



# Press Release

\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

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**BACK TO NATIVES WILL INSTALL NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE AT KEMPTON PARK IN ROSSMOOR**

*Landscape design will be installed by community members during a neighborhood workshop.*

**SANTA ANA, Calif., April 26, 2016** – Back to Natives Restoration, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity is presenting a free native plant landscape workshop for the community on May 7, 2016. Participants may attend from 10AM to 1PM, or from 2 – 5PM. Community members will help install a Back to Natives landscape design in Kempton Park within the community of Rossmoor near Los Alamitos. Participants can RSVP at [backtonatives.org/education](http://backtonatives.org/education).

“We’re all excited to see our neighborhood park transformed into a haven for birds and butterflies,” said community member Mark Nitikman. “I think it’s great that our community will have the opportunity to be involved with the installation of the park. They’ll see the plants they planted grow over the years and provide habitat. Hopefully they’ll even decide to plant some natives in their own yards!”

Back to Natives designs locally native landscapes for homeowners and businesses throughout Orange County. Landscape design, installation and maintenance are a form of social entrepreneurship that allows the non-profit to also provide habitat restoration and service learning programs in local wildlands. Back to Natives’ environmental education classes educate community members on the benefits of planting native plants, which require less water and maintenance, and no fertilizer or pesticides.

“50% or more of the water we use daily goes on lawns and outdoor landscaping,” said Back to Natives Executive Director Reginald Durant. “Planting natives is one of the best ways for homeowners and businesses to help solve the crisis brought on by one of California’s worst droughts. These resource efficient landscapes require an approach to design and installation that differs from conventional practices.”

Reginald Durant was the chief landscape designer for the “Costa Mesa Green Home,” which is certified ‘Platinum’ by the US Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) for Homes Program. Reginald also provided the landscape design for “Project 319,” one of the first homes in Orange County to earn the Build It Green, GreenPoint Rated designation. Reginald was a guest designer at both the Los Angeles Garden Show at the LA Arboretum and the Southern California Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza.

**About Back to Natives**

Back to Natives Restoration, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization connects the community to habitat restoration through service learning and native plant education. The Back to Natives Nursery at Santiago Park in Santa Ana, staffed by community volunteers, grows plants for habitat restoration and to raise funds for service learning and environmental education programs. The Back to Natives Native Plant Reserve provides habitat for birds and butterflies in Dana Point. For more information, please visit [www.backtonatives.org](http://www.backtonatives.org) or call 949-509- 4787.

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