Our OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDENS at work

Six months and six gardens later, it's time to revisit our neighborhood Ocean Friendly Gardens! Many varieties of protea, manzanitas and aloes are in bloom during these winter months and an abundance of precipitation has put the gardens to work capturing and reducing runoff and filtering pollutants before they enter our coastal waters. Have a look and stay tuned for more Ocean Friendly Gardens in the coming months!

If you have a garden you would like featured, check out the Ocean Friendly Gardens criteria list at https://oceanfriendlygardens.org, then contact Roberts Nitsch at robert@robertsiedenidesign.com. For more info about the OFG program, contact sfg@sdsu.edu.

The Harbors 210-gallon tank is filled to capacity after recent rains. The water, which is directed to the storm drain, is captured for slow release into this India Drive Ocean Friendly Garden.

102 India Drive is in full bloom in this photo taken in early February. Drought tolerant bush clover, succulents and rosemary give a lush look that holds their durability.

With no roof gutters or drains directing water to the street, winter rains are allowed to slowly make their way through the rolling contours of this Murray's garden on El Dorado. Beautiful blooms and textures take center stage when a lawn once was.

Healthy, biologically active soil allows water to infiltrate easily (use run-off) and yields happy planks and happy people to the winter's India Drive Ocean Friendly Garden. Stays of composting, matching and conscientious stewardship are paying off.

Above: A 4-inch curb cut allows hundreds of gallons of water to be filtered through the adjacent planter bypassing an extra drain that once took water from a downslope directly to the storm drains at the Garfield's India Drive OFG.

Left: The last drops of water from a recent winter storm trickle into the garden below. A net of these drains along the second story facing at India Drive's newest Ocean Friendly Garden allow hundreds of gallons of stormwater to be filtered through the soil reducing the amount of pollutants that accumulate on the deck above then entering the ocean through the storm drains.

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