

# TRANSFORMING A BACKYARD HEAT ISLAND INTO A COOL OASIS

How one family tackled the problem  
of a concrete slab behind their  
rented home.





PROJECT FOR THE  
SIERRA CLUB  
CALIFORNIA WATER  
COMMITTEE WATER  
CONSERVATION  
WORKSHOP  
2022 - 2023

# Before



# Drip from A/C unit

- We alerted the landlord to a drip from a pipe attached to the air conditioning unit. The water was running down the side of the house.
- He hired workers to extend the pipe to a location closer to the backyard drain.
- This was the result. (Not the landlord's fault.)
- Now the water drips down this side of the house.
- The concrete slab below is too uneven for a collapsible rain barrel so we plan to build a platform to install a different type of rain barrel.
- The dripping only happens when the A/C is on.

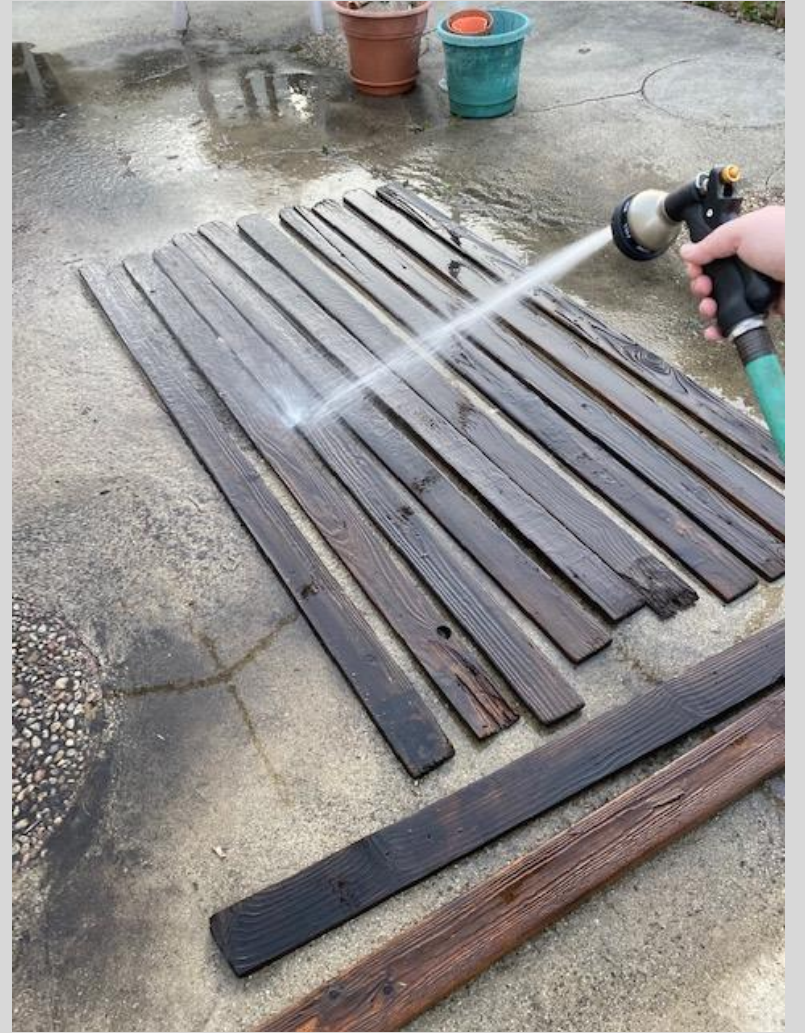


# Prep work: measuring, sorting and cleaning the space











# Rain barrels and first storm results





# Furniture cleaning



# Canopy has arrived



Full rain barrels and more rain expected



# Emergency rain storage



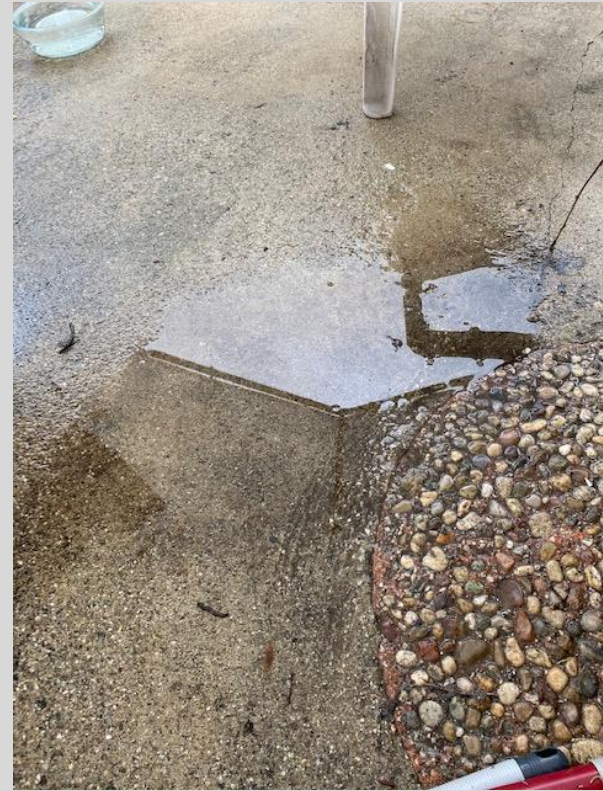








# Got mud?



# DIY sandbags



# Recycled plastic rugs



# Cat playpen to plant protection



# Almost finished









# Unveiling







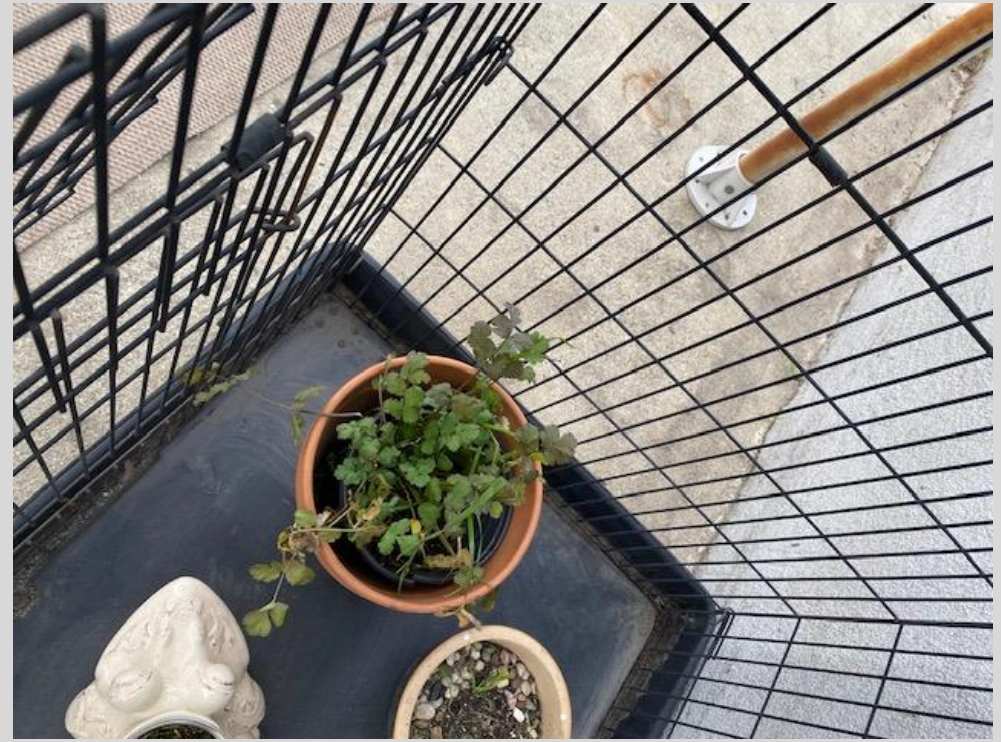
# Presentation Day













# New storm arrives



# Quick and easy storm transformation





THE END  
THANK YOU  
FOR WATCHING!

ANY  
QUESTIONS?





PLANTS USED IN THIS PROJECT SO FAR

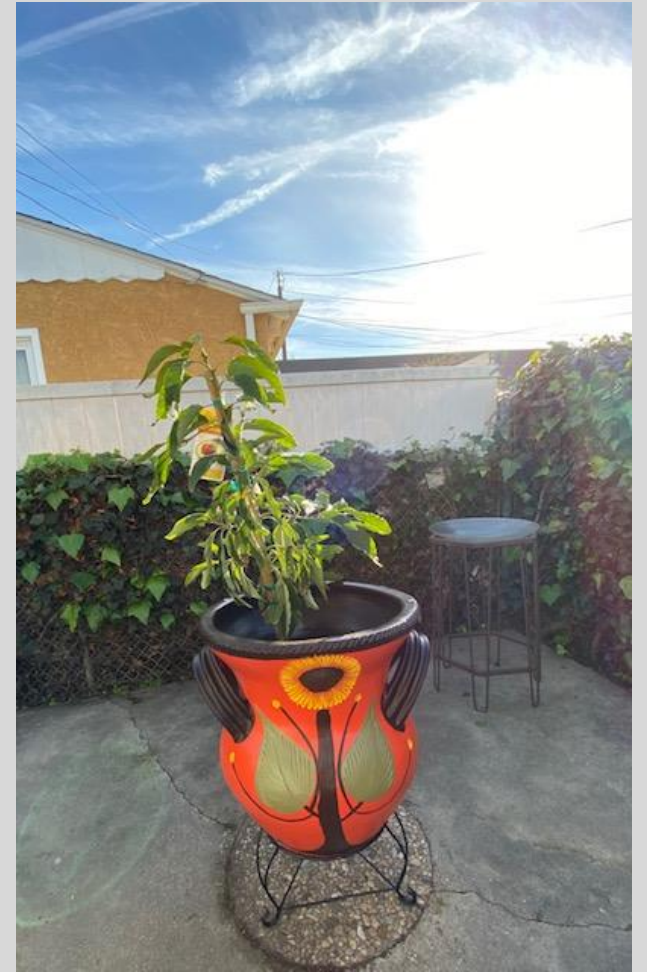
# Shade and fruit



Dwarf Banana



Boysenberry



Dwarf Avocado

# Kitchen garden\*



\*Small plants brought indoors temporarily due to cold weather conditions

# Kitchen garden\*



Cilantro

\*Small plants brought indoors temporarily due to cold weather conditions



# Decorative



Mixed succulents



Christmas cactus

Plenty of room for more plants and future gardening projects



# Raised flower and vegetable beds



Large pots will be repurposed as raised gardens by fitting them with protective wire caging to keep out feral cats, raccoons, opossums, skunks and other animals.