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## Hayward Area Recreation and Park District FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **H.A.R.D.'s District Office Landscape is Now Drought Tolerant** *Collaboration and volunteerism with many partners provides transformation*

**Hayward, CA** (May 11, 2016) — The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.) Board of Director's and Staff are pleased to announce the District's on-going efforts towards water conservation through the recent landscape redesign of its main office.

The District Office underwent a dramatic makeover on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> with the assistance of many including District Staff, volunteers and collaborative agencies including RRM Design Group – landscape design creation; City of Hayward – lawn conversion rebate program; StopWaste.org – supplies; and The Church of Latter Day Saints Just Serve/Helping Hands Volunteer Program which helps improve communities where they live.

The project design, donated by RRM Senior Landscape Design Architect Gina Chavez, consisted of converting the water-dependent lawns to a predominantly Bay Friendly, California native, drought tolerant, garden landscape. The benefits of the new native landscape include: water reduction, low maintenance, reduced pesticide use, habitat for native wildlife and support of the local ecosystem. The landscape redesign was the result of suggestions submitted by staff to explore various ways to enhance efforts toward water conservation in the District.

With shovel in hand, Board President Minane Jameson stated, "The District is appreciative of the collaborative efforts from all who helped make the project come to fruition. Everyone working together in partnership to help meet sustainable goals. The new landscape is a true example of the ways we can all do our part no matter how small or big, it all makes a difference."

For information about drought tolerant programs and rebates, visit [stopwaste.org](http://stopwaste.org) or City of Hayward's Water Conservation Rebates at [hayward-ca.gov](http://hayward-ca.gov)

For information about the District's Volunteer Program, please call (510) 670-7280, email [volunteer@haywardrec.org](mailto:volunteer@haywardrec.org) or visit [HaywardRec.org/volunteer](http://HaywardRec.org/volunteer)

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