

# NATURESCAPING CONCEPTS & METHODS



NATURESCAPING

## POLLUTION PREVENTION

**Pesticides** – Use only as a last resort

**Fertilizers** – Compost is best, chemical fertilizers wash off to streams and cause eutrophication

**Detergents/Household Cleaners** – Use less toxic alternatives

**Pet Waste** – Pick up after dogs

## SOIL HEALTH

### Soil Basics

- **Soil** = minerals, water, air & organic material
- **Texture** = Proportion (%) of Sand, Silt, Clay size particles in a sample of soil.
- **Structure** = how soil particles are arranged

### Create Healthy Soil – add organic matter!

- Organic matter balances soil structure
- Living organisms help make existing minerals & nutrients more available to plants
- Compost helps retain water, suppress weeds, reduce erosion

### Protect Soil - Prevent Erosion

- Do project just a little bit at a time
- Add mulch to prevent erosion
- Plant slopes with mixture of species

## WATER CONSERVATION

### Plan Ahead:

Learn your soil type to determine which irrigation method, frequency & duration are best

### Be Water Wise:

- *Right Plant, Right Place* – Grouping Plants with similar water needs together
- *Timing* – Time watering to reduce evaporation. Morning is best – cool air temp & still air
- *Method* – Drip/Soaker Hoses deliver water directly to root system
- *Maintain for Efficiency* – Weed regularly, apply mulch to discourage weeds, check irrigation system for proper function
- Allow lawn to go dormant in summer, or remove your lawn!
- Plant drought tolerant/native plants

## PEST MANAGEMENT

**Philosophy:** Tolerate / Accept Imperfections!

### Prevention:

- Soil Preparation – encourage healthy plants
- Mulch – weed suppression & moisture retention
- Wise Plant Choices – right plant, right place

### ID the Problem:

- Identify the problem and learn its life cycle to determine best control method

### Controls:

- **Mechanical** – traps, hand picking, spray w/ hose
- **Biological** – beneficial insects, birds, bats
- **Chemical** – **Use only as last resort!**
  - Use least toxic possible
  - Read labels and follow directions carefully