

## Create a Rain Garden to Save (Rain) Water this Winter

Where's the Best Place to Store Rainwater? In Your Soil!



*Spencer Adams Park*

As we enter the fifth year of the drought this winter, rain is on everyone's minds. There are several things that each of us can do during the rainy season this winter to help prevent flooding and also save water. One of the easiest and most effective things to do is to turn off irrigation when rain is in the forecast, and leave it off until your soil dries out.

To make the most out of the rain, create a rain garden to store water in your soil and reduce the need for irrigation. A rain garden can be a beautiful, water wise addition to your

landscape that also captures stormwater, reduces pollution, and recharges our groundwater. A rain garden is a planted depression or "basin" within a landscape that is designed to collect rain and stormwater runoff from downspouts and hard surfaces like roofs, driveways and walkways, and allow the water to slow, spread and sink into the ground. To see one of these gardens in action, visit a rainwater demonstration garden in town:

- Spencer Adams Park, 1216 De La Vina St. This former lawn was converted to an Ocean Friendly Garden that directs rainwater into soil to filter pollutants and store water for plants.
- Santa Barbara Association of Realtors, 1415 Chapala St. Multiple downspouts are redirected to large basins to collect roof runoff in this garden that flourishes



*Association of Realtors*

without irrigation most of the year.

- Santa Barbara City College Schott Center, 310 W Padre St. Rainwater meanders through a dry creekbed in this garden filled with native plants and a winding path.



*Schott Center*

If you are interested in learning more about rainwater harvesting in your garden, visit [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Rainwater](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Rainwater) or call (805) 564-5460 to learn about upcoming City-sponsored hands-on workshops or classes organized by [Sweetwater Collaborative](#). Let's Save Together!

