

SmartLandscape

The Challenge

The future of horticulture requires a bold new perspective to remain sustainable in the face of climate change, consumer demand for beautiful landscaping and declining young talent in the industry. Prolonged periods of drought continue to put a strain on limited water resources. While the latest irrigation technology has the potential to improve water efficiency, there is still more to learn about how to best implement this technology into water-conserving landscapes. There is great potential for reducing water waste while creating beautiful landscapes. As a hub for research, teaching and outreach, SmartLandscape will help bridge the knowledge gap and make this vision a reality.

The Vision

Horticultural professionals should have access to quality information and training to best navigate the industry challenges created by climate change, consumer preferences and regulations. Through research, we can advance our knowledge to continually improve our horticultural practices



to minimize our environmental impact while still creating beautiful landscapes. The horticultural industry is valuable to California's economy and training the next generation of leaders is important to keep it sustainable.

SmartLandscape will put state-of-the-art technology to the test by combining low water-use plants with the latest available irrigation technology, such as: smart irrigation controllers and nozzles, drip irrigation, thermal cameras, soil moisture sensors



and drones. This comprehensive horticultural innovation center will be an educational tool for all stakeholders focused on measuring and monitoring water use data and reducing urban landscape water waste. Students will be at the forefront of SmartLandscape—working alongside horticultural experts and faculty, students will gain valuable hands-on experience, preparing them to enter the horticulture industry as leaders in resource conservation and sustainable urban landscapes.

The Philanthropic Opportunity

- Provide support for outreach and undergraduate experiential learning opportunities
- Help train the next generation of horticultural professionals
- Create SmartLandscape programs and outreach activities to connect leading-edge horticultural information with new audiences
- Ensure faculty and staff have the resources they need to launch and organize teaching and research agendas for SmartLandscape