MWDOC Turf Replacement Program
Eligible vs Ineligible Examples of Sustainability Features

The purpose of this document is to provide additional guidance for the Sustainability Feature requirement of the Turf Replacement Program. Below are pictures of projects that have eligible features as well as projects with features that would NOT meet the Program requirements.

1. Eligible Tree

✅ Qualifying Examples:



Australian Willow *(Geijera parviflora)*



Wilson Fruitless Olive *(Olea Europaea 'Wilsonii')*

✅ Australian Willow and Fruitless Olive trees are included in the Eligible Sustainability Feature Trees List. Eligible trees are at least 15 gallons and have wide-spreading canopies. Tree canopies capture rainfall, and tree roots and leaf litter promote the infiltration of rainwater into the soil.

❌ Does Not Qualify:



Icee Blue Yellow-Wood *(Podocarpus elongatus 'Monmal')*

❌ The Icee Blue Yellow-Wood is not on the Eligible Sustainability Feature Trees list. Additionally, plants used to create hedges or other closely planted buffers/borders are not eligible. It also does not qualify for the Tree Rebate for this reason.



Meyer lemon *(Citrus limon)*

❌ The Meyer lemon is less than 15 gallons and is not on the Eligible Sustainability Feature Trees list. It also does not qualify for the Tree Rebate since it is less than 15 gallons (fruit trees would be eligible for residential projects only).

2. Rain Garden

✅ Qualifying Examples:





✅ Rain gardens are a visible depression with permeable soil material to create a ponding area, supporting water retention in the landscape. Plants dispersed throughout the rain garden act as natural water filters and help prevent soil erosion.

❌ Does Not Qualify:



❌ Avoid creating deep “pools” where plants would be fully submerged. Dig gently sloping sides to create a depression where water would naturally collect.



❌ This feature is flat with no visible depression to aid with water retention. Add plants that can tolerate wetter conditions.

3. Vegetated Swale

✅ Qualifying Examples:





✅ Vegetated swales have gently sloping sides and plants within and alongside the swale to slow the flow of stormwater and assist with water infiltration.

❌ Does Not Qualify:



❌ This feature is too small and needs to be elongated. Avoid creating deep “pools” that take longer for water to infiltrate the soil. Add plants to reduce erosion and slow runoff.



❌ No plants in or around the feature, and the landscape is not mulched.

4. Dry Riverbed

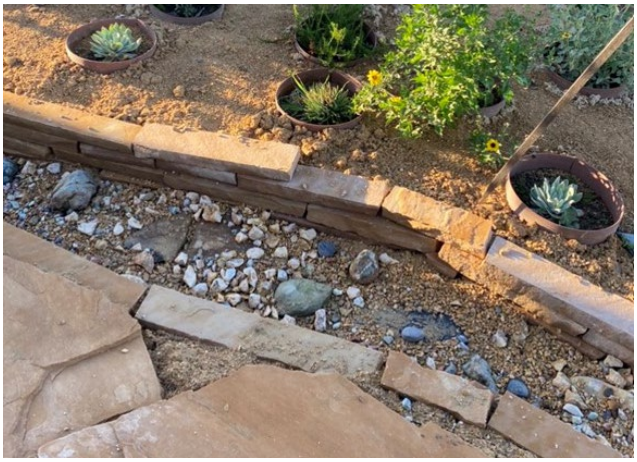
✅ Qualifying Examples:





✅ Dry riverbeds have gently sloping sides and various rock sizes to slow runoff. The riverbed ends within the landscape where water is delivered to plants and can infiltrate into the soil.

❌ Does Not Qualify:



❌ Trenches do not qualify as a dry riverbed. The feature should have gently sloping sides and not be walled off from the landscape.



❌ No visible depression to create a dry riverbed that collects and redirects water within the landscape.

5. Rock Garden

✅ **Qualifying Examples:**





✅ Rock gardens have a visible depression lined with rocks and gravel to help store rainwater. The plants distributed throughout the rock garden help with drainage into the soil.

❌ **Does Not Qualify:**



❌ This feature is too small and there are no plants within the rocks. Piles of rock do not qualify as a rock garden.



❌ No visible depression or plants to create a functional rock garden. Bare soil should not be visible amongst the rocks.

6. Berm

✅ Qualifying Examples:





✅ Berms are visibly higher in elevation and help direct rainfall to the surrounding permeable landscape. Plants distributed throughout the berm help with stability and prevent soil erosion.

❌ Does Not Qualify:



❌ No mulch to top off the berm. Add more plants to reduce the susceptibility to erosion.



❌ This feature is not planted and is too small to significantly reduce stormwater runoff in the project area. Needs to be built taller, wider, and longer.

7. Rain Barrel

✅ Qualifying Examples:





✅ Rain barrels are connected to rain gutters and downspouts for collection of rainwater from rooftops at the project area. They are elevated to allow enough pressure for the water to drain when in use. Rain barrels contain a screen to prevent mosquitos or debris from entering the water.

❌ Does Not Qualify:



❌ This rain barrel is not connected to rain gutters or downspouts. It is also not elevated at least 6 inches off the ground on a solid foundation.



❌ DIY rain barrels are not eligible. Rain barrels must have a cover to prevent mosquitos, rodents and debris from entering, an overflow spigot with mosquito netting or other prevention form, and should be elevated at least 6 inches off the ground on a solid foundation.