

City of Mountain View Green Garden Showcase

1836 Montecito Avenue



May 2011 - Newly installed plantings. (Google Maps Street View)



June 2013 - A maturing garden.

Goodbye Grass

When David Woods first moved to 1836 Montecito Avenue the front yard consisted mostly of turf grass. With little desire to maintain the thirsty lawn, David reluctantly purchased a lawn mower while he searched for an alternate plan for his yard. After learning how easy it is to replace a lawn using sheet mulching, he got to work transforming his front yard to a low-water-use and low-maintenance garden. To keep costs down David applied for a rebate from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, used free scrap cardboard, and picked up free mulch from the Sunnyvale SMaRT Station.

In addition to replacing his lawn David converted the existing spray irrigation system to a drip system by adapting two sprinkler heads for drip piping and capping the remaining sprinklers.

An Evolving Design

While some homeowners rely on professionals to create a landscape design, David selected and installed low-water-use plants on his own. He chose tall grasses and manzanita for their beauty, and yarrow to attract butterflies. Lavender and rosemary add pleasant scents to the garden air and can be harvested for cooking or decoration. A plum tree, which David requested from the City of Mountain View Parks Division, provides shade for his garden and serves as a focal point.



As the plants mature David adjusts their placement, moving plants from one spot to another and creating an ever-changing and dynamic landscape.

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Garden Therapy

David's new garden provides ample opportunity for him to engage in yard work, which he enjoys and finds relaxing. He also notes that gardening is a great way to stay physically active, helping him to reach and exceed the recommended 10,000 steps per day, as measured on his pedometer.



Future Plans

The house at 1836 Montecito Avenue is an older home built on a slab foundation. The plantings and low-volume drip irrigation help prevent water from flowing to the house foundation and reducing its integrity. In the future David would like to make additional changes to help keep the foundation dry, such as reducing the impervious driveway surface area and installing a shared rain catchment/storage system in cooperation with his neighbor.

