

BRIDGET'S STORY

Spring 2026

A 'GROUNDING AND SOUL-NOURISHING' LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION

When Bridget Barron first moved to Marin County, she was drawn not just to its natural beauty, but also to the idea of living as part of the greater ecosystem.

So, starting in the fall of 2025, and with help from Marin Water's Cash for Grass program, Bridget shifted her San Anselmo home's outdoor aesthetic into a natural oasis for local fauna – and her family.

The popular program provides a cash rebate to Marin Water customers like Bridget, who remove all or portions of their lawns. The incentive ranges from \$2.18 to \$3.68 per square foot removed, with the higher amount reserved for customers who follow best practices to optimize long-term water savings. Pre-approval and a project application are required.

Bridget said the process was easy, and she even completed extra work to disconnect downspouts so they drain into rain gardens, qualifying her project for an additional \$1 per square foot from Marin Water. That extra incentive is funded through a partnership with the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, which supports projects like this because of rain gardens' ability to reduce polluted runoff. When installed and maintained correctly, rain gardens are designed to drain within 24-48 hours, helping prevent mosquito breeding and ensuring the garden can handle subsequent rainfalls.

"It was not my original intention to disconnect every single downspout," said

Bridget. "But, already seeing it in action – it's so much more alive."

Bridget estimates that up to 95% of her new plantings are native species, including coyote mint, hummingbird sage and manzanita. Her favorite just might be the young coast live oak that will eventually anchor the front yard as it grows to maturity.

Today, she says it's exciting to watch the yard become more alive; to see plants growing and thriving already as part of an overarching vision of wanting to live in connection with nature. Her landscape, now serving as a callback to her own motivations for choosing Marin.

"We also wanted it to be beautiful in its whole – a calm, grounding and soul-nourishing place to spend time," she said. "We knew that if we got all of this right, it would be beautiful."



Bridget examines a newly sprouted plant on the edge of one of her home's rain gardens.



Over 90% of new plantings are native and add resiliency to the landscape.

Find a Landscape Professional

Find local landscape professionals familiar with our Cash for Grass program to assist with project planning, design or installation.
marinwater.org/LandscapeProfessionals.

Browse WaterSmart Plants

Find myriad ways to transform your landscape with the WaterSmart Plant Picker. Browse by plant type, sun and habitat needs, and more.
savingwaterpartnership.org/programs-rebates/plant-picker.

GARDEN WALKS PROGRAM BRINGS EXPERTISE TO YOUR DOORSTEP



With growing season starting, it's a great time to get some expert eyes on your outdoor landscaping. Thanks to a UC Master Gardeners partnership with Marin Water, you can do that for free through the Marin Friendly Garden Walks program.

These on-site visits can help homeowners achieve their outdoor landscaping goals – with an eye toward water efficiency and preserving Marin's most precious natural resource. Take advantage of

free, high-quality expert feedback on your home's garden or landscaping by visiting ucanr.edu/site/uc-marin-master-gardeners/garden-walks.

Looking to branch out?

TRY OUR NEW CLIMATE FORWARD TREE SELECTION TOOL

Whether planted in residential landscapes, enhancing businesses, or featured in parks or medians as public amenities, trees can lower temperatures, lift spirits and contribute to a healthier community.



Use Marin Water's Climate Forward Tree Selection Tool to find a tree that delivers these benefits, while using less water and thriving in Marin's Mediterranean climate. Explore the tool: marinwater.org/ClimateForwardTrees.

Bringing water to the classroom – and classrooms to their water source

Marin Water is committed to inspiring the next generation of water stewards. Our Classroom Programs help local students learn about the water cycle, Marin's local water supply, watershed ecology and the importance of conservation.

Designed for grades 3-5, these programs include in-class presentations and optional guided walks on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed, giving students a firsthand look at where their drinking water begins.

If you're an educator – or know one who may be interested – learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting marinwater.org/StudentPrograms.



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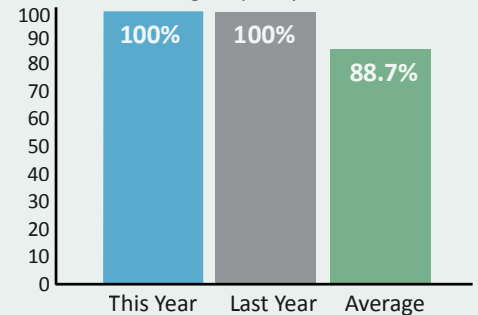
Marin Water

About Our Water Supply

About 75% of the District's water supply comes from local reservoirs located on Mt. Tamalpais and in west Marin. The following chart displays storage, usage and rainfall data as of Feb. 28, 2026. For real-time data, visit marinwater.org/WaterWatch.

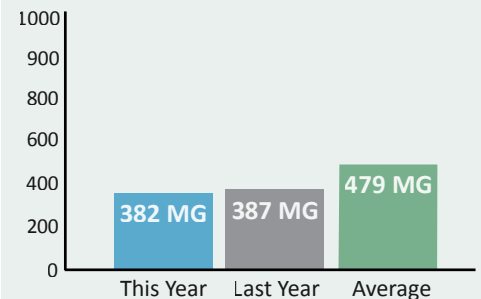
Reservoir Storage

% of total storage capacity as of 2/28/26



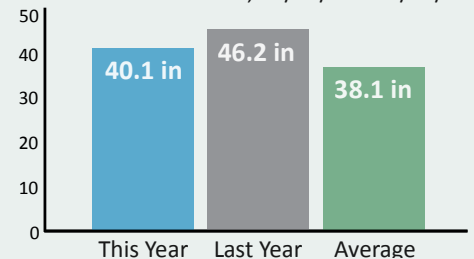
Water Usage

Total February water usage (MG = millions of gallons)



Rainfall Information

Total inches of rainfall, 10/01/24 to 2/28/26



OUR MISSION

Marin Water manages the lands, water, and facilities in our trust to provide reliable, high-quality water and adapt and sustain these precious resources for the future.

Board of Directors
Matthew Samson
Diana Maier
Ranjiv Khush
Jed Smith
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General Manager
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Board of Directors meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 5 p.m. Learn more at marinwater.org.