

The Threats



One inch of rain falling on the roof of a single family home can generate over 1,200 gallons of runoff.



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.



CONVERT YOUR GARDEN TODAY AND HELP KEEP OUR OCEAN CLEAN

We stand where the land meets the sea, with one foot in the sand and the other in the water. Learn more and join our growing network today.

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OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDENS

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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.



The Ocean Friendly Gardens program has prevented over 13 million gallons of polluted runoff from reaching our waterways and ocean.

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN, CLEAN OCEAN



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.



To learn more about how to make your yard ocean friendly, please visit surfrider.org.