

Earth Service Day Projects

Celebrating Earth Day on April 22, 2016 - Fact Sheet
Stanford University | Water Planning & Stewardship

To celebrate and honor Earth Day, the Water Planning & Stewardship (WP&S) team collaborated with Grounds Services and Land Use and Environmental Planning to organize the first Earth Day Service events at three of Stanford's important landscapes: the Arizona Garden, the Water Wise Garden, and in the Foothills. Community volunteers braved rainfalls and harsh winds to perform fieldwork to improve campus landscape and help conservation efforts.

We would like to thank those who helped make these events possible! Through your help, we removed various weeds, trimmed overgrowth at all three sites, and helped maintain and restore the Foothills salamander breeding areas.



Earth Day Service Volunteers at the Water Wise Garden.



Earth Day Service Volunteers at the Arizona Garden.

Arizona Cactus Garden

The Stanford Arizona Garden is a historical botanical garden home to about 500 cacti and succulents. The garden is divided into two sections: the Eastern Hemisphere with succulents native to Europe, Asia, and Africa, and the Western Hemisphere with cacti native to the Americas. Landscape architect Rudolph Ulrich designed the garden

for Jane and Leland Stanford between 1881 and 1883 as part of their plans for a new country home. However, those plans were laid to rest after their son's passing. The garden fell into neglect starting in the 1920s until volunteer restoration work began in 1997.

Now, a group of people volunteer with Christy Smith once a month to work in the garden. The garden is located on the south side of the Stanford Family Mausoleum between Campus Drive and Arboretum Road and it is open to the public. Five individuals showed up to remove weeds and do small pruning tasks on Earth Day!



Christy Smith, the Arizona Garden Coordinator, removing weeds.



Before and after pictures from the Arizona Garden demonstrating the importance of weeding.





Earth day service volunteers at the Water Wise Garden.

Water Wise Garden

The Water Wise Garden is located on Raimundo Way, just past Wing Place, easily accessible from Stanford Avenue. The garden contains various water-wise lawn substitutes, a demonstration of California natives, and a Mediterranean garden. This particular garden was designed by Ted Tucholski, Grounds Services, and installed by Stanford's Ground Services Construction staff.



WP&S team member weeding at the Water Wise Garden.

The Mediterranean Garden contains plants from Australia, New Zealand, as well as from the Mediterranean region. Native Californian trees can be found in the garden's west half. A water meter has been installed in the middle of the garden for visitors to see how much water the garden uses throughout the year. The WP&S team hoped to promote drought tolerant plants as an alternative to more water demanding landscaping. Six individuals showed up to help weed and mulch!



Earth day service volunteers at the Foothills.

Foothills Restoration

The Foothills and The Dish area is home to vernal pool ecosystems important to California tiger salamander breeding efforts. California tiger salamanders are recognized as a federally and state threatened species. It is believed that their current threatened status is linked to the destruction of vernal pool habitats. In 2006, Stanford's Conservation Program constructed 8 artificial ponds to stand in as substitutes for vernal pool

ecosystems. The WP&S's Earth Day project aimed to help restoration efforts by removing invasive weeds growing near protected salamander areas. These weeds compete with native plants and habitat for existence. Seven individuals showed up on Earth Day to weed, trim, and rescue snails!



Earth Service Day volunteer rescuing a snail at the Foothills.

More Volunteer Opportunities

To learn more about the gardens and the Foothills, future WP&S events, or about how you can make your own landscape more drought resistant, please visit suwater.stanford.edu.

Missed your chance to volunteer? Find out how you can help by contacting the people below!



Earth Day Service volunteers at the Foothills.

Arizona Garden
Christy Smith
from Stanford's
Buildings and
Grounds
Maintenance

Email: christy.smith@stanford.edu

Phone:
650-723-7459

Foothills
Esther Cole
from Stanford's
Land Use and
Environmental
Planning

Email: ecolea@stanford.edu

Phone:
650-492-3044

Foothills
Robin
from Magic, an Eco
group practicing
value science

Email: magic@ecomagic.org

Phone:
650-323-7333

