

Blue-Green Algae Bloom

As of August 15, the advisories for Beaver Lake and Prior Lake remain in place. We continue to monitor water quality in both lakes. [Details >>](#)



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Water Wise Gardens

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Water Conservation

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At Work

Water wise gardening or xeriscaping involves little to no watering and maintenance saving you time and money too. Create a beautiful shaded oasis for you and wildlife with flowers, trees and shrubs. Grow fresh and healthy food right on your doorstep with a vegetable garden. Use up to 66% less water with a water wise garden, compared to lawn. Convert areas of your lawn to garden with this easy [no dig technique](#).

Use the below tips for a water wise garden or print out a [PDF](#) to take with you.

Efficient Irrigation

Group plants with similar watering needs to easily water plants early in the morning (4am – 10am) or in the evening (7pm – 10pm) to avoid evaporation from the sun and wind. Watering in the middle of the day increases the amount of water lost to evaporation by as much as 40%.

Water where plants need it the most – at the roots. Slow deep watering once a week and letting the soil dry out completely between watering helps encourage drought-tolerant root growth. Light, frequent watering is harmful because it encourages shallow root growth and enhances germination of weed seeds. You can check the soil wetting depth with a screwdriver or stake.

- **Flowers and vegetables:** water the top 10-15cm of soil
- **Trees and shrubs:** water the top 20-25cm of soil, around the drip-line of trees (area below the branches where water drips from the leaves) - not at the trunk.

Install a [micro/drip irrigation system](#) to effectively water the plant roots and tailor to individual plant needs. During even the most stringent water conservation measures, micro/drip irrigation systems can be used to water flowers, vegetables, trees and shrubs.

Do not water on windy, cool, overcast or rainy days. Consider making your irrigation system more water efficient by installing a rain shut-off device that will automatically turn your system off when it is raining.

If you use an automatic/timed irrigation system, use the new overnight lawn watering allowable time for automatic/timed irrigation systems. Help us avoid the 4 am, 5 am, and 6 am peak demand for water and keep our infrastructure safe! Water overnight and pick a random time for your systems to start.

Choose Native Plants

Garden with [drought tolerant native plants](#). Adapted to the local climate, native plants are usually happy with only rainfall, even in the dry summer, once established. They also attract local birds, pollinators, and small mammals, which can act as natural pest control.

- Learn more about [gardening for wildlife](#) and [natural gardening techniques!](#)

Take Care of Your Soil

[Healthy soil](#) will help your garden thrive and need less water. Good soil has a balance of pH, moisture retention, good drainage and organic material.

Weed regularly. Weeds compete with your plants for moisture. Overwatering can encourage weed seeds to germinate so only water when your plants really need it.

Add mulch. As a 5-10 cm protective layer around plants, mulch reduces the number of weeds, conserves soil moisture, moderates soil temperatures and adds beneficial nutrients back into the soil. Keep mulch at least an inch away from plant stems. Types of mulch: leaves, compost, grass clippings, straw, wood chips and coarse bark.

- More information about [mulch](#).

Containers dry out faster compared to established flower or vegetable beds. Keep soil moist as it is easier than re-hydrating dry soil, particularly when plants are flowering. Make sure container have adequate drainage to prevent root rot problems.

Join our **free** introductory Embracing the Wild: Native Plant Workshop with Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary.

- [Native Plant Gardening Workshops](#)

Video

- [Garden with Native Plants](#)

Resources

- [Reducing Morning Water Demand \(PDF\)](#)
- [Water Wise Garden \(PDF\)](#)
- [Natural Gardening](#)
- [Lawn Care](#)
- [Fall Maintenance Guide](#)
- [Water Wise Outdoors](#)
- [Collecting and Recycling Water](#)
- [Irrigation Systems](#)
- [A Homeowner's Guide to Outdoor Water Use \(PDF\)](#)



What is the CRD?

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is the regional government for 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, serving about 440,000 people. [Read more >>](#)

[» Get Involved](#)

Contact Us

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Territorial Acknowledgement

The CRD conducts its business within the Territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOKECEN (Pauquachin), M'ALEXEL (Malahat), P'a:chi:da?ah (Pacheedaht), Spune'luxutth' (Penelekut), Sc'anew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, ST'UTW (Tsawout), T'Sou-ke, WJOLEEP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and xw'sepsəm (Esquimalt), all of whom have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.

[» Statement of Reconciliation](#)