



City of Seal Beach

City Hall Courtyard Beautification Project



Summary

The Courtyard Beautification Project consists of the fountain waterwise demonstration garden and the pollinator garden. The project was made possible by the City of Seal Beach Staff Engagement Team (SET) and a Community Partnership Program grant from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Background

The City of Seal Beach Staff Engagement Team (SET) took on the beautification of the City Hall Courtyard at the direction of City Manager Jill R. Ingram in the summer of 2023. SET is a voluntary club run by and for city staff. The goals of SET are: 1. Boost Staff Morale; 2. Promote Health and Wellness; 3. Develop Inter/Intra-Departmental Relations; 4. Get Involved with the Seal Beach Community; and 5. Encourage Professional Development.

The courtyard fountain was nonfunctional and did not run any water. It became run down and in need of repair. When determining what to do with the fountain, SET decided it was an excellent opportunity to create a beautiful and educational piece for our community while providing a fun volunteer opportunity for our staff.

SET submitted a Community Partnership Program Grant application for \$3,000 to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in July 2023 and received approval in September 2023.

SET focused on using waterwise and native plants. In order to accommodate optimal rooting time for the plants, SET began the project in February 2024. The City's Public Works Department completed significant portions of the project, and the project could not be completed without the hard work and expertise of Joe Talarico, Maintenance Services Supervisor/City Arborist and the Public Works crew.

In March 2024, SET hosted a volunteer planting day to complete the waterwise fountain garden and pollinator garden. The fountain structure remained, and the fountain rocks were spread around different areas throughout the courtyard to offer a cohesive look. A pollinator garden was constructed in a previously unused grass area of the courtyard. Because children often visit the area to look at the turtles in the pond, we left a lawn area to play in and added the pollinator garden in the unused lawn area. We partnered with the Mary Wilson branch of the County of Orange Libraries to encourage children to check out books related to sustainability, pollinators, and gardening. Signage was added to inform those passing by about the importance of water conservation and pollinators.

A small ribbon cutting ceremony was held on March 19, 2024, the first day of spring. Ultimately, we hope this will be an eye-catching piece in our courtyard that is not only beautiful but also educational to spread awareness about water conservation. We know knowledge is power and hope that upon seeing our garden our residents, visitors, and staff are inspired to consider planting a climate-appropriate garden that will help us all in our efforts of saving water.



Waterwise Programs for Residents

An Orange County lifestyle includes using water wisely every day. From educational classes to practical gardening tips, rebates on water-saving devices, and more, there are a variety of programs and resources available through the Municipal Water District of Orange County to help you embrace a water-smart lifestyle. [You can learn more at by clicking here.](#)

Pollinator Garden

Pollinators like honeybees, butterflies, birds, and bats are hard at work providing important but often unnoticed services to help plants grow and keep our ecosystems healthy. Pollinators face many challenges in the modern world. Habitat loss, disease, parasites, and environmental contaminants have all contributed to the decline of many species of pollinators. We can help our pollinators by planting native plants and creating habitats for them, just like our pollinator garden here.

**Plants Used in the Courtyard Beautification Project
Fountain Waterwise Demonstration Garden**



Elymus Condensatus 'Canyon Prince'



Festuca Rubra 'Patrick's Point'



Epilobium 'La Gloria'



Melampodium Leucanthum 'Black Foot Daisy'



Salvia Chamaedryoides 'Germander Sage'



Eschscholzia Caespitosa 'Tufted Poppy'

Plants Used in the Courtyard Beautification Project Fountain Waterwise Demonstration Garden (Cont.)



Monardella viminea 'San Diego Willowy Mint'

Plants Used in the Courtyard Beautification Project Pollinator Garden



Solanum xanti 'Purple Nightshade'



Arctostaphylos 'Lester Rowntree'



Morella (Myrica) californica 'Pacific Wax Myrtle'



Condea emoryi 'Cloud Burst'

Plants Used in the Courtyard Beautification Project Pollinator Garden (Cont.)



Erigeron 'Wayne Roderick'



Mimulus Bifidus White



Eschscholzia Maritima 'Coastal California Poppy'



Monardella Villosa 'Coyote Mint'



Ceanothus 'Snow Flurry'



Salvia Greggii 'Annie'

**Plants Used in the Courtyard Beautification Project
Pollinator Garden (Cont.)**



Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'



Asclepias Syriaca 'Milkweed'



Salvia Apiana 'White Sage'



Iris 'Pacific Coast Hybrids'

**Staff Engagement Team Planting Day:
March 13, 2024**



**Staff Engagement Team Planting Day:
March 13, 2024 (Cont.)**



Thank you for your interest in the City Hall Courtyard Beautification Project. If you have additional questions, please email: AskCityHall@sealbeachca.gov.