

# Ocean Friendly Gardens Criteria



*An Ocean Friendly Garden (OFG) is a garden that applies CPR - Conservation, Permeability, and Retention© - to revive the health of our watersheds and oceans*

OFG Sign will be awarded to any garden that meets the following criteria. Eligible yards and gardens can be posted to the online OFG map: <https://oceanfriendlygardens.crowdmap.com>

Site Location/ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Conservation:** Reduce outdoor water demand & provide wildlife habitat.

### **Plants**

- Non-invasive and climate-appropriate, unless edible
- Grouped by water need
- At least 10% of the plants are natives

### **Turf Grass Areas**

- No turf grass, OR kept to a minimum AND
- Climate-appropriate (rainfall keeps it healthy), maintained organically, and consider inter-seeding with nitrogen-fixing plants such as clover

### **Irrigation**

- Hand watering OR
- High efficiency irrigation system (drip, rotator sprinkler)
- Automatic irrigation controller, if present, has a rain shut-off device

## **Permeability:** Convert hard surfaces into sponges

### **Healthy, Living Soil**

- 2 to 4 inches of natural, small-sized, mulch maintained on planted areas. Initial application can be up to 6 inches to hold in soil moisture and keep down weeds.
- No commercial fertilizers. If fertilizer is needed, use compost, compost tea, or worm castings.
- No use of pesticides, herbicides or fungicides
- No landscape fabric (weed cloth)

## **Hardscape**

\_\_\_ Walkways and patios direct rainwater runoff to landscaping. Add permeability with pavers or permeable materials *or* by creating gaps and filling in with gravel or plants. For even more impact, same technique can be applied to driveways.

## **Retention:** [Detain the rain that falls on your property](#)

### **Re-direct It**

\_\_\_ Rainwater from the roof is directed to landscaping or a permeable area OR

\_\_\_ To rain tanks that overflow into permeable areas if that is not possible

### **Soak It Up**

\_\_\_ Use simple contours such as bio-swales, dry creeks, and basins

\_\_\_ Use of dry wells or similar features if rainfall volume and space constrain your yard

**OFG Map** \_\_\_ OK to post the garden \_\_\_\_\_ Sq. Ft. roof area \_\_\_\_\_ Sq. Ft. garden area

For list of additional OFG best practices, go to [surfrider.org/ofg](http://surfrider.org/ofg)