

## 6 INTERESTING FACTS!

### About OC's Newest Conservation Garden

**Tiffany Baca, Public Affairs Manager  
Municipal Water District of Orange County**

Coronet Watersmart Conservation Garden is located in the heart of Westminster, California, at [15252 Oakcliff Drive](#). A vibrant, diverse community, Westminster's City government, and their citizens have long-embraced water-smart landscaping and have welcomed the transformation from lush green lawns to thriving drought-tolerant yards and public spaces that save water, time, and money.

In 2018, Westminster residents joined together to pledge to be more mindful of their water use through the annual [Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation](#). For their outstanding participation, the City was named the most water-wise city in Orange County for collecting over

9,500 pledges from residents committing to reduce the City's water use by 38.2 million gallons over a year. To honor and celebrate their achievement, the Wyland Foundation and Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) awarded the city a water-smart garden makeover to serve as a community model for water-efficient landscaping.

The garden, delayed due to the COVID-19 shutdown, provides visitors with a living example of replicable landscaping strategies that save water, reduce pollution runoff, and reflect the beauty of Southern California's native plants, trees, and wildlife.



- 1 A TOTAL TRANSFORMATION.**

5,011 sq. ft. of thirsty grass was removed from the existing five-acre Coronet Park and replaced with water-efficient plants and irrigation. This water-smart landscape transformation is expected to save 235,517 gallons of water yearly over existing usage.
- 2 A DIVERSE MIX OF PARTNERS.**

From government agencies and local businesses to educational institutions and a non-profit, the project is a testament to the viability of public-private partnerships that successfully work together towards a shared vision for the health of our communities and reliability of our natural resources.
- 3 DESIGNED BY STUDENTS.**

Students from the Saddleback College Department of Horticulture and Landscape Design created the [design for the project](#) with their professor's guidance. They were awarded a grant through the now-retired Southern California World Water Forum for their innovative, sustainable, water-smart landscape concept.
- 4 A LANDSCAPE MODEL.**

[Design components](#) include low-water-use trees, plants, grasses, water-efficient irrigation, permeable landscape materials, and naturally occurring features that capture and store water and reduce harmful runoff.
- 5 DESIGNED TO BE REPLICABLE.**

Visitors can scan a QR code on park signage that links to a website with loads of FREE resources. From water-smart landscape designs and plant palettes to local rebate opportunities and more, sustainable landscape design features in the garden can easily be replicated at home.
- 6 BENEFITS LOCAL GARDENS.**

California native plants thrive in Orange County's semi-arid climate. In addition to needing very little water, most are naturally disease and pest-resistant and provide a healthy habitat for pollinators. [The native plant variety](#) selected for Coronet Park draws in pollinators that benefit neighborhood gardens.