



Newport Beach Public Library's **Children's Sun & Sea Discovery Garden**

A garden created for children ages 3 to 7 years gives young visitors a place where they can stretch their minds as well as their legs

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In December of 2006, Newport Beach Public Library opened the Children's Sun & Sea Discovery Garden and play space at its Central branch. The library decided it needed more space for children and looked to the previously unused patio area situated next to the Children's Room.

Kids can explore the paths, sit and read on the low walls, find sea creatures in the decorative tiles and explore the maze. The garden was intended to enchant and engage children ages 3 to 7 years old.

The \$140,000 Discovery Garden project was funded by Friends of the Library. The creative space was designed and built by Front Porch Creations, husband-and-wife team based in Corona del Mar, California. The team designs and installs high-end landscape jobs, which come with high expectations. This was their first municipal project.

Designer Chris Fenmore, mother of three, used her experience with her sons to create the garden. She centered the garden around children's naturally curious nature and gave them a unique and safe place to explore and learn.

THE ISSUES BEING FACED

The irregular and geometric shapes forming the planters posed an irrigation issue. Eric Fenmore, of Front Porch Creations, did not want water on the pavers, decorative tiles, and windows. Traditional pop-up sprinklers would have an overspray, creating damage to the hardscapes and possible slipping. In addition, having the irrigation exposed around young children increases the likelihood of tripping.

Eric, after discussing the project with Imperial Sprinkler Supply in Anaheim, California, chose Netafim's Techline CV® Dripperline over sprays or bubblers. Sprays and bubblers would cause the hardscapes to get wet regularly which would increase the possibility that young children could get injured as well as make the area more difficult to maintain. Due to the tight areas and irregular shapes, Eric agreed that Techline CV would be the best fit for this project over sprays or bubblers. This was Eric's first time using drip irrigation on one of his projects.

DISCOVERY GARDEN SUMMARY

LOCATION

Newport Beach, California

DESIGNER/BUILDER

Front Porch Creations
Corona del Mar, California

DISTRIBUTOR

Imperial Sprinkler Supply
Anaheim, California

ISSUES TO ADDRESS

- Decorative tile, paving and low walls could be subject to water staining
- Young children at play, exposed irrigation could pose a hazard and a liability
- Tight planter areas from 8" wide, irregular and geometric shaped areas to be irrigated

NETAFIM PRODUCTS USED

- Techline CV® Pressure Compensating, Subsurface or On-Surface Dripperline
- Low Volume Control Zone Kit – Pre-Assembled Valve, Disc Filter and Pressure Regulator
- Manual Line Flushing Valve
- Techline Insert Fittings
- 6 inch Soil Staples

RESULTS

- For the unique shapes and curves of the Discovery Garden, Netafim's Techline CV Dripperline (subsurface or on-surface) was a great match. Able to curve and irrigate irregular shapes, Techline CV can deliver a slow, steady application of water.
- Since water is delivered to the plants with subsurface Techline CV, the pavers, tiles, low walls and seating cushions stay dry, even when the plants are being irrigated. Because the walkways and play areas stay dry, children are free to play without having to avoid any slippery surfaces.
- Without overspray causing build-up on the library's windows and decorative tiles, Netafim's Techline CV keeps maintenance of hardscapes to a minimum.

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THE NETAFIM SOLUTION

Front Porch Creations installed Netafim's Techline CV® dripperline with 0.6 GPH flow rate drippers spaced 18" apart. The dripperline was installed subsurface so the irrigation supplies are out of sight and children won't trip over the components.

With a variety of connectors, Front Porch Creations was able to form the Techline CV into the irregular and geometric shapes forming unique planters.

With the use of Techline CV, there is no overspray and the hardscapes stay dry and safe. Maintenance is kept to a minimum since water does not come in contact with the windows or decorative tiles.

Children run safe and free without parents worrying about them slipping on the tiles. They can explore the discovery maze or huddle around the large reading pod where librarians will hold daily story-telling sessions.

The project has become a jewel for the Newport Beach Public Library and a destination for young people from all around.

Front Porch Creations has already embarked on new projects using Techline CV and plan on eventually irrigating turf areas.

