# ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING



### PATRICK PICARD - PRESIDENT

**EQUINOX LANDSCAPE** Equinox Landscape is a leader in ecological landscaping, utilizing environmentally-sound practices to design, build, and maintain award-winning gardens throughout Sonoma, Marin, and Napa counties. We create and maintain landscapes using sustainable design principles, permaculture techniques, and organic gardening methods.

#### What is Ecological Landscaping?

Ecological landscaping takes a holistic approach to garden design, installation, and maintenance. Rainwater is kept on the land to soak directly into the soil, or be captured in ponds, swales, and tanks. Soil is made fertile using sheet mulching and compost tea. Plants are climate-appropriate and include edibles. Garden waste is composted or mulched. Pathways and patios are permeable. Habitat is created to attract wildlife.

## Does an Ecological Garden look different?

Ecological gardens literally hum with life. They have lush layers of flowering and fruiting trees and shrubs that create a tapestry of color and texture. There is an abundance of wildlife: birds, butterflies, bees, frogs, ladybugs, and other beneficial insects. Water gently flows throughout the property via swales, collecting into ponds. The soil is fertile, soft, and spongy, blanketed with a thick layer of recycled mulch.



### My garden is organic, isn't that good enough?

Any practice that reduces the input of harmful chemicals into our environment is a good thing. Equinox takes it one step further. We use Permaculture principles in all facets of our work to mimic natural ecosystems that are not only sustainable, but regenerative.

# I like the idea of Native Gardens and know they use less water, but don't they look dry?

While many people believe all California native plants are dry, a well-designed, native garden can be lush and blooming in most seasons. With plants such

as California
Lilac, Fuchsia,
Buckwheat,
Poppy, Pink
Flowering
Currant, Western
Redbud, and
Manzanita,
Sonoma County
has some of the
most beautiful
plants in the
world!





