

Estate Landscape & Irrigation, Inc. was recently awarded the contract for a "Demonstration Garden" at the Truckee Donner Public Utility District (TDPUD) headquarters in Truckee. Estate Landscape and Irrigation expressed interest early on as the project was advertised for bid, and after participating in an extensive process by the TDPUD, was selected at the end of September.

Completion date was October 9. The Demonstration Garden is composed of small areas along Donner Pass Road and a large area at the west end of the TDPUD building at the intersection of Donner Pass Road and Donner Trail. Total size of all garden areas is 10,000 square feet or about a ¼ acre.

The TDPUD wanted a Demonstration Garden to show the public how the right plant choices, mulch treatments, and watering methods will create a beautiful garden while saving precious water. This coincides with the TDPUD action to phase in water metering for residential customers in the District. Plants choices included natives, drought tolerant species, and some ornamental varieties. The existing lawn was removed and three different areas were seeded with native bunch grasses. A decomposed granite pathway connects to a natural flagstone patio.
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One of the most unique features of the Demonstration Garden is the newly-installed irrigation system. All watering is by high efficiency drip or spray emitters. The watering schedule is determined through wireless technology sold under the product name, the SMART (tm) Controller. The water needs of planted areas, size, location, and other basic landscape details are programmed into the controller. The controller assimilates that data with site specific weather information to turn the system on and off as needed.

"Our planting in the fall will yield spectacular results for the public next spring," predicts Estate Landscape President Mark Osberg. "We are thrilled to be chosen as the landscape professional for the TDPUD job and consumers will be surprised to see what they can do with a water-saving garden. Whether you want to save water for economic reasons or environmental reasons, this garden has something for you!" The Truckee Donner PUD will be inviting the public to visit the garden next spring.

Estate Landscape and Irrigation, Inc. is a locally-owned and operated full service landscape firm. Estate Landscape and Irrigation was established in 1990 and has 25 employees. Estate Landscape and Irrigation was recognized for landscaping excellence on three different properties in the 2009 Tahoe Quarterly 6th Annual "Mountain Home Awards" Competition! Estate Landscape and Irrigation publishes a monthly electronic newsletter and promises a Lifetime Plant Guarantee.

For more information, contact Mark Osberg at Estate Landscape and Irrigation, Inc. at 530-546-2042 or visit Estate's website at www.estatelandscape.com. For TDPUD information, contact Steven Poncelet, Public Information Officer, at 530-587-3951 or visit the TDPUD website

www.tdpud.org