**Enjoy the Doe Park Landscape**

The Monterey Bay Peninsula is a beautiful and distinctive environment. Its summer-dry Mediterranean climate provides mild temperatures but also limited rainfall. Average annual rainfall is just 19 inches per year, occurring primarily between November and April. This poses a challenge due to the limited fresh water supply and the need for landscape irrigation.

The Parks at Monterey Bay is committed to the environment and to the conservation of water along California’s Central Coast. In order to meet the local water district’s strict landscape design and water conservation requirements, we have worked with Marina Coast Water District to establish a landscaping plan that reduces our overall water consumption in Doe Park. Water consumption was reduced by using drought tolerant plants, installing water efficient irrigation systems, and limiting turf to just 25 percent of the landscape.

The landscape design at Doe Park follows the principles of “Smart Landscaping”. Smart Landscaping is the conservation of resources through creative and appropriate landscape design and management. As opposed to Xeriscape (pronounced ZEER-eh-scape, not ZERO-scape) which focused primarily on reducing water consumption, Smart Landscaping utilizes a more broad approach aimed at reducing the consumption of all resources including irrigation water, labor, materials (fuel, pesticides and fertilizer) and the transportation and disposal of green waste (clippings and prunings). Key fundamentals of Smart Landscaping include:

1. Installing water efficient irrigation systems;
2. Utilizing low water use plants;
3. Limiting turf to useable areas; and,
4. Applying water conserving mulch.

*Anna's Hummingbird on a Pink Flowering Current*

*Water efficient model of a traditional above ground sprinkler.*
1. Water Efficient Irrigation Systems

The irrigation systems at Doe Park are automatically controlled and connected to on-site weather stations that adjust irrigation schedules according to actual weather conditions and shut off the system after a significant rainfall. Irrigation water is applied by water efficient types of traditional above ground sprinklers to all lawns and some shrub areas.

However, most of Doe Park is irrigated with below ground drip irrigation tubing. When the drip irrigation is operating, you may see circular wet spots, or even small puddles on the ground. This is normal and the wet spots will dissipate when the system shuts off and the water spreads more evenly through the soil.

The drip tubing is made of soft, thin plastic that is placed just 3-inches deep in the ground and spaced 18 inches apart. Residents must take precautions to prevent disturbing or damaging the drip tubing and other irrigation equipment. Please DO NOT:

- Allow children or pets to dig in the landscape beds.
- Dig in the soil to garden or install plants or flowers.
- Drive stakes, signs, decorations or other objects in the soil as they may puncture the drip irrigation tubing.
- Open the plastic boxes or disturb the valves and equipment that are in the boxes.
- Open irrigation controller or pump boxes.
- Disturb the weather stations mounted on wooden poles.
The irrigation systems are being maintained by a professional landscape maintenance company. The maintenance company will be inspecting and observing the irrigation system on a regular basis. However, if you should see or hear running water or a water geyser in the landscape, please contact us at (888) 701-6145 to report the irrigation problem. This will help Pinnacle conserve water and minimize the potential for damage to personal or government property.

2. Low Water Use Plants

Doe Park is landscaped with low water-use Mediterranean and California-native plants. The plants were specifically selected to be drought tolerant, require little fertilizer or maintenance, and provide year-round green color and flower interest. Shrubs will be allowed to grow more naturally and will not be sheared. The most commonly used plants include pink-flowering current, bush anemone and Manzanita.

The open space and slope areas behind buildings have been planted with a mix of native grasses and flowers, some from containers, some in organic “biotrays” and most by hydroseed mix. These areas are designed to mature into a native “meadow” and will be mowed only infrequently. They are irrigated with temporary sprinkler systems to help establish the plants until they can grow on their own. The temporary irrigation will be removed in a year or two.

Because both your front and side yards do not have turf areas and are not designed for heavy foot traffic or vehicle parking, we ask that you limit your household activities to the back yard and the paved/finished common areas. We have a playground within walking distance of every home for your enjoyment. Please do not add any flowers, plants, fertilizer, or compost to your property. Our landscape provider will be following detailed instructions supplied by the landscape architect.
3. Limiting Turf to Useable Areas

While turf at Doe Park has been limited to less than 25 percent of the neighborhood, the turf is generally located at playgrounds and “pocket parks” that are more useable and within easy walking distance of homes. Once established, lawns will be managed with the least possible water, fertilizer and mowing that will still allow active use of the lawns. Because we are conserving resources, the lawns may not be a perfect verdant green that some may expect.

4. Applying Water Conserving Mulch

Organic mulches reduce water evaporation from the soil, keep the soil cooler and discourage the growth of weeds. Please help conserve resources by not allowing children or pets to remove or scatter the mulch out of planting areas. By following these simple rules, you are helping us to create and to maintain a beautiful community that not only looks great, but ensures that we continue to do the right thing for the environment. We are also creating a habitat for many local species such as butterflies and hummingbirds. Deviation from the policies could be harmful to these creatures.

In summary:

- Please DO NOT walk or park on unpaved/unfinished parts of your front and side yards.
- Please DO NOT dig, garden or puncture the soil with any type of object in this area.
- Please DO NOT allow children or pets to dig in the landscape.
- Please DO NOT fertilize, compost or water the plants.
- Please DO NOT allow children or pets to remove or scatter the organic mulch.
- PLEASE notify Pinnacle of irrigation problems.