

Menlo Commons Water Savings Community Group

Near-Term Landscaping Recommendations

Input to Menlo Commons Board

July 7, 2022

Big Picture Recommendations

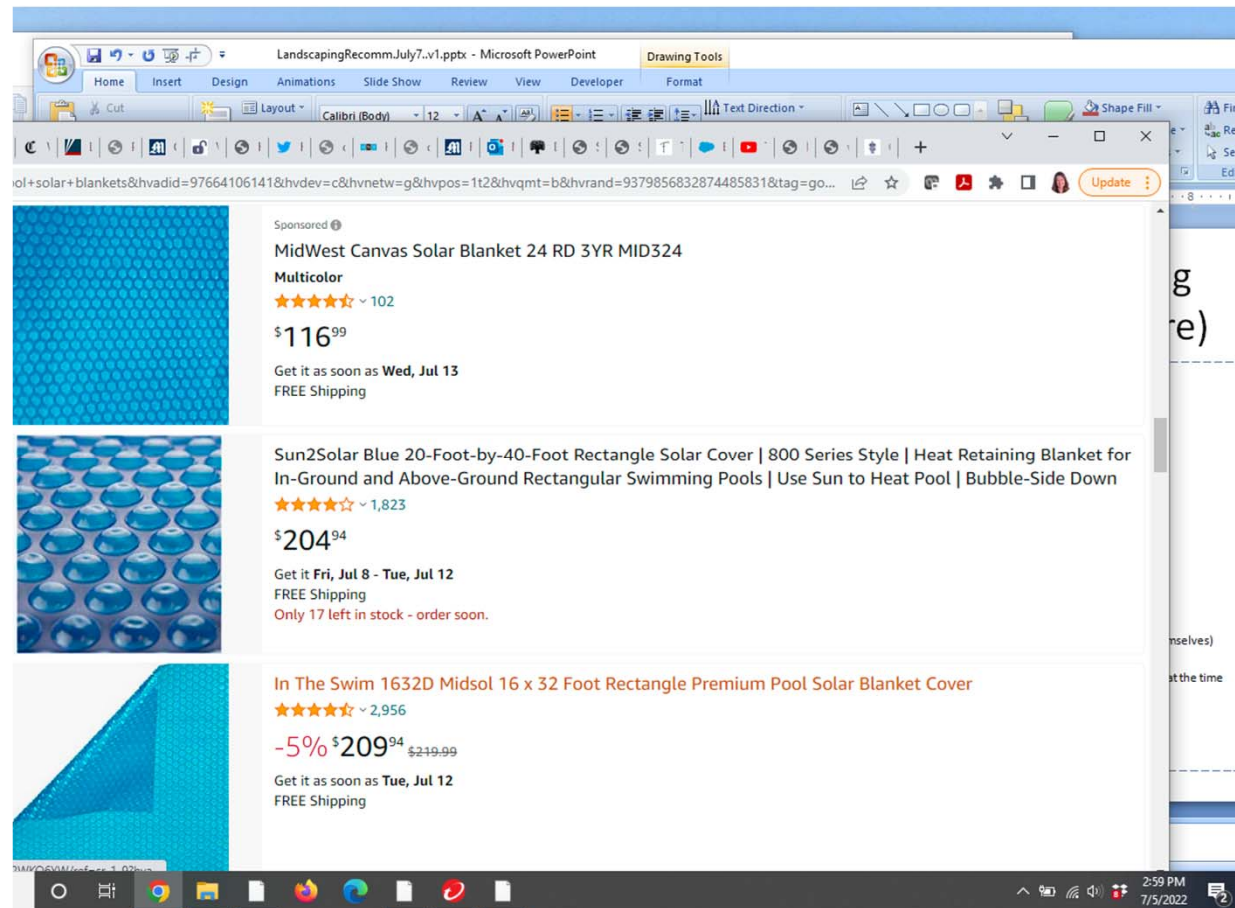
- **Continue to adapt to all state and local edicts:**
 - Current Menlo Park measures: 2x waterings/wk (even addresses are Wednesday, Sunday)
 - Menlo Park drought page: <https://beta.menlopark.org/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Utilities/Menlo-Park-Municipal-Water/Drought-update>
 - California : suggested 15% water savings goal (gallons) compared to 2019-2020 levels (get figures)
- **Measure Progress:**
 - Let's review total gallons of water per month (when available)
 - Excel table : Get figures for 2018 totals by mo, 2019 by mo, 2020, 2021, 2022 etc. (Eve)
- **Gray water:** Explore gray water access – sources in Redwood City (Gwen)/Healdsburg (John)
- **Additional Water Meters** – explore with water supplier the various options and costs (Eve)
- **Develop RFP** to Assess Cost & Opportunities of retaining a commercially
- -focused Landscape Architect to create both short term and long-term plan aimed at water reduction
 - Engage a commercial landscape architect to work with Menlo Commons
 - Develop Request for Proposal, Get short list of referrals and nominated names; review; etc.
 - Get short term water saving suggestions (assuming current architecture/plantings/look)
 - Create long term plan (3-5-7 year options) for Menlo Commons (lots of input and discussion first)
 - Allocate budget for this in 2022-2023 budget (up to \$50K placeholder until we get firm quotes)?
- **In Longer Term-Plan** : Explore better water capture options (water from rainfall; where it goes; how it is used)
- **In Longer Term-Plan:** Explore water storage options (tanks, cisterns, underground, hauling, etc.)

Specific Near-Term Landscaping Suggestions (current architecture)

- **Lawns in Courtyard: (Big Lawn, gazebo lawn, pool lawn)**
 - Continue watering 2x per week;
 - If we sacrifice in other areas (like ivy) , we'd like to water lawn 3x per week to keep lawns alive
 - Expect some major areas to wither (allow it to be resuscitated if water arrives next season)
- **Ivy:** Allow ivy to wither; save water by capping the specific sprinklers
- **Trees:** Review by professional arborist (yearly?) ; figure out specific plans for trees at risk
- **Tanbark:** yes, good idea to cover a few exposed earthy areas; will need to determine scope of coverage
- **Flowering Plants** (three by front entrance, 5 by Commons Room, Gazebo planters)
 - Hand water if needed; keep these alive
 - Gazebo flowers are on drip irrigation already
- **Flower Boxes** (outside resident windows):
 - These are dying; look poorly; input is to keep these alive and well
 - Rethink the minutes they are being watered – raise it a bit to improve situation?
 - Replant at typical intervals (currently quarterly)?
 - Fix/improve the drip system if possible (gets clogged)? Examine alternative forms/devices/configuration for box irrigation
 - Continue to have professionals tend to it (not ask residents to pull down their screens to water it themselves)
 - Consider alternative plants that require much less H2O in lieu of geraniums
- **Pool (water evaporation) :**
 - Background: A few years ago the professional electric covers were explored; and none were suitable at the time (large, cumbersome, potentially dangerous to residents)
 - Explore light weight solar blanket (light top cover) ; removed by Val each morning, or by a resident
 - Explore liquid solar blanket option (chemical) ; biodegradable

Pool covers – solar blankets option

- Cut to size
- Costs a few hundred dollars
- A few examples from Amazon here:



Pool evaporation – liquid film option

- New technique is liquid solar
- Disperses into thin film across pool
- Substance: (not clear)
- Biodegradable

Example on Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/Auqapill-AP72-SolarPill-4/dp/B0019BNWVI/ref=sr_1_7?ie=UTF8&qid=1459178060&sr=8-7&keywords=liquid+pool+covers



amazon.com/Auqapill-AP72-SolarPill-4/dp/B0019BNWVI/ref=sr_1_7?ie=UTF8&qid=1459178060&sr=8-7&keywords=liquid+pool+covers

AquaPill AP72 30,000 Gallon Solar Pill for Swimming Pool Heating
Brand: Auqapill
★★★★☆ 253 ratings

\$30³⁰
& FREE Returns

Get \$50 off instantly: Pay \$0.00 ~~\$50.30~~ upon approval for the Amazon Rewards Visa Card. No annual fee.

Available at a lower price from other sellers that may not offer free Prime shipping.

- Safe for all pools!
- Prevents pool water evaporation and heat loss by creating an invisible layer of non-toxic or biodegradable film.
- It can be placed a in skimmer basket, coats water to raise temperature.
- Environmentally-Safe

Customer ratings by feature

Easy to use	★★★★☆	3.4
Value for money	★★★☆☆	2.7
Comfort	★★★☆☆	2.5

[See all reviews](#)

New (7) from **\$29.97**

POOLWHALE Portable Pool Vacuum Jet Underwater Cleaner W/Brush,Bag,6 Section Pole of 56.5"(No Garden Hose Included),for Above Ground Pool,Spas,Ponds &...
\$33⁹⁹ prime

\$30³⁰
& FREE Returns

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