



Lenten Rose

Using native plants

Native plants are naturally suited to our climate and drought conditions. Visit the xeriscaped demonstration garden or local nurseries for ideas, inspiration, and a selection of plants, trees, shrubs and groundcovers that are suitable in our climate.

Water advisories

The RDCK will periodically issue Water Quality Advisories or Boil Water Notices for users on RDCK systems. These notifications are issued if there is high turbidity or serious health risk associated with tap water.

Sign up for notifications by text message or phone call by calling 1-833-223-2662 or email your name and contact information to WaterFinance@rdck.bc.ca

Learn more

rdck.ca/water

Contact us

Water emergencies (24/7):
250-352-1504

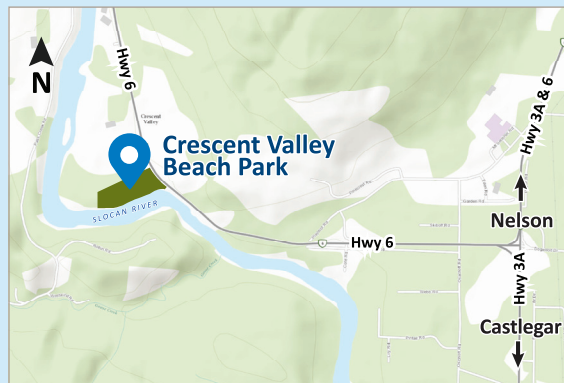
General enquiries:
1-800-268-7325 ext 8171 or 250-352-8171
watercontact@rdck.bc.ca



WaterSmart Strategies

Need some inspiration?

Visit the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden at Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park, 1271 Highway 6 for water-saving ideas, and to see examples of native, fescue and wildflower planted gardens.



Planting Drought Resistant Landscapes



rdck.ca/water

Why WaterSmart?

British Columbia has a seemingly abundant supply of water: from mountain snow packs it flows down our rivers, and into our lakes and eventually the ocean. In BC, we use about 490 litres average per person per day, and the Canadian average is 330 litres per person per day (Province of BC, Living Water Smart). The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and Columbia Basin Trust, together with member municipalities, supports and facilitates water conservation and source protection efforts to help assure the availability of clean water for human and ecological needs.



Mountain Ash



Lupines



Bear Berry

Seven steps to WaterSmart landscapes

- 1 Planning and design**
Drought resistant landscapes use less water and fertilizer, and look great! Good planning and design help bring your vision and needs to reality. Consider your property, sun and shade areas, how you use your property (such as children's play area or pets), privacy, and budget. Draw a sketch of your yard and create planting zones based on what the conditions are and what you would like to see.
- 2 Prepare your soil**
Our local soil is naturally sandy and silty. Adding organic matter such as compost or manure will increase the water holding capacity of your soil and feed your plants naturally.
- 3 WaterSmart lawns**
Green lawns are water intensive. Dedicating less space to lawns is an excellent step to using less water. When planning lawns, consider traditional grass choices with micro-clover or tall fescue. See the WaterSmart Lawn Care and Lawn Alternatives brochure for ideas.

Planting a landscape that works with nature

Our region experiences hot and dry summers, with water restrictions becoming more common. Consider landscape plantings that work with these conditions. Native and drought tolerant species look great and need far less help from us.

Xeriscaping is the practice of using native and drought-tolerant plants. Homeowners, landscapers and local governments are embracing xeriscaping principles of using easy care and hardy plants that use less water and withstand our climate.

- 4 Choosing the right plants**
There are many choices for home gardeners looking to use less water and plant drought-resistant landscapes. Native plants are an excellent choice as they are naturally suited to our climate and seasonal drought. Local nurseries are a good first step to finding the right plants for your landscape plan.
- 5 Mulch mulch mulch**
Help keep moisture in the soil with mulch. Top-dress garden areas with organic options such as straw, well-rotted manure, compost, tree mulch, or coconut husk. Mulching also discourages weeds. Lighter coloured mulch such as straw keeps plants cooler: avoid rocks as they warm up in the sun and increase water evaporation.

- 6 Water it right**
Plan how you will water your yard and gardens. Planted 'zones' group landscape needs according to water needs. In-ground and drip irrigation systems require installation. Different sprinkler types are designed for different needs, such as irregular shaped areas. See Practical information for better outdoor irrigation for more information on irrigation and watering options.
- 7 Maintenance**
WaterSmart landscapes typically require less maintenance than traditional lawns and flower beds. Take time to inspect plants, prune plants to keep them healthy and a manageable size, pull weeds before they go to seed, and top-dress with organic mulch.

Water conservation stages

The RDCK issues notifications on water and water use restrictions in RDCK water systems, usually during dry summer months in order to conserve water reserves. Restrictions are described from Stage 1 to Stage 4 and can limit or restrict lawn and garden watering.

Check out these other WaterSmart brochures:

- Alternatives to Thirsty Lawns
- Better Outdoor Irrigation
- Water Conservation Stages