

Goals of Friends of Balboa Park's Program for a Water-wise Parkland

- 1. Optimize water use in the parkland by 2020. "Parkland" means the space outside the buildings/physical infrastructure.** "Water-wise" means optimizing the use of water, thereby making the Park more environmentally sustainable while keeping it healthy and fit for appropriate human uses. Decisions about the optimal use of water are based not only on reducing water use but also on the systemic impacts of water use on other natural resources such as air, energy, soil, re-use/recycling of materials, etc. Understanding the Park as a living system of nature will inform water-wise projects by recognizing interdependencies and potential synergies among natural resources.
- 2. Contribute significantly toward making Balboa Park an internationally recognized best practice in water use.**
- 3. Make Balboa Park an internationally recognized best practice in use of the collaborative Community of Practice model to achieve these goals.**
- 4. Establish and operate the Friends of Balboa Park Center for H2O Experience to support the three goals above through eco-tourism and eco-education for visitors, students, and staff.** This will expand the impact of the water-wise projects in the park by having people also apply them in their homes and communities.

To view the plan developed to achieve these goals, go to <http://w-w.friendsofbalboapark.org/>.

Program Strategy – Smartscapeing

In order to achieve these challenging goals, a strategy will be used so that projects will be done in a logical and efficient order. It recognizes the parkland as being a living system. This "water-wise smartscape strategy" avoids a patchwork approach which often is cheaper in the short-run but costly in the long-run.

- o **Grid the Park into geographic areas** based on existing official plans and/or visitor usage patterns.
- o **Determine the dominant human usage patterns** for each area and also if there is an existing designation. For example, Florida Canyon is officially designated as a "native" area.
- o **Assess and state what the purpose of each area is and/or should be.** The opportunities and requirements for optimized water use will be factored into the purpose based on the intended ecology and landscape. For instance the purposes differ significantly between canyons; cultural experiences; dog parks; sports; and nature experiences. Even the Arizona Landfill area offers opportunities: in the short-term to educate people about the impact of waste and short-term planning, and in the long-term for the community to coalesce in restoring valuable parkland in the heart of our City.
- o **Document the ecological features and the water delivery systems** that exist in the area. Examples of ecological features include flora, fauna, human use, land terrain/drainage, sun/shade patterns, and soil composition. Water delivery systems include both natural ones, such as rain and marine moisture, and manmade irrigation methods.
- o **Design the necessary changes to the ecological features to match the designated purpose of the area.** For example, if a few water-hungry plants exist in the middle of an expanse of otherwise drought-resistant plants, they should be removed or moved to a compatible area.
- o **Design/re-design water-wise usage and delivery methods around the new ecological features.** Two components to this exist. One is using the least costly type and source of water that satisfies all the requirements of the features and use of the area, e.g., rain water, gray water, or treated run-off water may be options. The other is more efficient infrastructure, e.g., pipes, sprinklers, valves, and water reclamation devices. The new water delivery infrastructure will incorporate the most cost-effective and state-of-the-art components, e.g., replace leaking pipes with long-lasting water-tight materials accompanied by sensors that monitor leakage.
- o **Implement the changes to ecological features and water delivery methods simultaneously.**
- o **Assess and monitor the impacts of the changes.**
- o **Collect the knowledge built from these projects and share it with Park visitors and staff.** This knowledge is shared by offering programs to staff, students, and Park visitors that enable them to apply this knowledge in their own homes, communities and workplaces.