

2019 WaterSmart Landscape Contest Winners

Congratulations!

Top Honors

Janet & Conrad Beck
1132 Laguna St.

Honorable Mention

Gerold Wharton
3237 San Tomas Dr.

Kim Wascher
710 Stanley St.

Laura Cates
573 Boysenberry Way

Janet and Conrad Beck are the City of Oceanside's 2019 winners of the WaterSmart Landscape Contest, an annual competition recognizing exceptional water-wise landscapes in San Diego County based on overall attractiveness, design, appropriate plant selection, and water efficient irrigation.



The winning landscape, above, earning the Becks the \$250 grand prize, evolved from the Beck's desire to save water and to showcase how a dull, water-wasting lawn could be transformed into a colorful, vibrant garden. The garden's plant palette includes a wide variety of California native and

drought-tolerant plants, resulting in what the Becks describe as a "whimsical" garden. In replacing their automated system with an infrequent need to hand water, the couple realized a water savings of over 3,700 gallons of water per month, virtually cutting their water bill in half!



Three runners-up were awarded honorable mention along with gift cards to a local Nursery. Gerald Wharton, homeowner at 3237 San Tomas Drive, was inspired to bring back livable habitat for native flora and fauna when creating his drought tolerant garden, above. The more his plants become acclimated and established, the less their irrigation needs—to the point where they will not need any irrigation in the near future.



A homeowner at 710 Stanley Street, above, Kim Wascher first removed her lawn in order to reduce her water costs as well as the heavy maintenance that her

lawn required. Her idea turned into a plan and she exchanged her water-thirsty grass for a wildlife habitat that now attracts butterflies, lizards, bugs and a plethora of birds.



Having moved to Oceanside from the Midwest just a handful of years ago, Laura Cates, homeowner at 573 Boysenberry Way (above), was not familiar with succulents of any kind. She just knew that she was fed up with the inferior quality of turf that encompassed both her front and back yards. Lucky for her she had a sister-in-law who spread her enthusiasm for the colorful, easy-to-grow, low-water-use plants. Laura is now well-known to her neighbors as someone who is only too willing to help others get started with a clipping or two from her own yard.

The annual WaterSmart Landscape Contest runs from January through April each year. For more information, be sure to check out the [Water Utilities webpage!](#)