



The Water Conservation Garden

12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West

El Cajon, CA 92019

619.660.0614

www.thegarden.org

The Water Conservation Garden Remains OPEN with Modifications for the Community During Time of Need

The Water Conservation Garden will remain open for walking, hiking, holiday lights and retail shopping with some modifications. Under California health guidelines The Water Conservation Garden and our Garden Gift Shop are permitted to stay open under "Outdoor Recreation" and "Retail" classifications.

The Water Conservation Garden is committed to the health and safety of our visitors, members, volunteers, docents, staff and general community. In accordance with the new regional mandates, the following changes will take place:

- Evening hours will be reduced to 8pm from 9pm on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Only outdoor fitness classes (e.g. yoga, nature therapy) will remain onsite. Additional classes on art, sustainability and gardening will be offered online.
- Office/Administrative work will be conducted remotely with the exception of critical infrastructure needed onsite for operation.
- Docents must remain at least 6 feet apart and wear a mask. Volunteer groups will be limited to 3 or less working in the same vicinity and must be separated by a minimum of 6 feet.
- The Garden Gift Shop will stay at 20% capacity and offer items available for purchase outside.
- The Children's Trail Sandbox will be closed.
- All indoor spaces will be closed, except for the Garden Gift Shop and restrooms.

For questions regarding hours and admissions, please contact info@thegarden.org or 619-660-0614 x 10. For more information, visit our website: www.thegarden.org.

ABOUT THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN

The mission of The Water Conservation Garden is to inspire positive change in the living environment through the conservation of water and other natural resources. Our garden has nearly six acres of displays that

showcase water conservation through a series of beautiful themed and educational exhibits. The Water Conservation Garden is proud to serve San Diego County residents of all ages, including many underprivileged children who have limited exposure to nature. The Water Conservation Garden provides a safe, natural environment where children and adults can explore and discover amazing plants and animals. Hands-on exhibits enhance the visitor experience and foster a direct connection to their environment. These tangible educational experiences help create informed and engaged children and adults. Just last year, The Water Conservation Garden and its Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program educated more than 73,000 children and adults.

BACKGROUND & HISTORY

- The Helix and Otay Water Districts in conjunction with Cuyamaca College conceived the idea of The Water Conservation Garden as a response to the drought in the early 1990's.
- In May 1999, The Water Conservation Garden opened with a 4.5 acre plot on the Cuyamaca College campus. Thanks to additional land leased by the college, The Water Conservation Garden has grown to nearly 6 acres.
- JPA members who consist of the Water Conservation Authority are: Helix Water District, Otay Water District, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, San Diego Water Authority, Sweetwater Authority and City of San Diego.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Nationally known for leadership in water conservation, The Water Conservation Garden has won recognition from the American Public Gardens Association as one of the eight top gardens in the United States for its community education programs.
- In 2013, The Water Conservation Garden's nationally recognized Ms. Smarty-Plants™ education program won the Governor of California's Environmental Leadership Award.
- In 2019, The Water Conservation Garden was a recipient of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Award for the Making a Difference category
- Last year, The Water Conservation Garden empowered 73,000 children and adults through educational exhibits and its signature Ms. Smarty-Plants™ program.

PHOTOS & VIDEOS

- Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/145960224@N02/albums/72157713978074318>
- The Water Conservation Garden (3 minutes): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGeTFDYznm>
- The Water Conservation Garden (30 seconds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RxnZVwzPBk>