



Every day poses new challenges
to our ocean, waves and beaches.

1,200

Gallons of polluted runoff can be generated from just one inch of rain falling on the roof of an average sized home.

20,000+

beach closures and advisories in the U.S. annually.

900 Billion

Gallons of untreated sewage spill into U.S. waters due to poor infrastructure every year.

THE GOOD NEWS

The solutions to prevent polluted runoff from contaminating our coastal waterways and ocean are easy to implement using Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Gardens program. Our program educates on how simple changes to landscapes will not only get the attention of your neighbors, but help capture water to prevent runoff flowing to waterways and ultimately to our ocean.



SURFRIDER
FOUNDATION.



**OCEAN
FRIENDLY**
GARDENS



Photo by Phil Schlieder

Convert your garden today and help keep our ocean clean.

surfrider.org



Ocean Friendly Gardens

The Surfrider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Gardens program is a volunteer-run landscape education, hands-on training and advocacy program, providing valuable information to property owners, landscape professionals and government agencies on how landscapes and hardscapes can be modified to prevent water pollution.

Surfrider Foundation chapters work with landscape professionals to incorporate the program's principles into their business practices. Chapters also engage with local governments and water agencies to support Ocean Friendly Gardens-oriented policy changes for existing and new development.



KEEP RUNOFF CONTAINED

Runoff degrades the water quality and diminishes our enjoyment of the ocean. Whenever water flows over our yards, streets and urban areas, it picks up lawn chemicals, fertilizer, animal waste, oil and other contaminants and typically flows untreated into local waterways and eventually the ocean. In older cities with combined stormwater and sewer systems, even small rainstorms can overwhelm the system, causing untreated sewage to flow to the ocean. Runoff can also cause flooding. While runoff is greatest during rainstorms, it can occur all year round as a result of improper irrigation, washing cars and hosing down driveways.

CONSERVATION, PERMEABILITY, RETENTION

Our volunteers help local communities create Ocean Friendly Gardens through the principles of CPR: Conservation of water, energy and wildlife habitat with native or climate-appropriate plants; Permeability by creating healthy, living soil and spaces in hard surfaces to sponge up water and filter out pollution; and Retention of rainwater in the landscape and to recharge groundwater.

These principles apply to every watershed, or an area of land in which all the water that runs off of it or under it goes to the same place. You can think of your home as a mini-watershed to apply CPR. Streets can be turned into "green streets" by techniques such as cutting the curbs and redirecting runoff to be absorbed in planter strips. Even our farms can be designed to be ocean friendly. Ocean Friendly Gardens also help reduce climate change because plants and soil both absorb carbon from the carbon dioxide in the air.

The Ocean Friendly Gardens program has prevented over 15 million gallons of polluted runoff from reaching our waterways and ocean.