



# Press Release

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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## Visit Vibrant Healthy, Sustainable Landscapes in San José *Attend the First Bay-Friendly Garden Tour in Santa Clara County*

San José, CA – Are you wondering how to make your front yard sustainable, or how plant selection can help the environment? Learn how to create vibrant landscapes that reduce waste and pollution, and conserve natural resources by experiencing the Bay-Friendly Garden Tour in San José on **Sunday, May 15, 2011**. The self-guided tours presented by the City of San José and the Bay-Friendly Gardening and Landscape Coalition feature 13 of the most sustainable yards and gardens in San José.

The gardens selected for the tour demonstrate natural gardening techniques appropriate for the Bay Area, hosted by feature native plant enthusiasts, wildlife gardeners and urban food growers who will show you their gardens and talk about their accomplishments and challenges. The tours also include backyard orchards, kitchen gardens, chickens, and drought-tolerant replacements for water-thirsty lawns. Gardens range from professionally designed postage-stamp-sized lots to exuberant one-acre do-it-yourself gardens. In addition, the tour offers opportunities to buy native plants and vegetable starts and attend noontime talks on sustainable landscaping techniques and principles.

Bay-Friendly Gardening is a holistic approach to gardening and landscaping that works in harmony with the natural conditions of the San Francisco Bay Environment. The Bay-Friendly Garden Tour is organized through the Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition. The principles and practices of Bay-Friendly landscaping and gardening provide tools that help home gardeners, landscape professionals, and public agencies make informed decisions about sustainable landscaping.

The Bay-Friendly program advances the City of San José's ability to become an environmentally and economically sustainable city. As defined by the Sustainable City Major Strategy, a "sustainable city" is designed, constructed, and operated to minimize waste, efficiently use its natural resources and conserve them for the use of future generations. Bay-Friendly gardeners make a strong statement about their dedication to sustainability in San José through gardening practices that build healthy soils, reduce waste in the garden, save energy, conserve water, and protect local watersheds.

Registration for the tour is required. Visit [www.BayFriendlyCoalition.org](http://www.BayFriendlyCoalition.org) by May 6, 2011 to register for the tour. Registrants will receive a tour guide book with garden directions and descriptions by mail. For more information, email: [erin.mcdaniel@sanjoséca.gov](mailto:erin.mcdaniel@sanjoséca.gov).