of the surrounding community were invited to learn more and to watch sheet mulching in action.



Before: Median with grass showing irrigation overspray.

Next, crews utilized “in-line” drip irrigation in place of conventional spray sprinklers and installed controllers which self-adjust for changing weather conditions. The choice of colorful, drought-tolerant, and climate-appropriate plants completed the project, with fantastic results—an irrigation system that saves water and a landscape that looks great.



Sheet mulching was applied.



In-line drip irrigation was installed.



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Drought-tolerant, climate-appropriate plants provided the finishing touch.

How much water was saved?

- Irrigation water use was reduced dramatically, from 7.6 million gallons in 2007 to 1.8 million gallons in 2011.
- Over \$17,000 dollars were saved compared to 2007 water costs.

To speak directly with the landscape company and property manager about how they achieved these water savings, see the contact information below:

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GS Management Company

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Note: EBMUD recognizes these businesses and customers for their water conserving efforts. However, EBMUD makes no representation regarding these businesses or that similar water saving will be achieved at other sites.

