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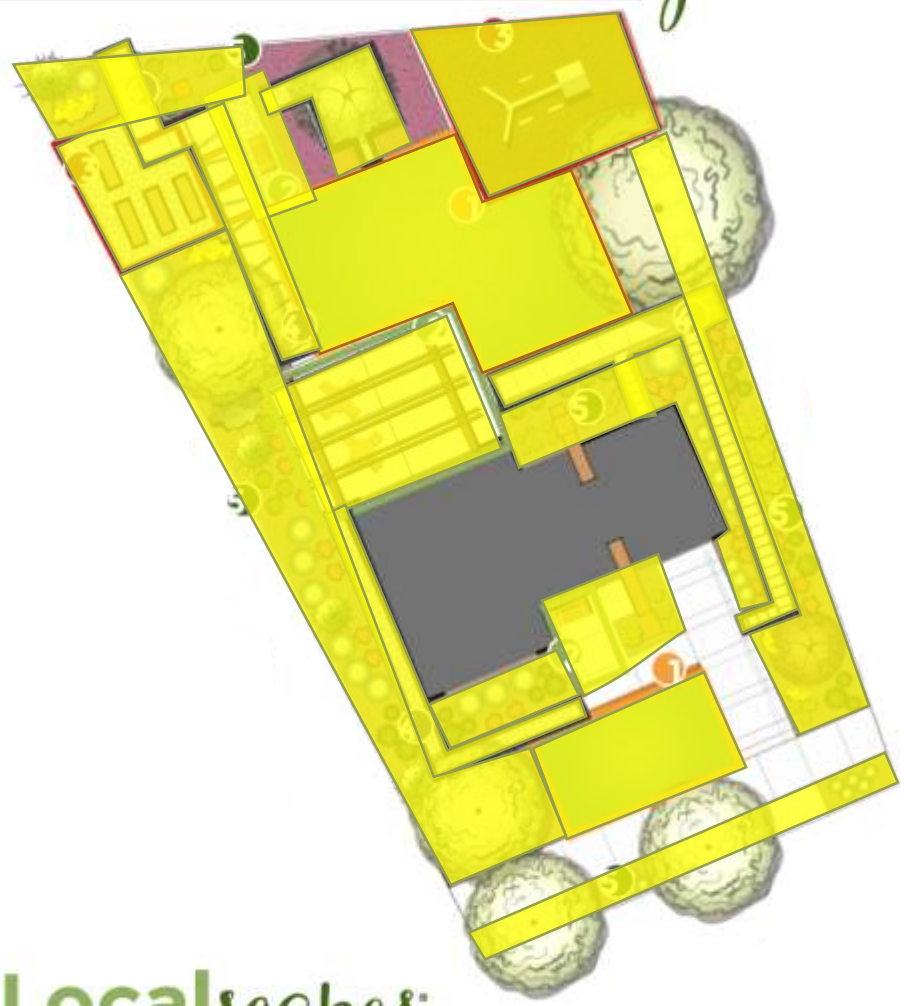
5 elements of a Localscape



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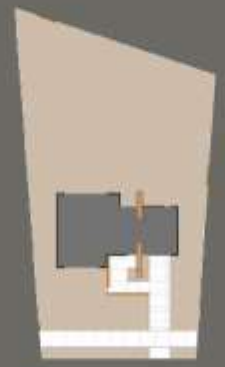
Follow these steps to start your own plan:



What you will learn:

1. How to Create a Base map
2. Localscapes Design
   - Central Open Shapes
   - Gathering Areas
   - Activity Zones
   - Paths
   - Planting Beds
3. Plant Selection Basics
4. Plant Maintenance

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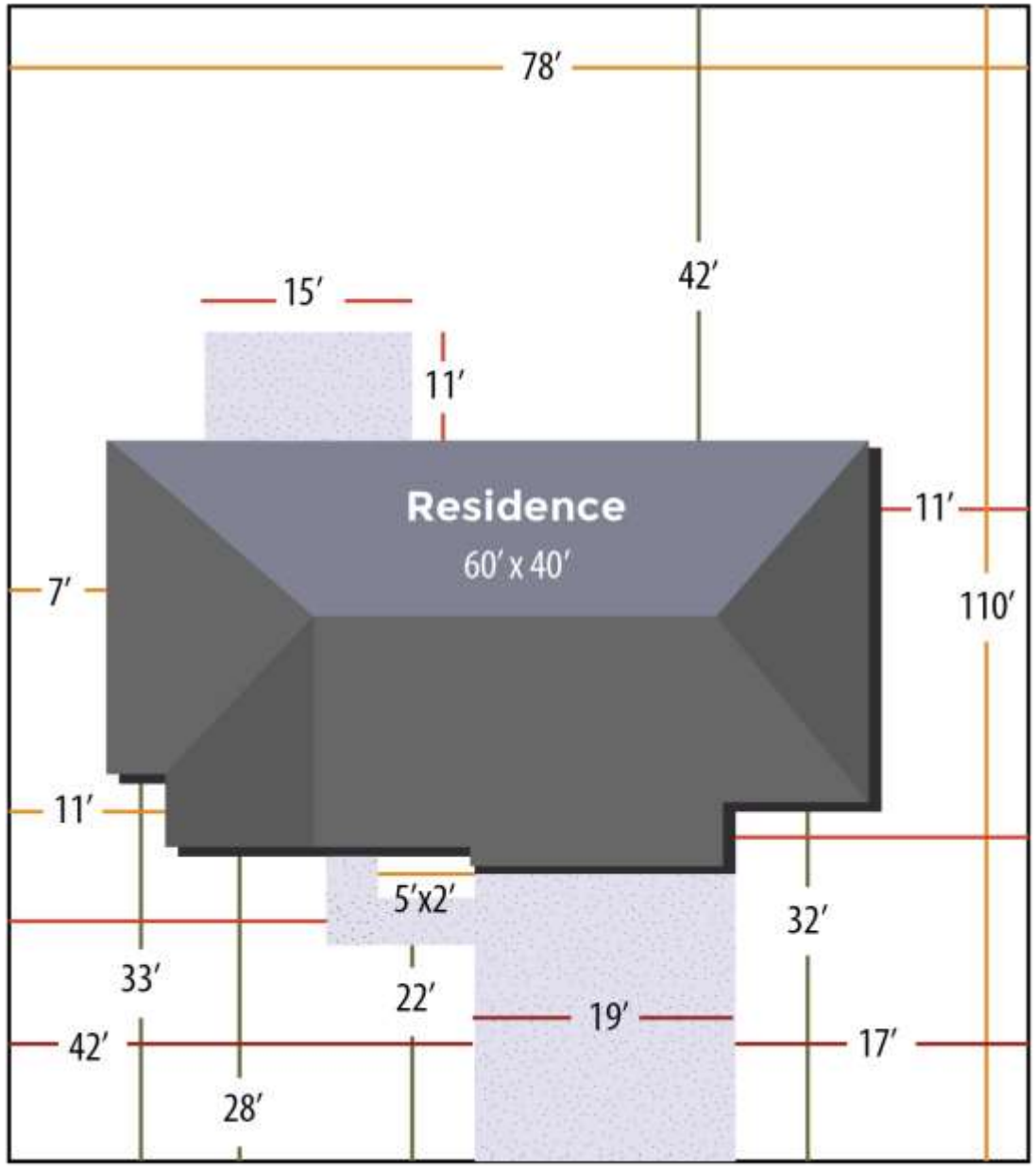
Creating A Base Map

Base Maps

An accurate base map is key to good design.

- Base maps should:
  - Be drawn to scale
  - Show existing hardscape
  - Show existing trees & shrubs
  - Show any permanent objects
  - Help you avoid mistakes!



Developing a Base Map

Option A:

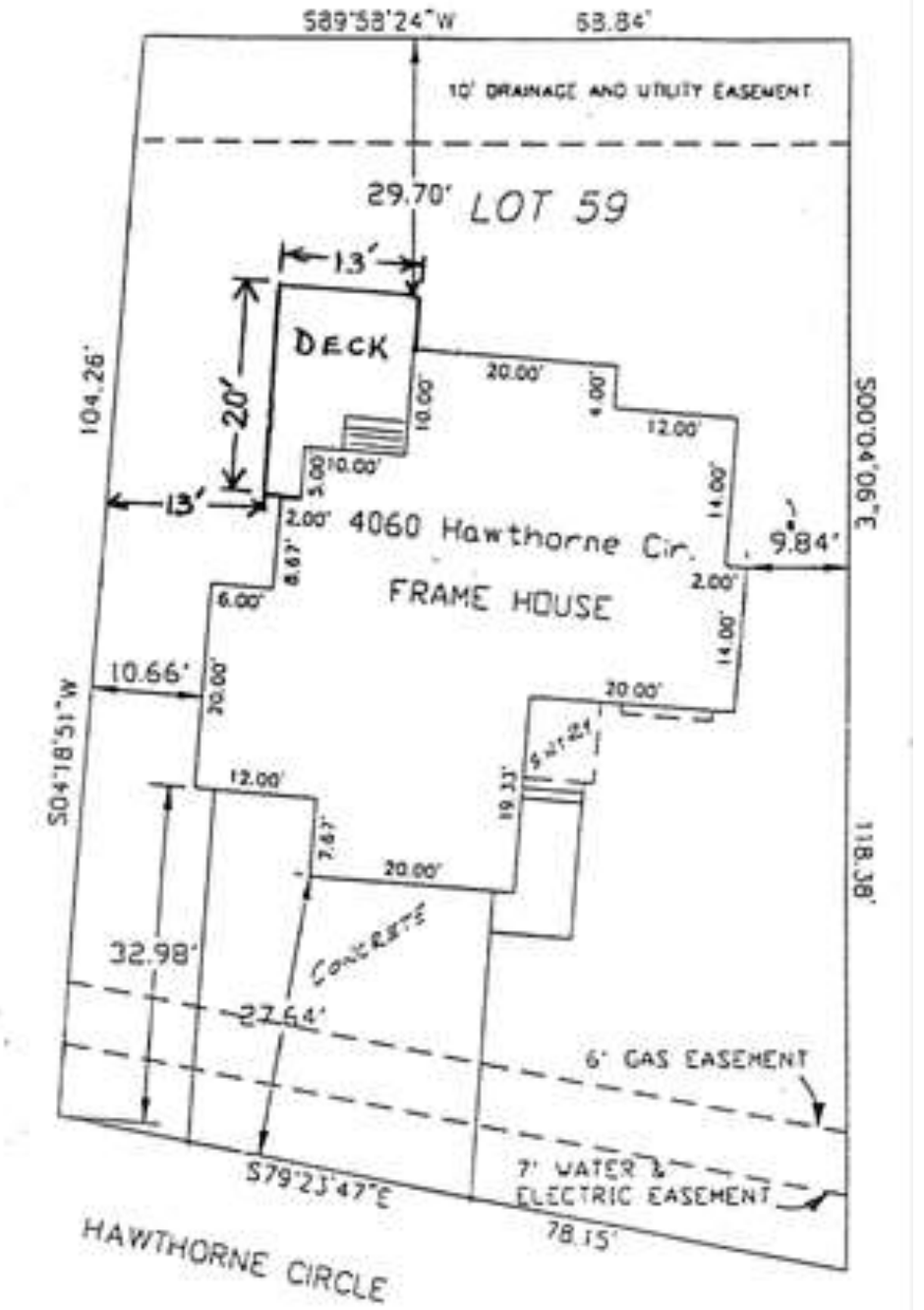
Obtain a base map from your builder or city.

- Easiest
- May not be 100% accurate

Option B:

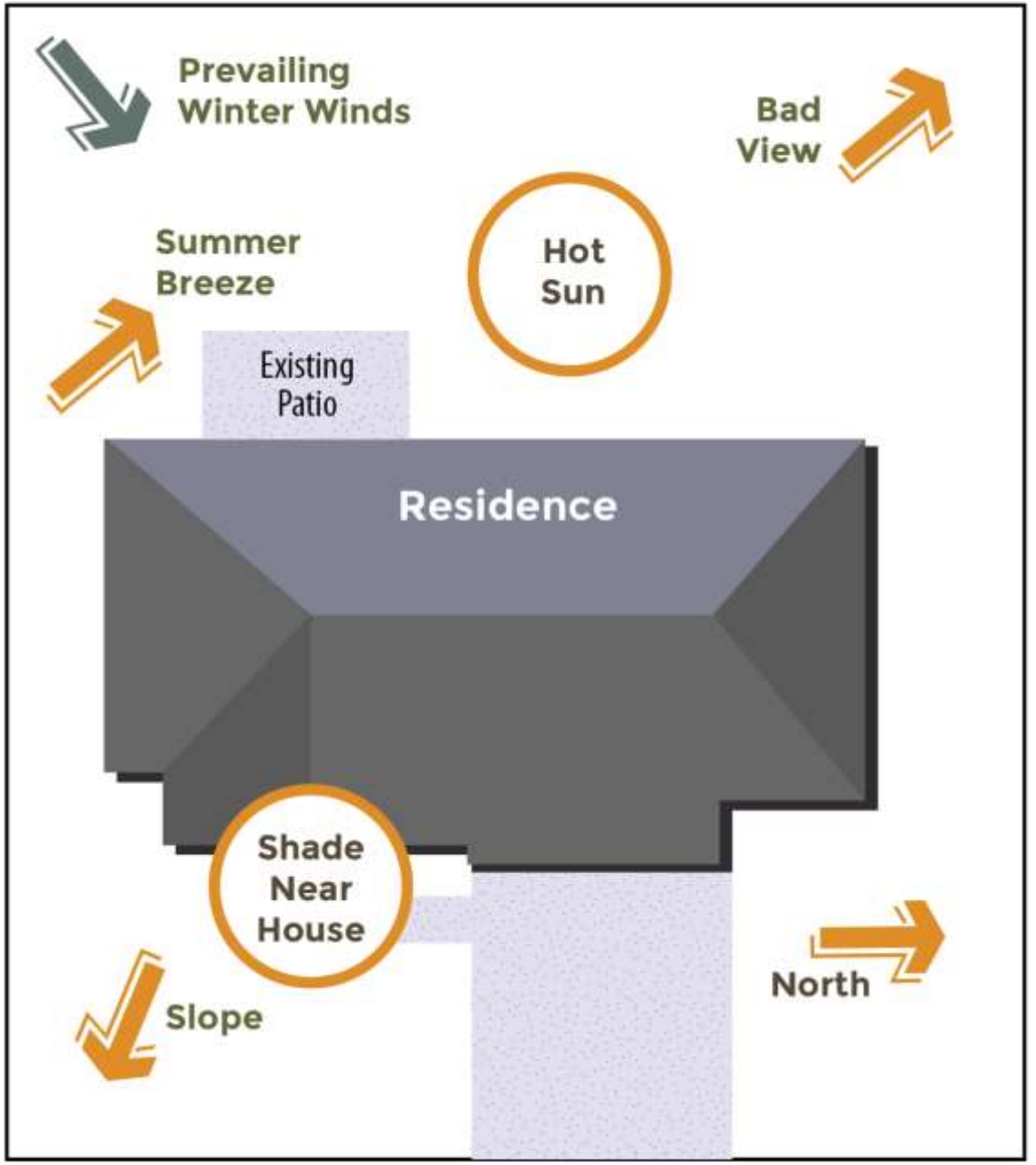
Measure your landscape.

- Tape measure
- Measuring Wheel
- Google Maps



Observe & Note Conditions

- Good and bad views
- Wind
- Sun vs. Shade
- Soil conditions
- Slopes



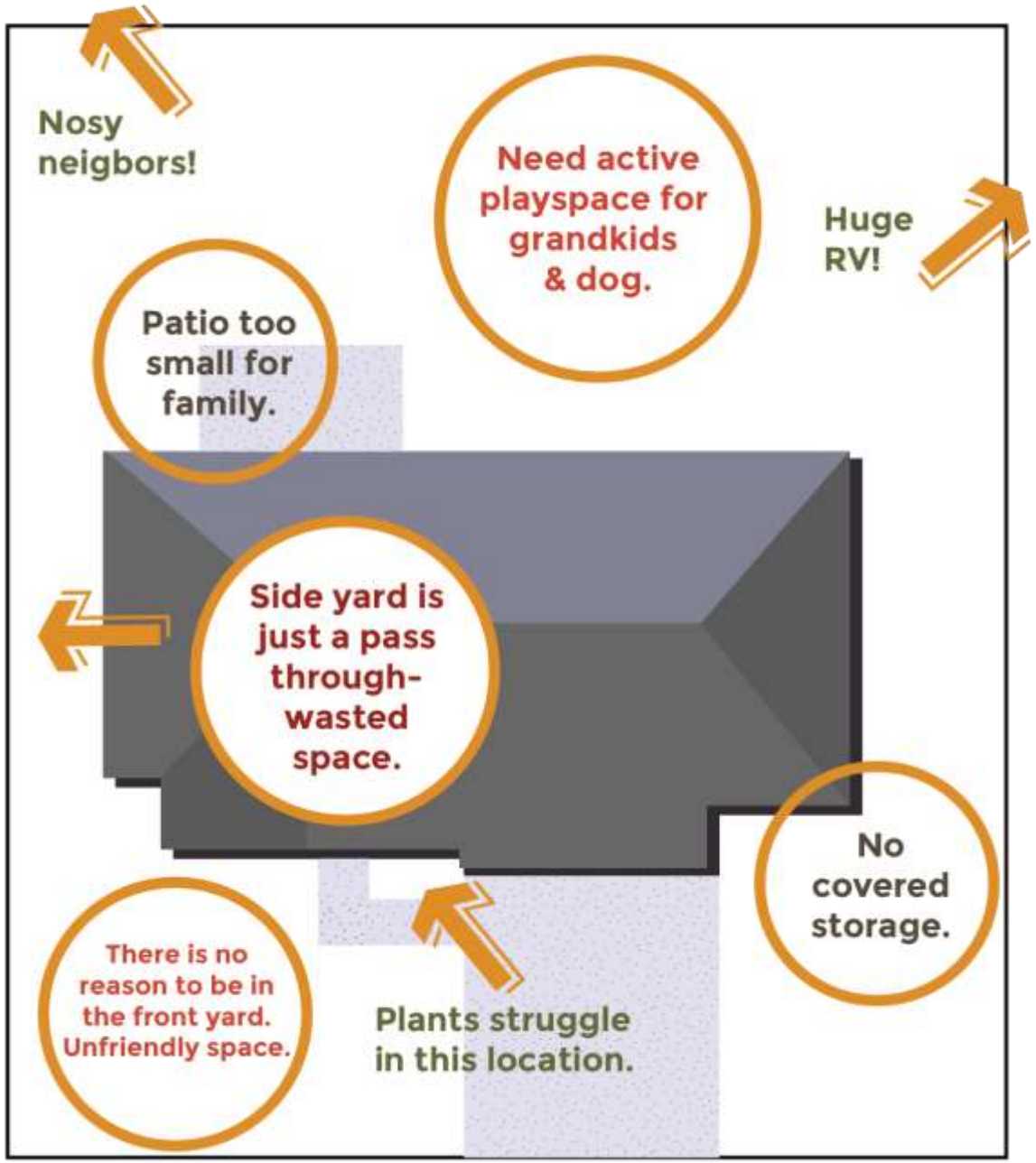
Perform a Needs Assessment

Site Concerns

- Existing patio is old and small
- Lack of privacy
- Wasted space
- Noisy areas

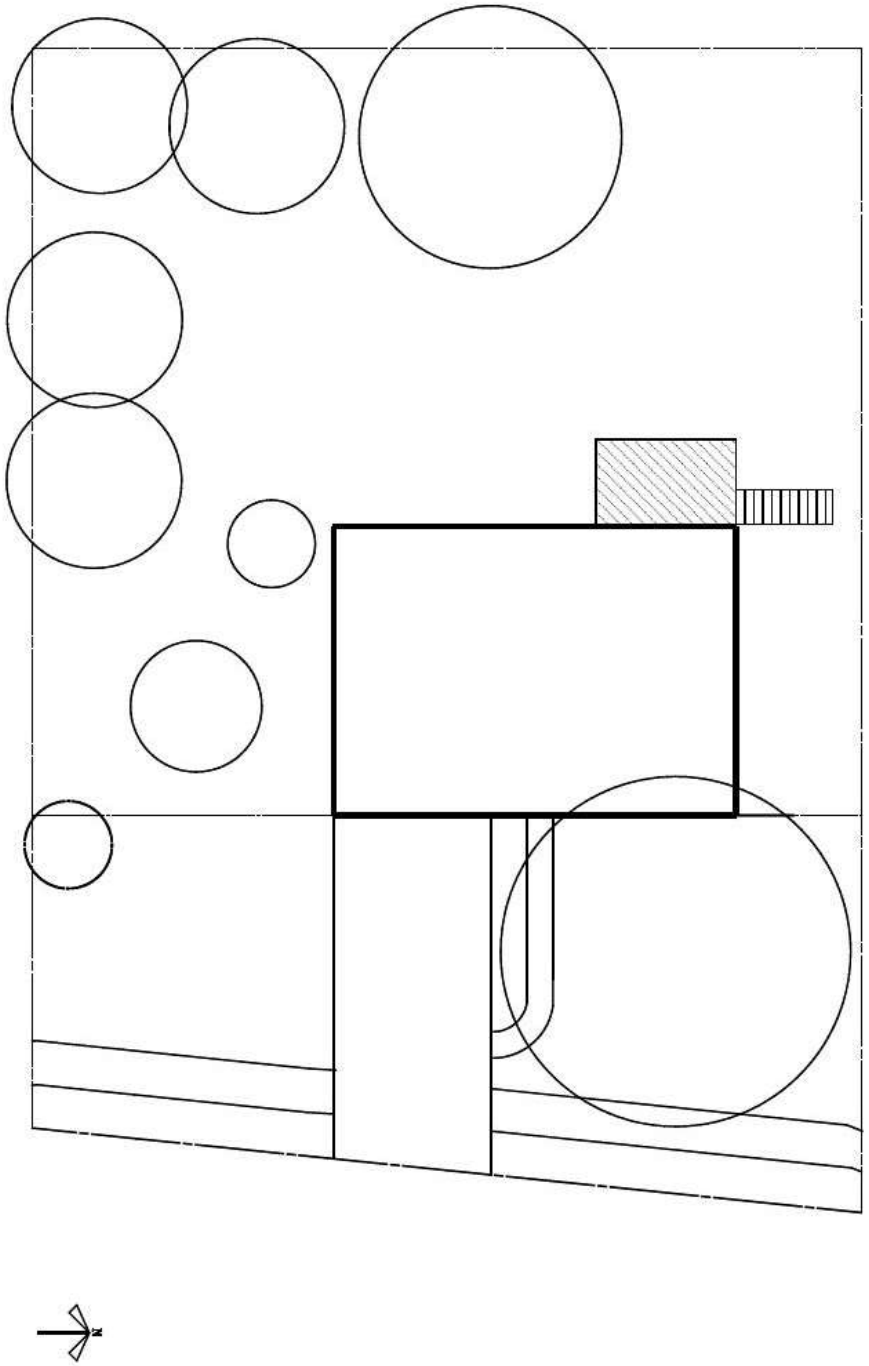
Wish List

- Space for shade garden
- Covered storage area (Activity Zone)
- Play space (Activity Zone)
- Fire pit (Gathering Area)
- Larger patio (Gathering Area)



Finished Base Map

- Drawn to scale
- 11″ x 17″ sheet of paper
- North arrow
- All existing hardscape areas and mature trees



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The Central Open Shape

Central Open Shape

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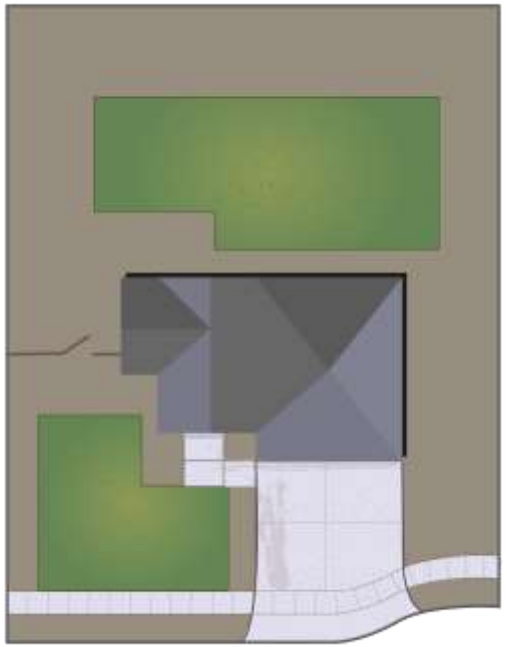
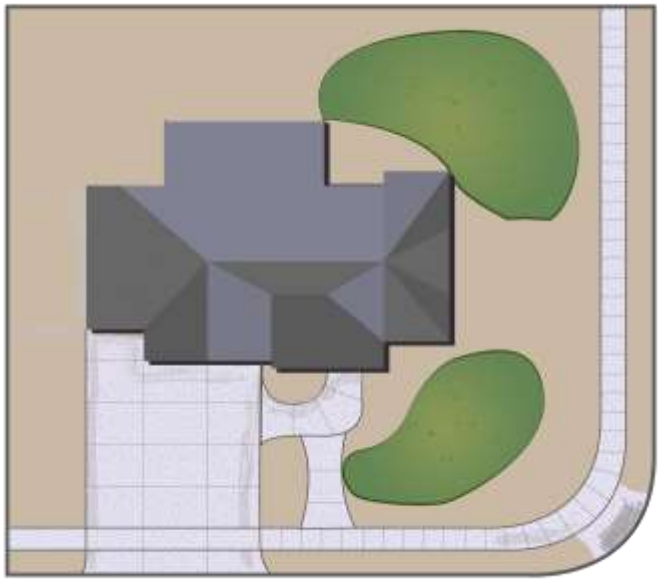
Central Open Shape 1

Central Open Shape Locations

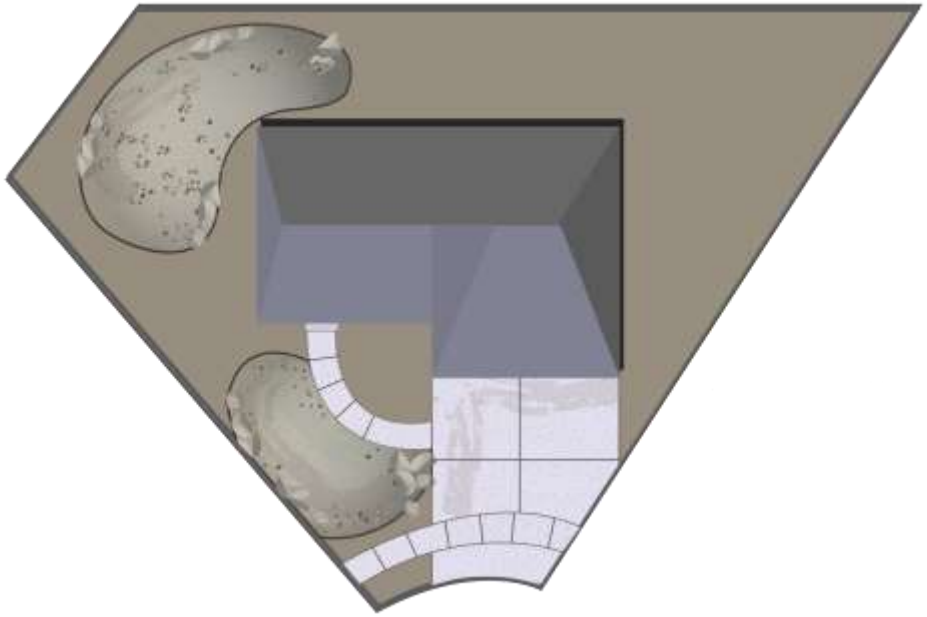
Rectangular Lot



Corner Lot



Odd-Shaped Lot



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Central Open Shape 1

Central Open Shape Location

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Central Open Shape 1

Defined Edge

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Central Open Shape 1

Contrasting and Permanent Materials

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Central Open Shape 1

Central Open Shape Materials

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Central Open Shape 1

Groundcover

Creeping Thyme

Sun

Turkish Veronica

Part-Shade

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Central Open Shape 1

Pavers

Large enough to make a bold statement & anchor the design

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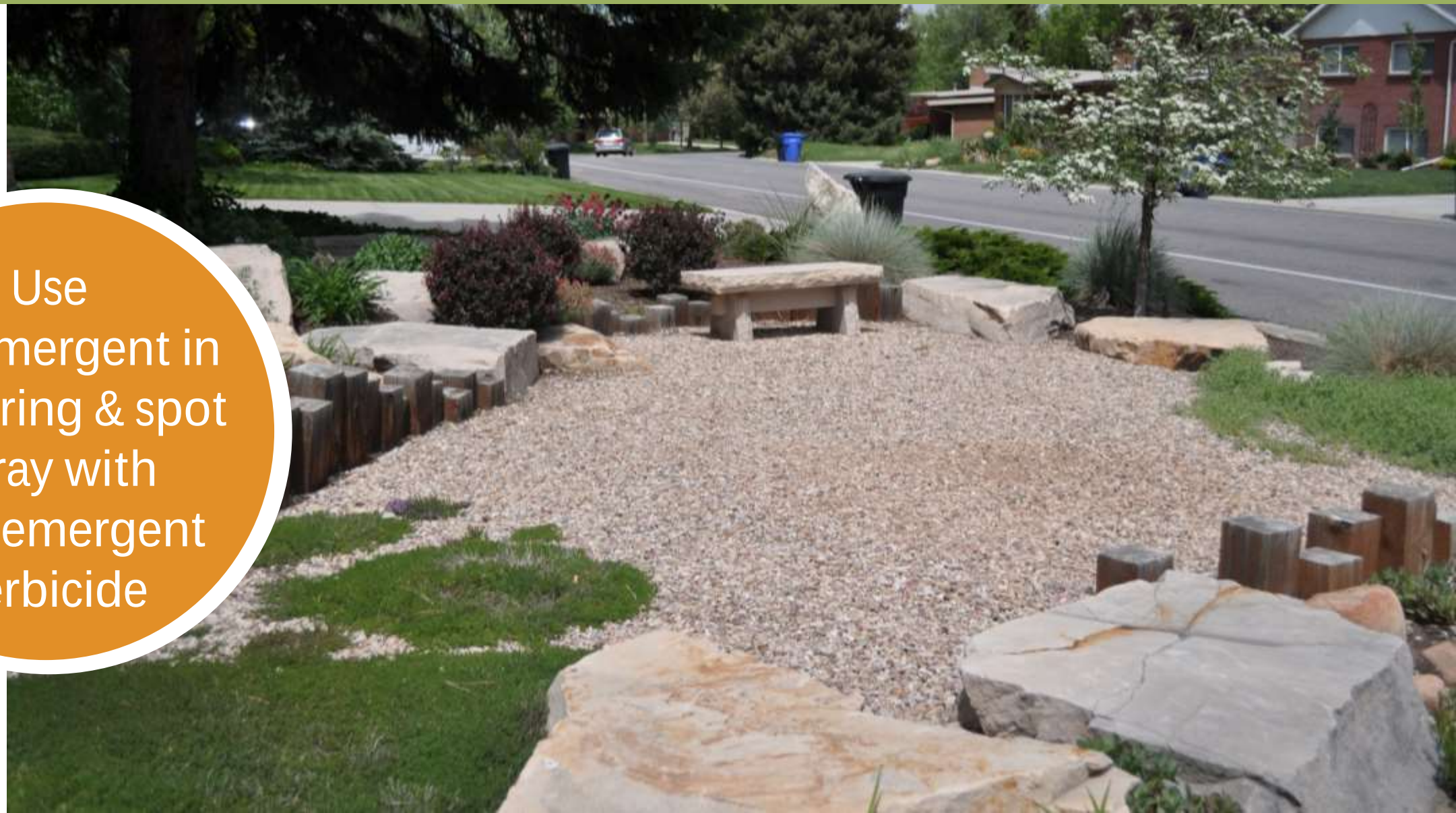
Central Open Shape 1

Gravel



Use pre-emergent in the spring & spot spray with post-emergent herbicide

Lawn

Central Open Shape 1

Lawn should be a designed element

Lawn Varieties

Central Open Shape 1

Warm Season

- Blue Grama
- Buffalo Grass
- Dog Tuff Grass

Cool Season

- Kentucky Bluegrass
- Tall Fescue
- Fine Fescue
- Crested Wheat Grass

Overhead Sprinkler Overview

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Central Open Shape 1

Use One Type of Head Per Zone

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Best Practice

Rotary Nozzles Recommended

Less water is lost to evaporation and wind when rotary nozzles are used

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Head-To-Head Coverage

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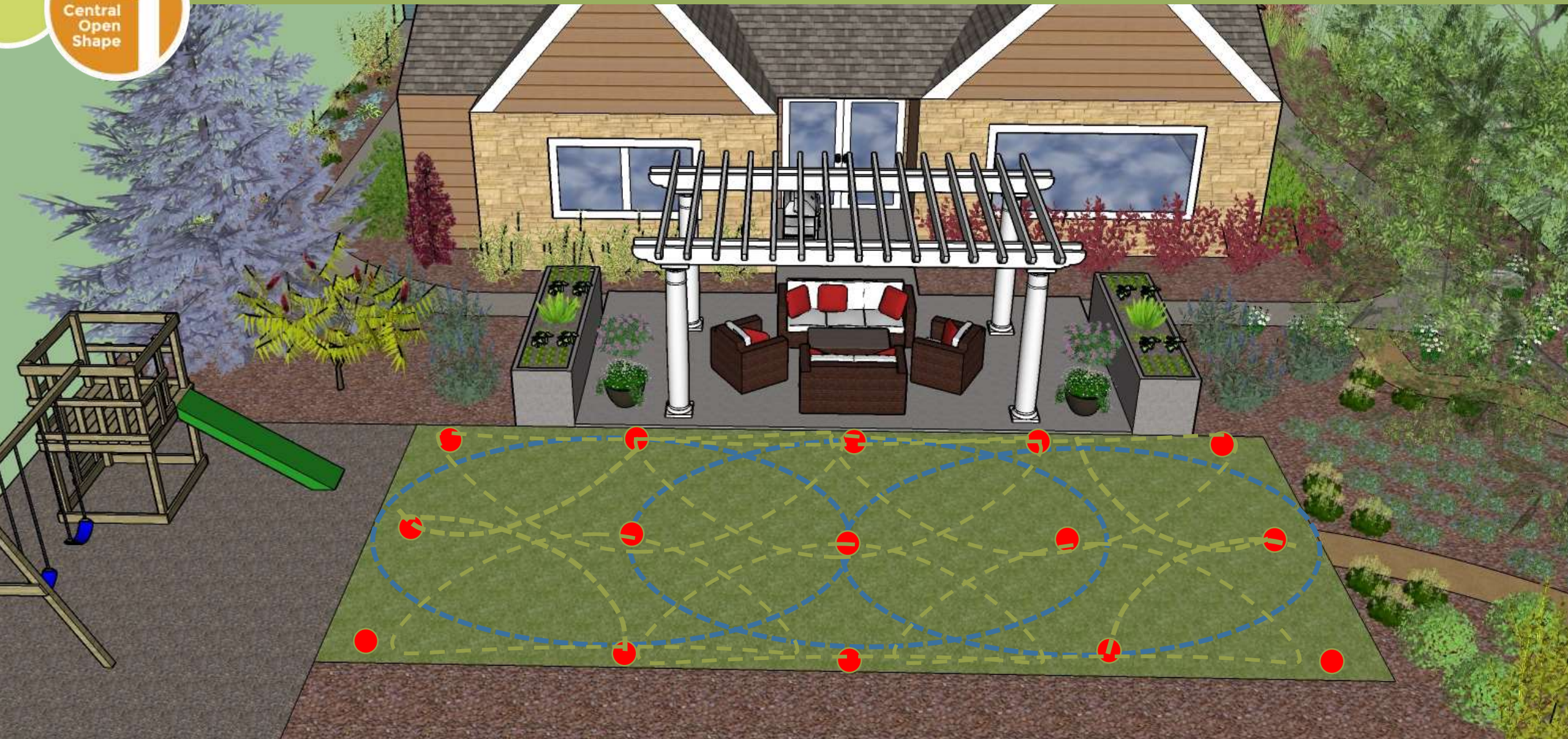

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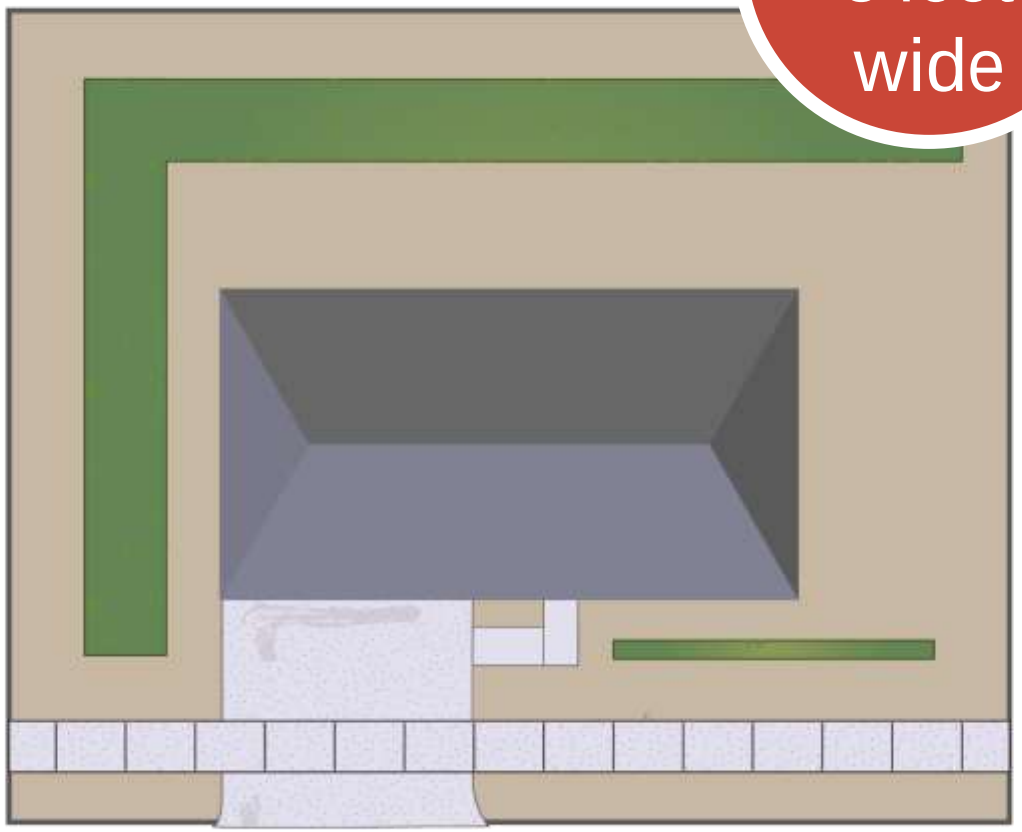
Central Open Shape 1

Lawn Shapes to Avoid

Less than 8 feet wide



Corners less than 90°

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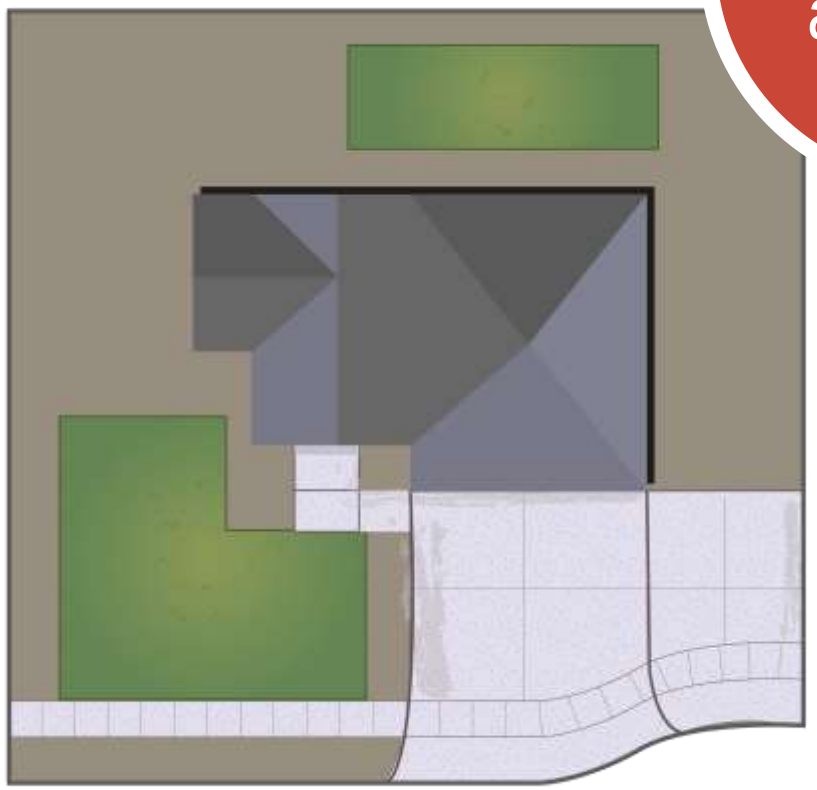
Highly Efficient Shapes

Squares & rectangles are most efficient



Ovals & gently curved are Ok too

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Lawn should be unobstructed

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Central Open Shape 1

Lawn is not less than 8 feet wide

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Lawn is not a designated path

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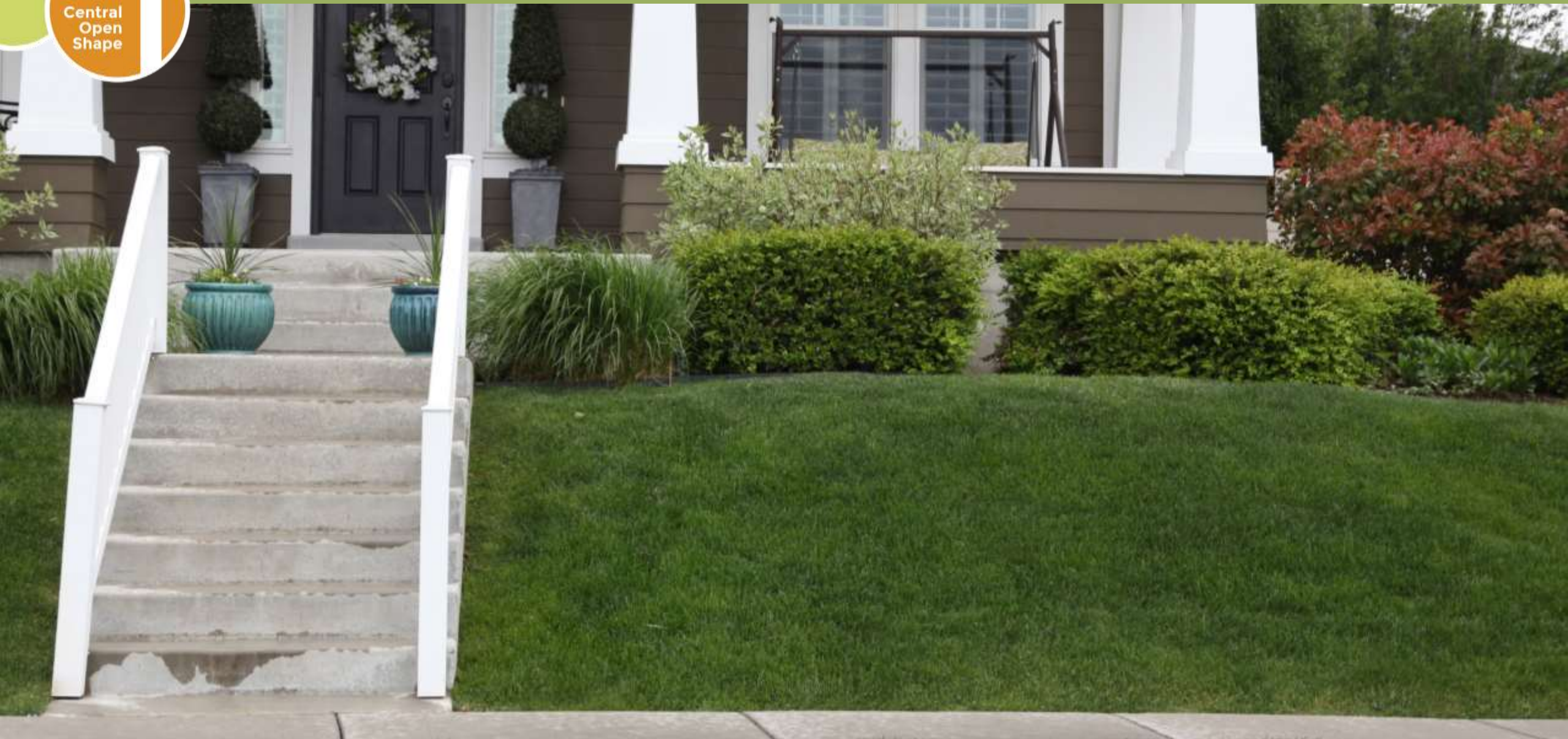
Central Open Shape 1

No lawn on slopes or hillsides



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Central Open Shape 1

Completed Localscape

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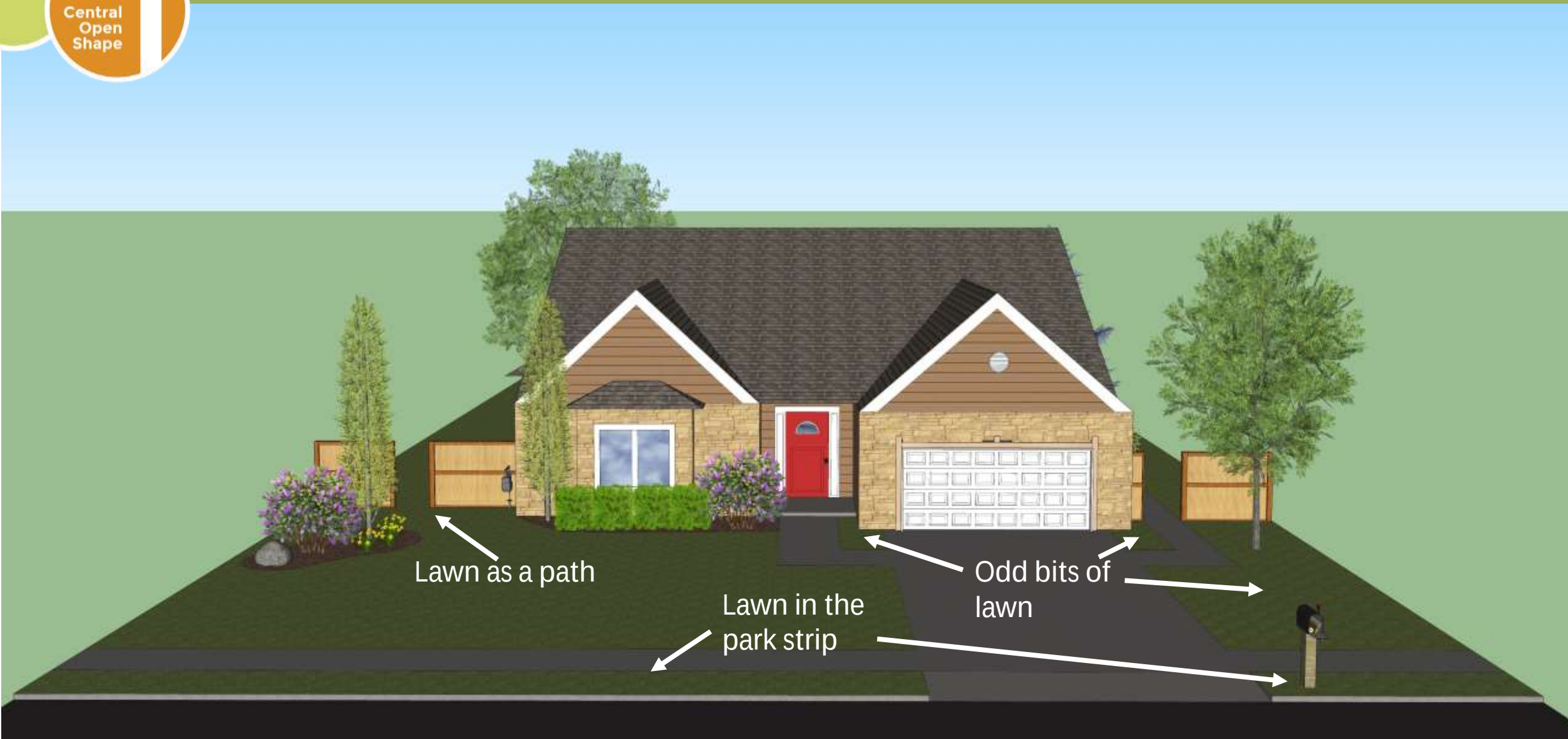
Central Open Shape 1

Typical Utah Landscape



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Central Open Shape 1

Typical Utah Landscape

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Central Open Shape 1

Marking Paint

Lawn Removal

Step 1:

Mark the lawn area to be removed

Garden Hose

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Step 2:

Kill the marked lawn

- Lawn must be dead down to the roots or lawn will grow back.
- This process can take several weeks

Plastic Sheeting

Chemical

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Step 3:

Remove the dead lawn

Sod Cutter

Tiller

Shovel

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Central Open Shape 1

Irrigation Placement

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Gathering Areas, Activity Zones & Paths

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Front Yard

Completed Central Open Shape

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Back Yard

Completed Central Open Shape

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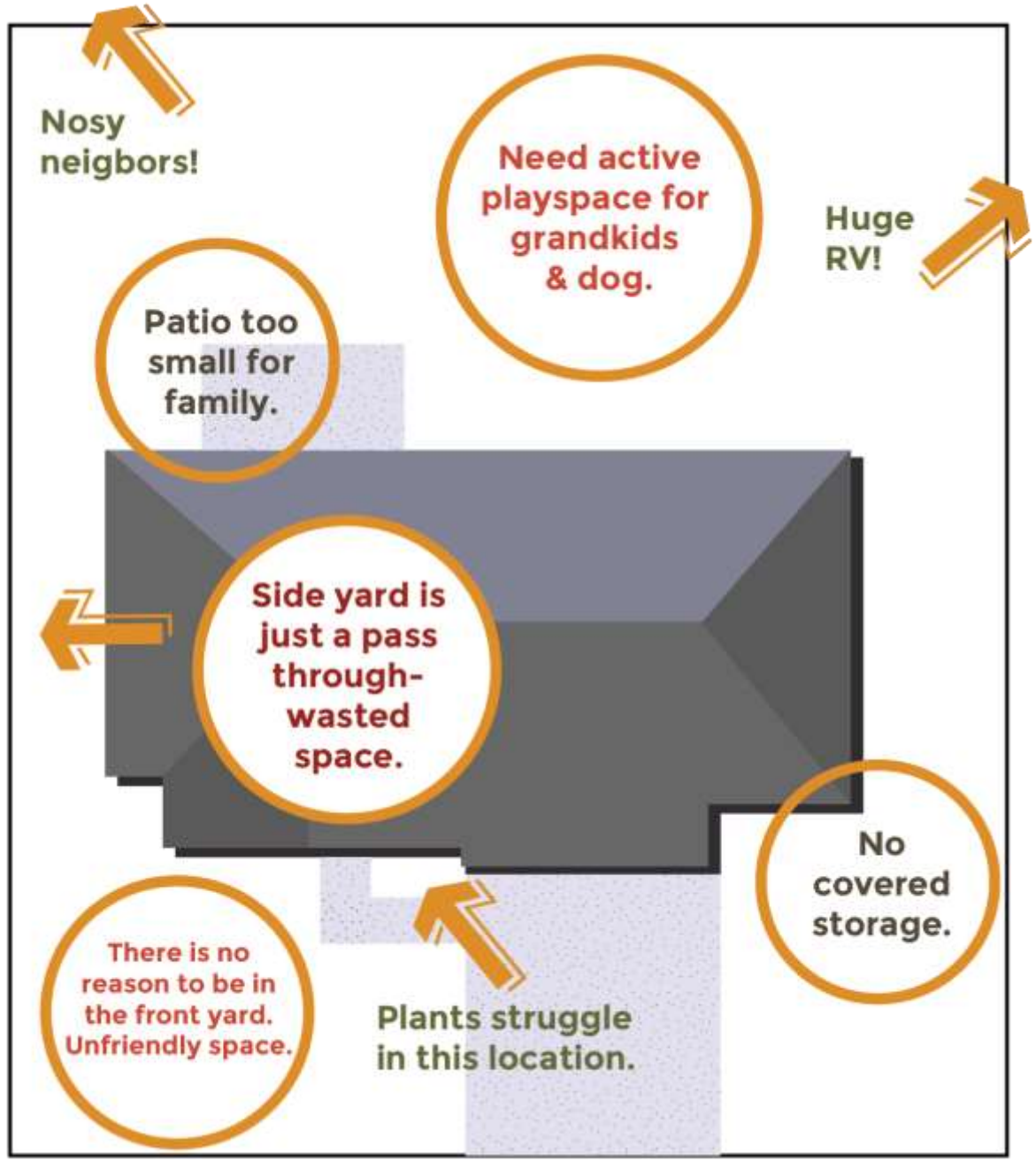
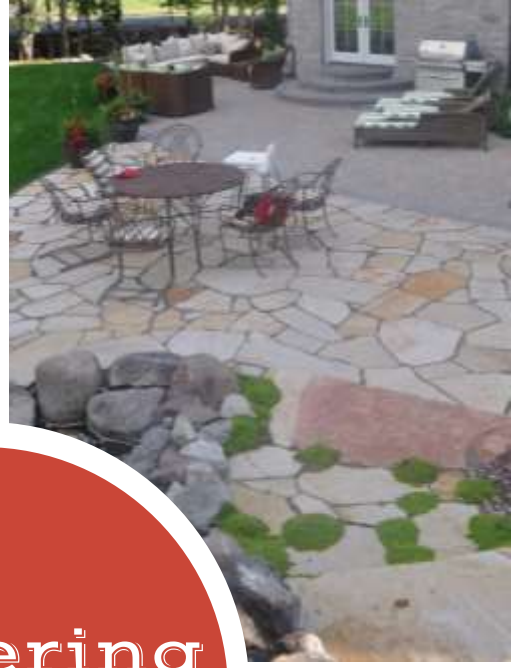
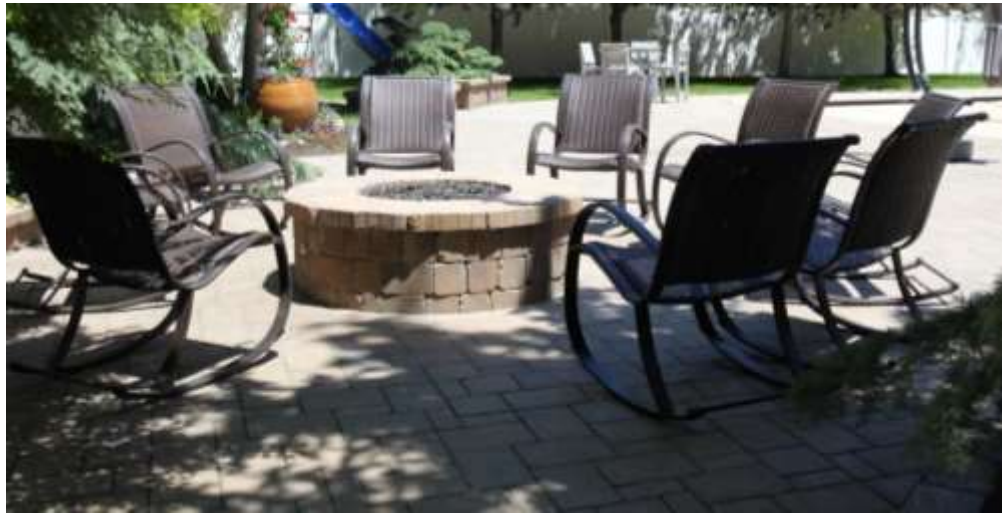
Creating Functional Spaces

Assess your landscape needs before determining size, type and placement for Gathering Areas, Activity Zones and Paths.





Gathering Areas



Gathering Areas

Gathering Areas 2

Special spaces designed for relaxation or socializing

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Gathering Areas 2

Types of Gathering Areas

- Patios
- Informal seating areas
- Covered seating
- Decks
- Gazebos
- Fire pits

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Gathering Areas 2

Location Considerations

- Purpose
- Sun exposure
- Trees in the area
- Privacy
- Noise

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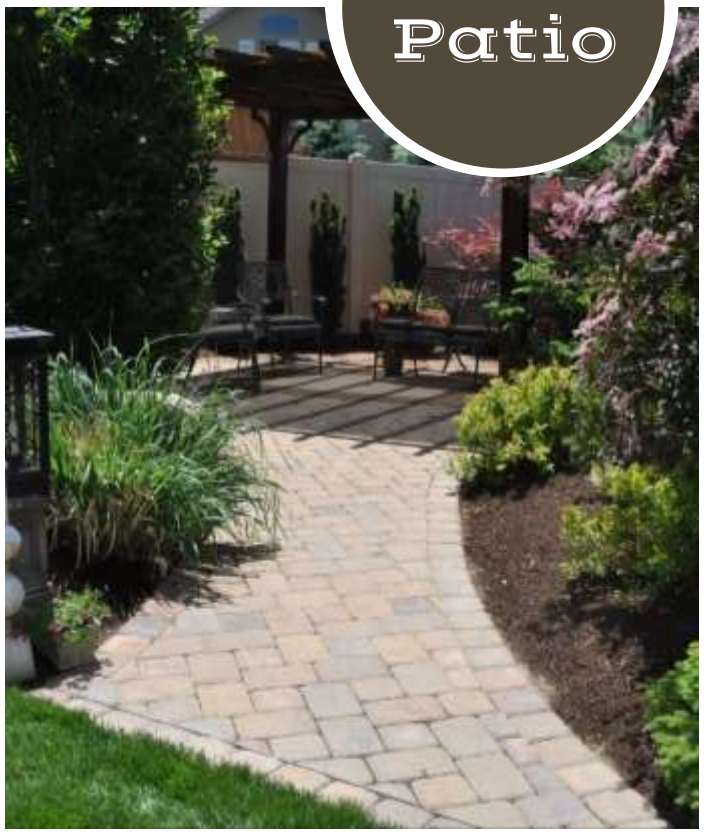
Gathering Areas 2

Location Ideas

Front Yard

Main Patio

Bonus Patio



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Gathering Areas 2

Material Considerations

- DIY vs. contractor installation
- Usage frequency
- Availability
- Budget

Gathering area: materials

Best Practice:

Reserve gravel, flagstone and loose materials for informal areas

Gathering Area Materials

Best Practice

Use flat, even surfaces to pull chairs in and out

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Gathering Areas 2

Gathering Area Materials

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Aggregate Calculator

These calculators are designed to give approximate amounts only. They will help you determine the quantity you need; however, variations in subgrade, compaction of subgrade, or inaccurate measurements, even a quarter of an inch, can make a difference.

Aggregate (Rock)

width	length	thickness	agg total	
feet	feet	inches	0 tons	Calculate

Landscape Center

At our Landscape Center we have all the supplies you will need to make your yard look its best.

Rock & Sand

See our list and description of our rock and sand products.

Soil, compost, & mulch

See our list and description of our bulk garden soil, compost & mulch products.

Digout, disposal, & recycling

We are a disposal site for old asphalt, concrete, dirt,rock, cinder block. brick, sand, road base, & sod.

Asphalt

Knowing and understanding your asphalt needs, before hiring an asphalt contractor, will save you hard earned money.

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Back Yard

Gathering Areas

Activity Zones

Activity Zones

Activity Zones 3

Designed spaces for outdoor work and play

Types of Activity Zones

Activity Zones 3

- Vegetable gardens
- Children's play area
- Storage
- Sport courts
- Trampoline
- Hot tub
- Dog run
- Other active recreation areas

Activity zone considerations

Consider:

- Sun exposure
- Space requirements
- Attractiveness
- Purpose
- Need to monitor activity from indoors
- Ground surfacing
- Budget

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Activity Zones 3

Location Considerations

- Sun exposure
- Space requirements
- Attractiveness
- Purpose
- Need for monitoring activity from indoors

Activity Zones
reduce
maintenance

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Activity Zones 3

Activity Zone Surface Materials:

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Best Practice

Vegetable Garden Watering

Water gardens with drip irrigation on their own valve

Adaptability

Children's play space is easily converted to a Gathering Area

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Back Yard

Back Yard Activity Zones

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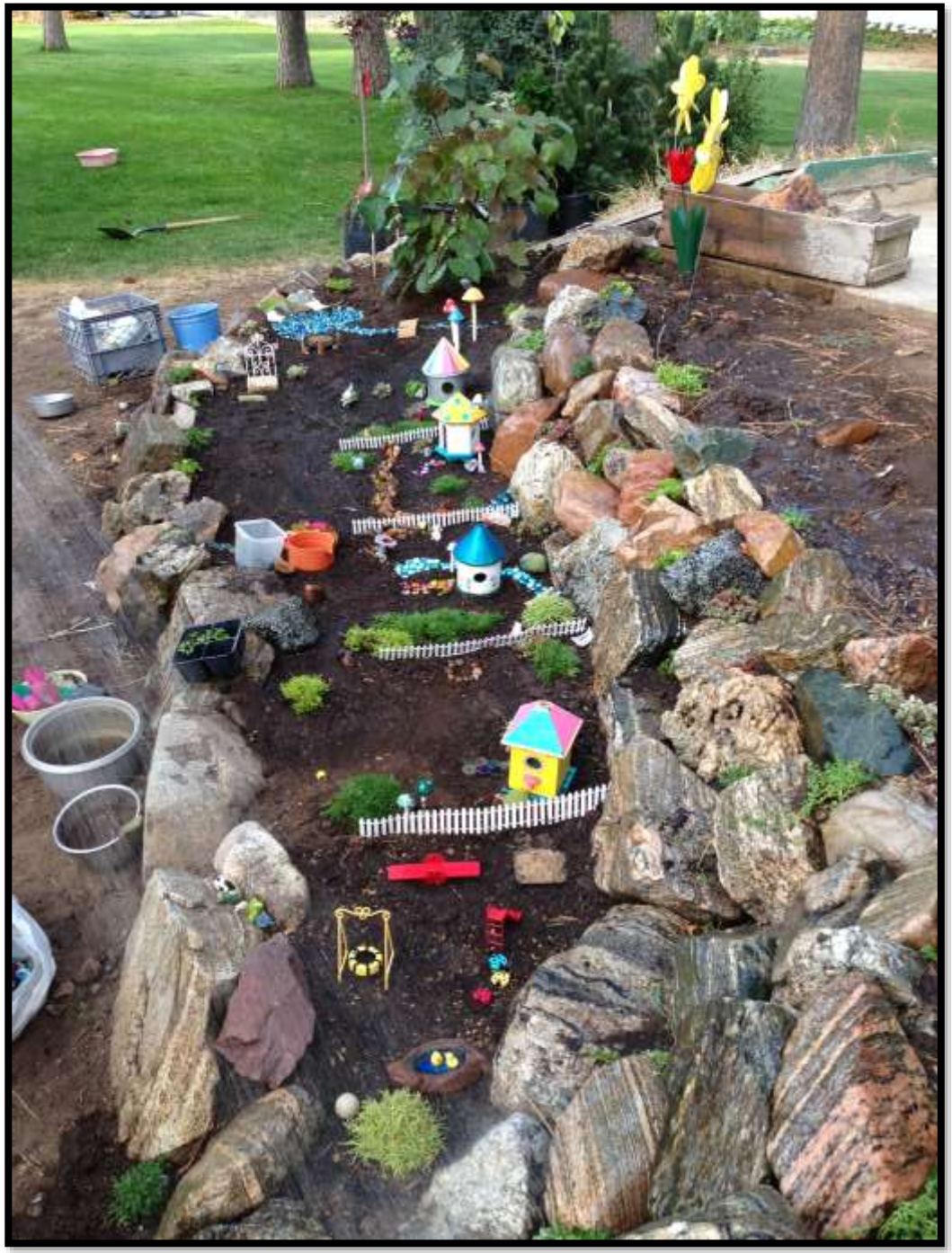

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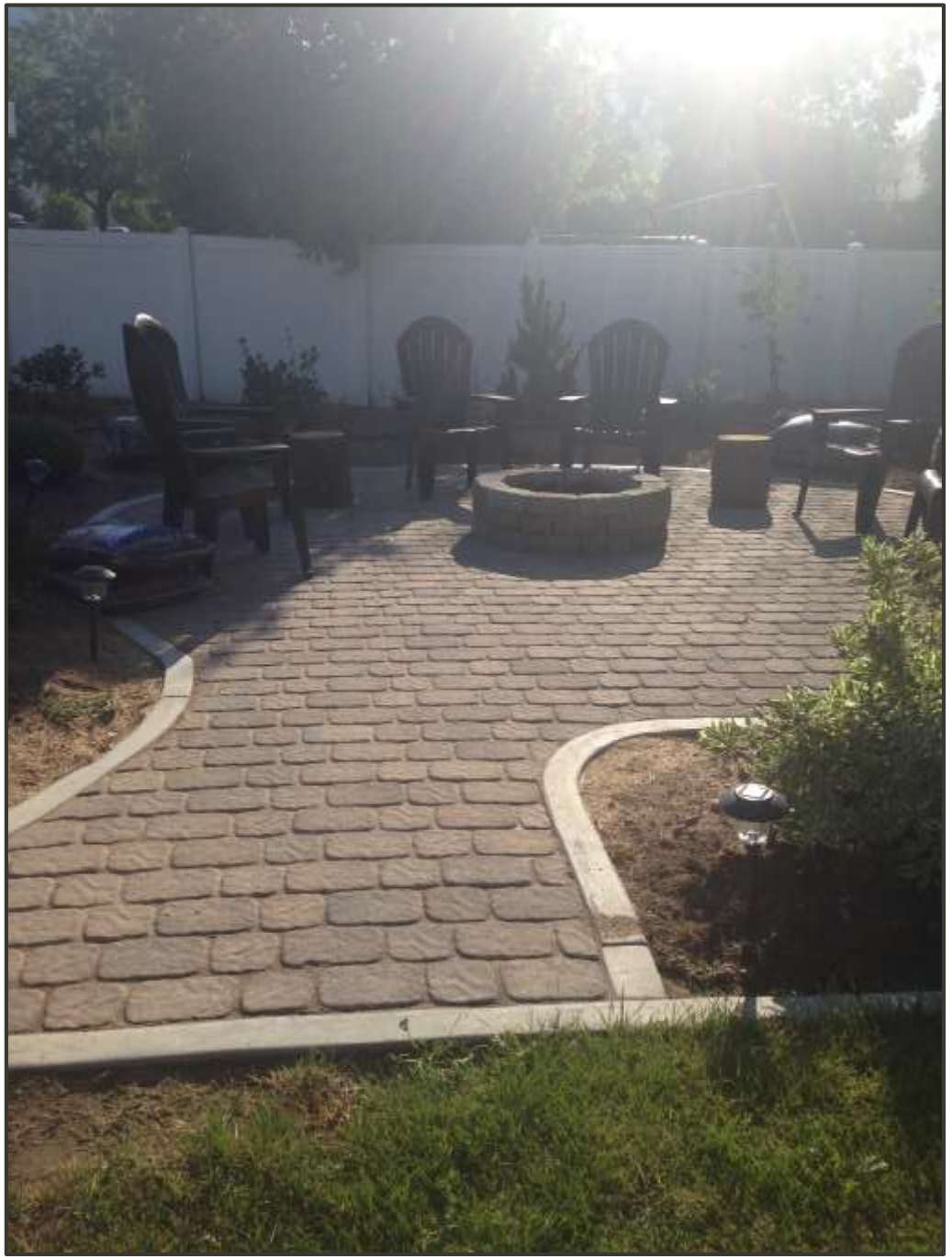

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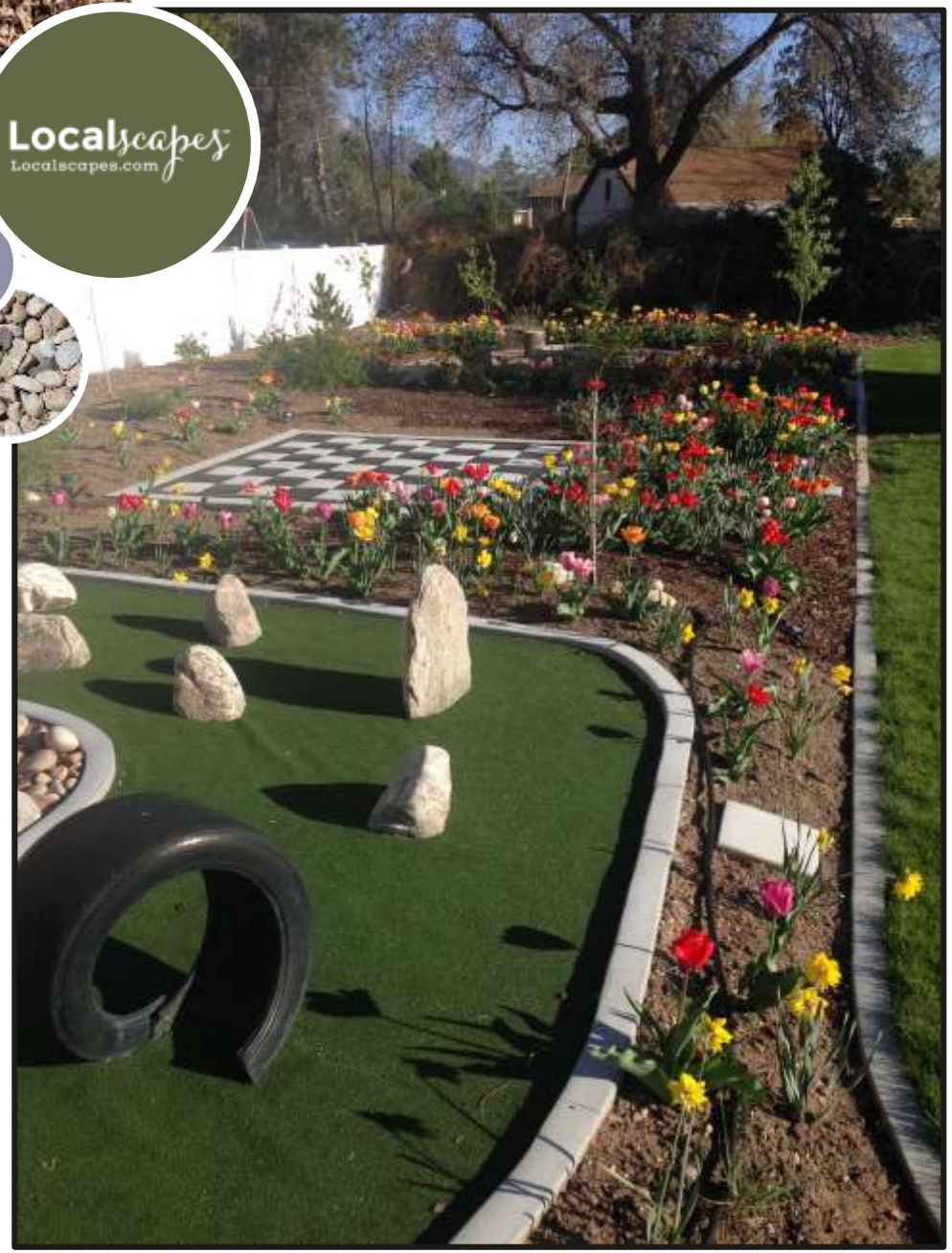

Paths

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4 Paths

Paths

Paths connect landscape elements and allow for easier navigation

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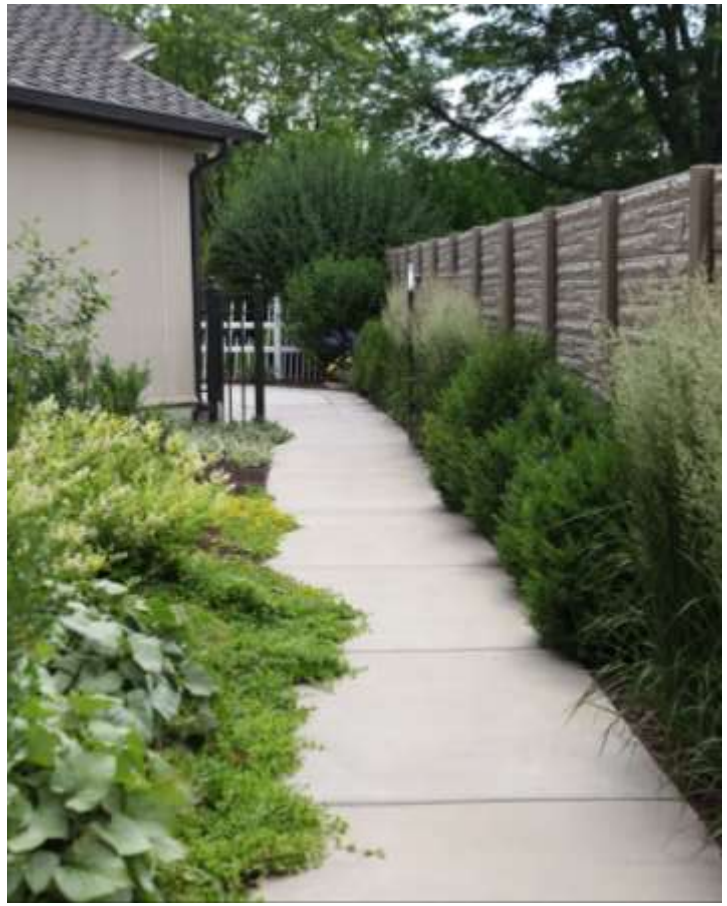
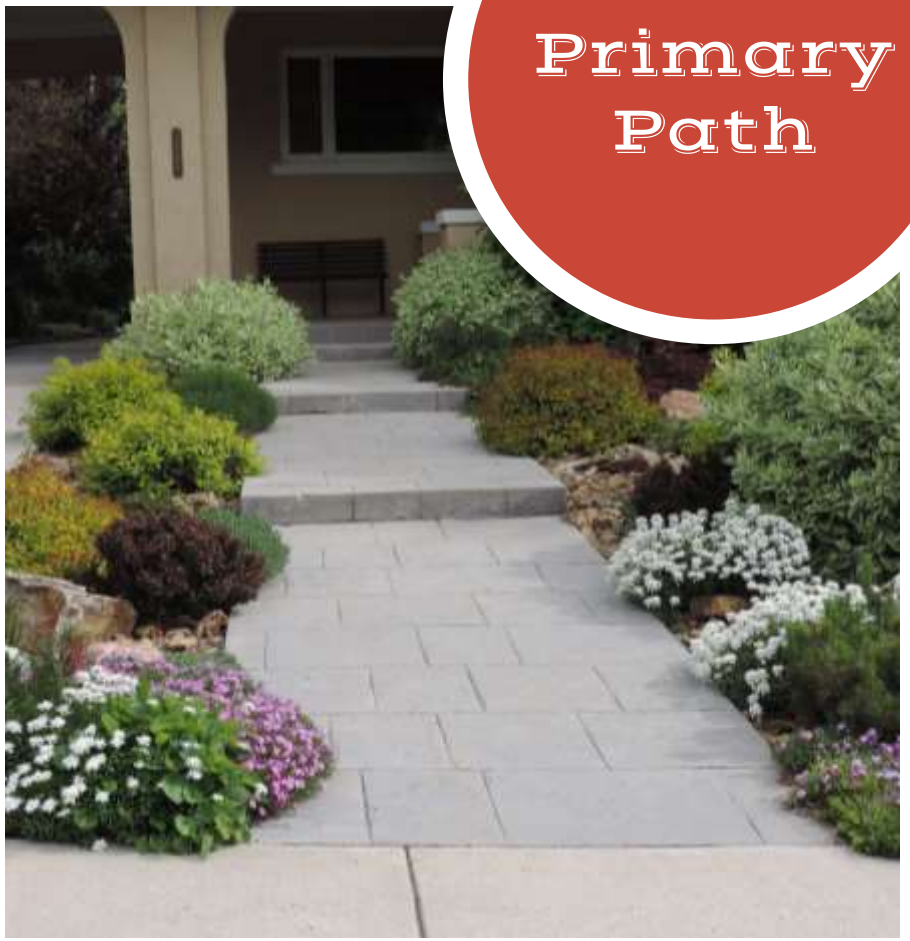
4 Paths

Path Locations



Primary and Secondary Paths

Primary Path



Secondary Path

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4 Paths

Primary Path Materials

Concrete

Pavers

Stamped Concrete

Brick

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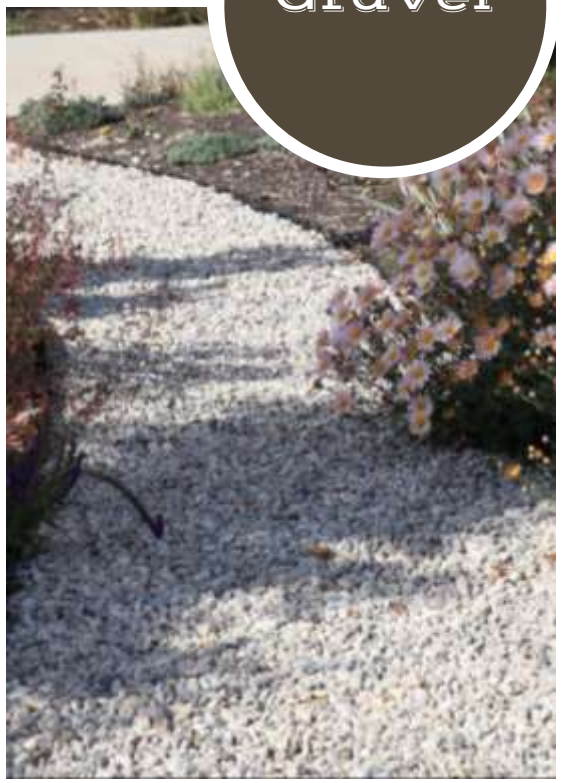
4 Paths

Secondary Path Materials

Bark

Chat or Chips

Gravel



Flagstone

Path Installation

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4 Paths

Top Layer
2-3” of gravel, chip, chat or mulch

Top

Soil Removal
Remove existing soil

Prep

Base
Landscape fabric/weed barrier fabric

Base

Edge
Metal edging to contain gravel

Edge

Edging

Best Practice

Edging is a nice way to separate special use zones throughout the landscape

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Front Yard

Connect with Paths

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Back Yard

Back Yard Paths

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Maintenance

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Maintenance

Tree Maintenance

- Prune dead, diseased, and crossing branches in early spring before leaves develop

- During dry winters and the first two years, supply extra water while root systems are still developing

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Maintenance

Shrub Maintenance

- Remove dead branches
- Remove branches out of sidewalks and undesirable areas
- Cut off dead flowers

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Maintenance

Ornamental Grass Maintenance

- Cut grasses back once per year, leaving 18” of the plant above ground

- Divide into four sections when the plant’s center starts to die, or the plant has exceeded its available space

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Maintenance

Perennial Plant Maintenance

Early spring:

- Use hand pruners to cut the plant back, all dead material can be removed. Leaving 2-3 inches of the plant above the ground if there is new growth from the base

Summer:

- Cut off any dead flowers or stems

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Maintenance

Planting Bed Maintenance

- Water with drip irrigation
- Apply 3-4” of mulch
- Avoid soil compaction
- Minimize soil disruption
- Use herbicides only AFTER you’ve done the first four steps

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Maintenance

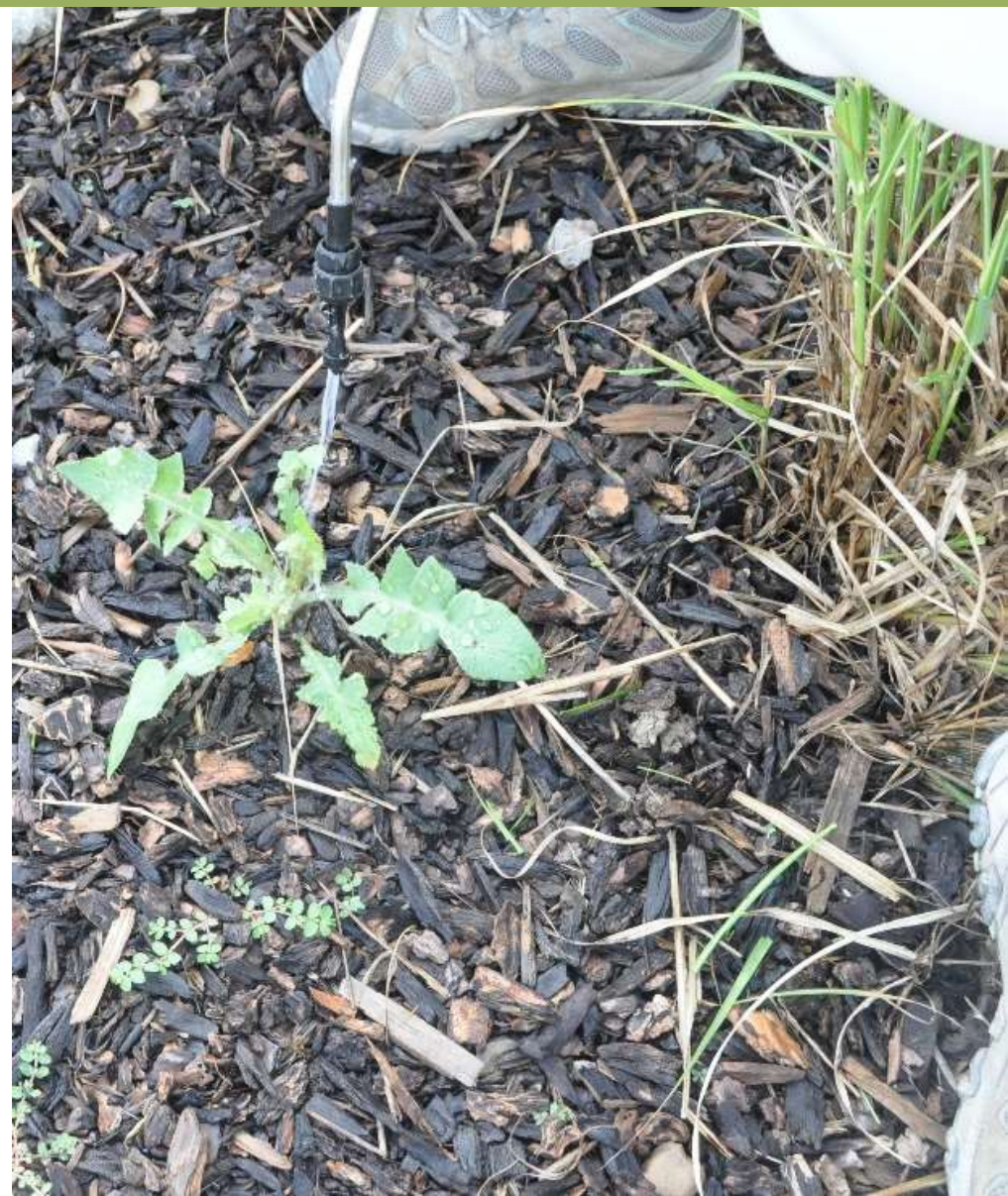
Planting Bed Maintenance

Post-emergent Herbicide

- Glyphosate, a kill-all for weeds
- Be careful around ornamental plants

Organic version:

- Hand pulling



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Best Practice

Skip the Weed Barrier Fabric

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Maintenance

Lawn Maintenance

- Set your mower at 3” or highest setting
- Lawn is stressed every time it is mowed
- Taller lawn means deeper roots
- Deep roots help lawn deal with drought
- Don’t bag clippings every time

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Maintenance

Mowing Height

Both lawns received similar amounts of water but were mowed at different heights.

- South Dakota State University

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Maintenance

Lawn Health

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Best Practice

Weed Control

Apply chemicals sparingly but before weeds go to seed

Lawn Edges

Best Practice

Scalping or beveling of edges leads to weeds and unhealthy lawn.

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Maintenance

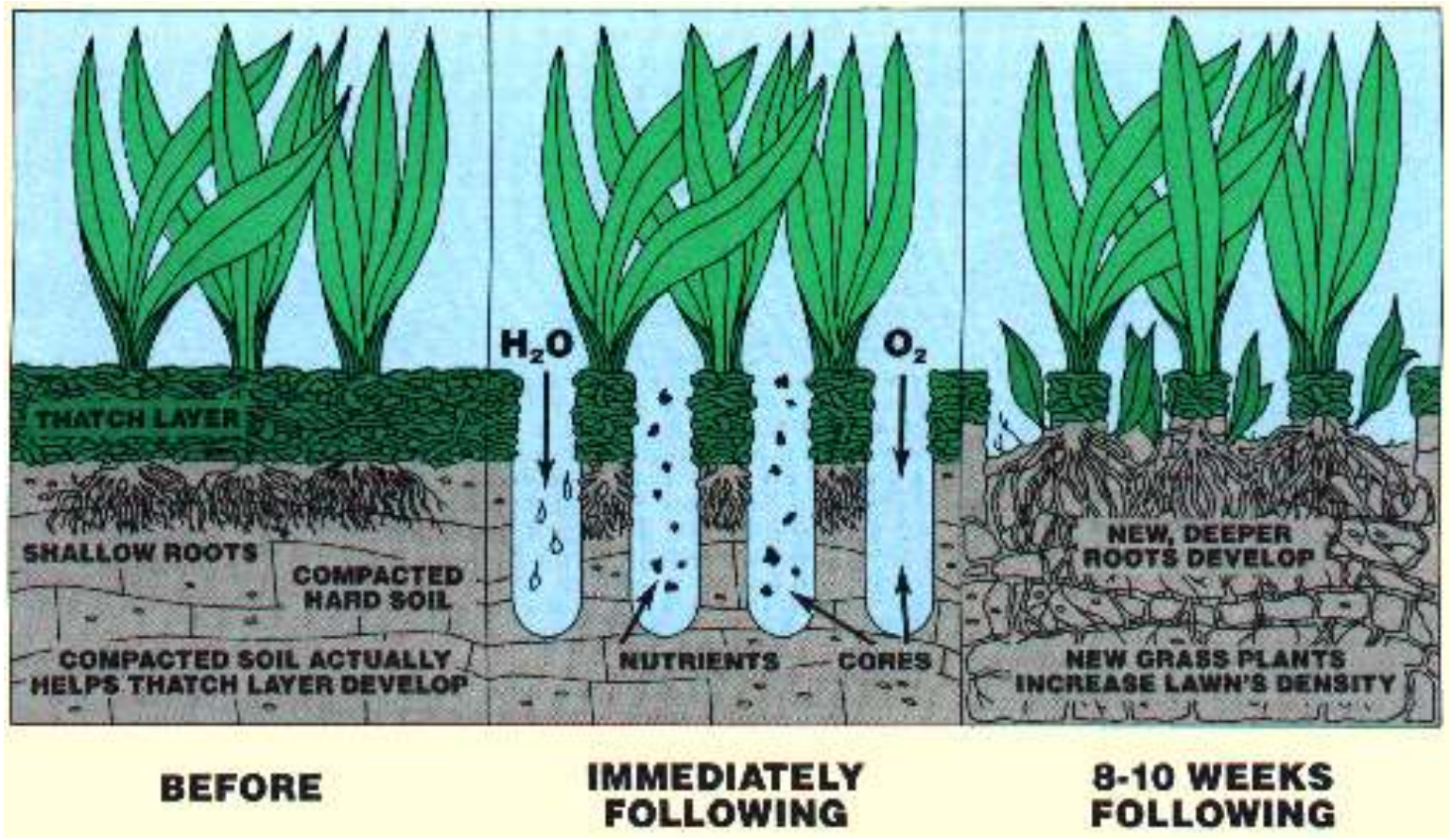
Edging

Aeration

Best Practice

Core Aeration:

- removes 4-inch plugs from the lawn
- Improves water penetration
- Reduces compaction
- Should be done once per year (especially in clay soil)
- Spring is the most beneficial time to aerate



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Best Practice

Fertilizing

Nitrogen
Necessary for a healthy, dense lawn

1st

Phosphorus
Healthy root development

2nd

3rd

Potassium
Helps with drought tolerance

Fertilizing Schedule

Best Practice

Fall: September-October

(Most important application of the year)

Early Spring: March-April

Late Spring: May-June

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Join the Work Group!

- Ask questions
- Share photos
- Get advice!

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Planting Beds

Planting Beds

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5 Planting Beds

Planting Beds

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5 Planting Beds

Building Planting Beds

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5 Planting Beds

Mulch Materials

Drip Irrigation Overview

- Allows water to flow slowly to plant roots
- Very little water is wasted from evaporation or wind
- Helps with weed control.
- Easier to install and change

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5 Planting Beds

Drip Irrigation Types

In-Line Drip

Point Source Drip

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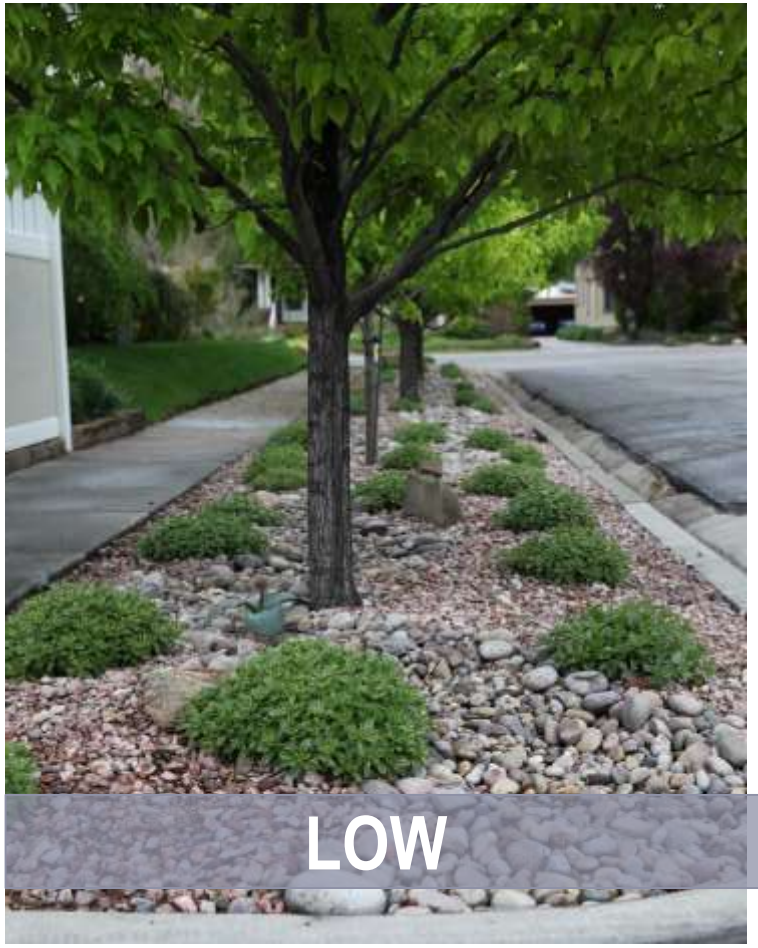
5 Planting Beds

Drip Irrigation Considerations

Choose drip irrigation that supports your plant density preference



LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH

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5 Planting Beds

Filter/Pressure Reducer

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5 Planting Beds

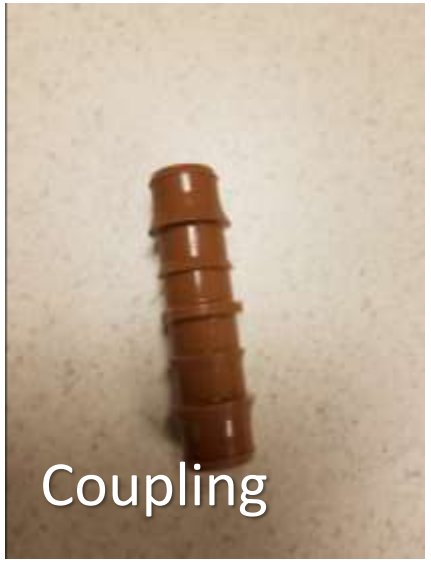
Inline Drip Irrigation Materials

Retrofit Head

Blank Tubing

Drip Tubing

Tee


Coupling

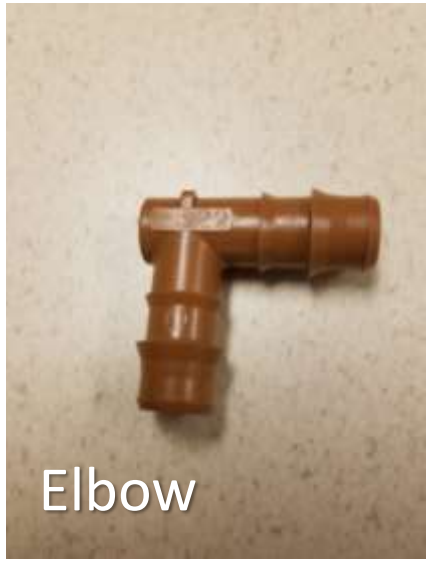

Elbow

Figure Eight Line End

Staple

Inline Drip Irrigation

- Drip emitters are built directly into the lines
- Water planting beds evenly
- Installed on the surface of the soil under a layer of mulch
- Easy maintenance

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Best Practice

Inline Drip Irrigation

To ensure trees get plenty of water, loop inline drip in at least two rings around the trunk.

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5 Planting Beds

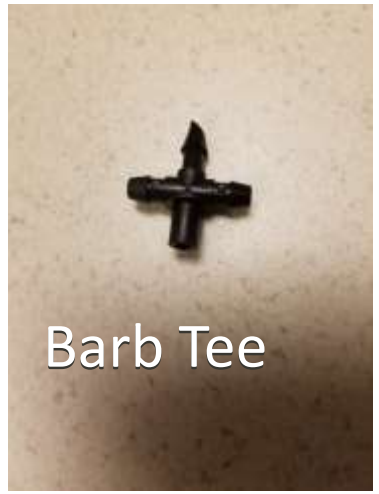
Point Source Drip Irrigation Materials

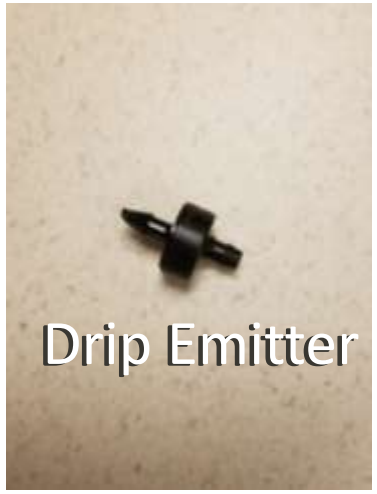
Retrofit Head

Blank Tubing

Flush Valve

Xeriman Tool


Barb Tee


Drip Emitter

Tubing Stake

Poly Tubing

Staple

Point Source Drip Irrigation

- Drip emitters are attached to the main line with distribution tubing
- Emitter waters individual plants
- Installed on the surface of the soil under a layer of mulch
- Best for maximum weed control

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Best Practice

Point Source Drip Irrigation

- Ensure that you have at least 5 gallons of water per hour to each tree
- More emitters will have to be added as plants mature
- Trees take the longest to establish their root system so be sure to periodically give them extra water during the first two years

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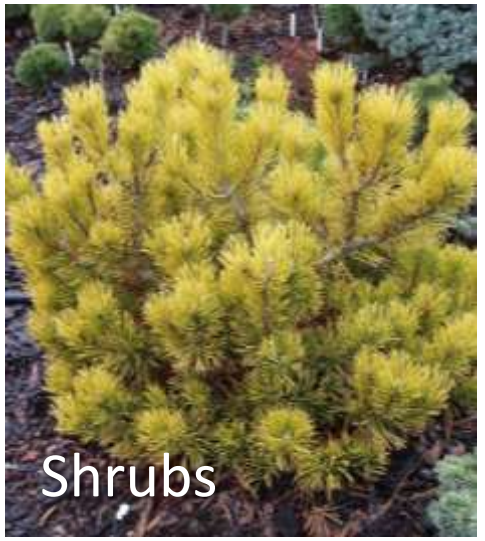
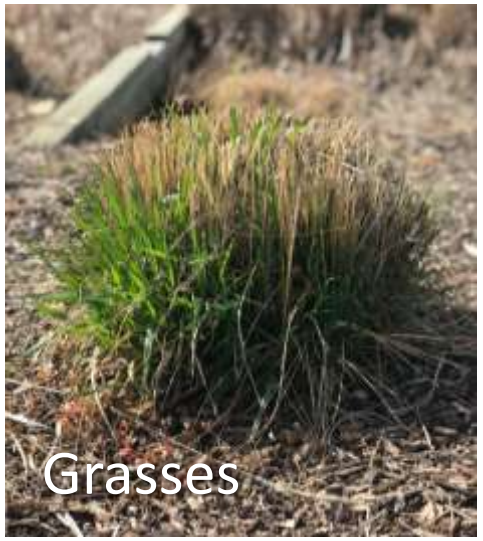
5 Planting Beds

Plant Materials





Trees

- Provide shade
- Block unwanted views
- Provide multi-season interest
- Can act as a focal point

Weeping White Spruce

'Green Vase' Zelkova

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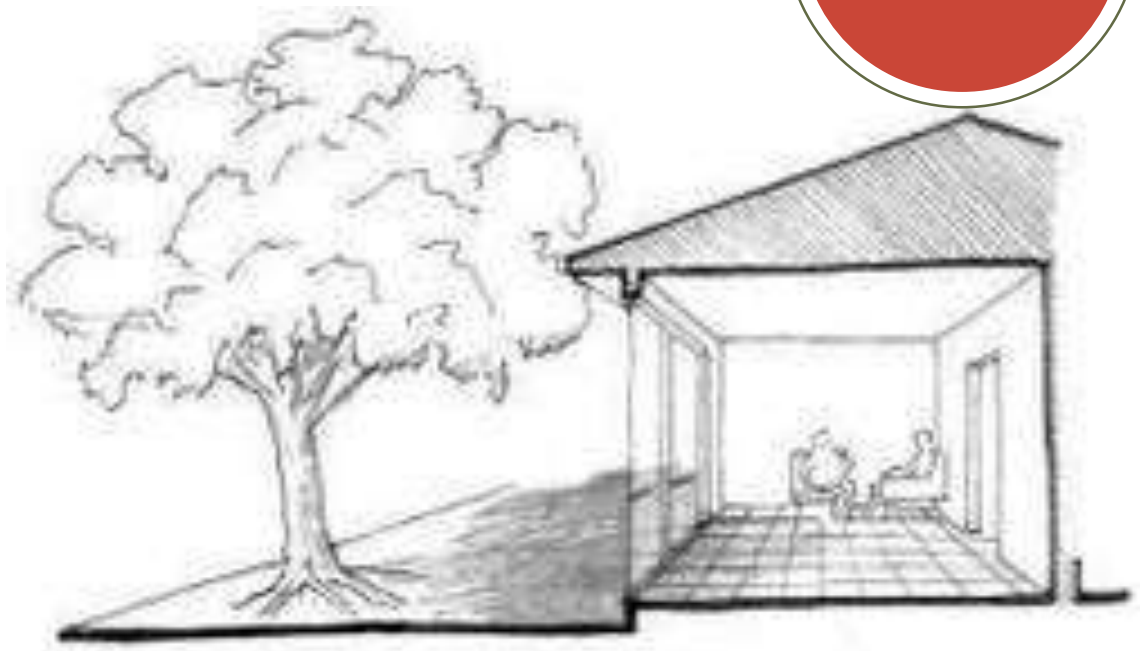
5 Planting Beds

Energy Efficiency

Summer



Winter

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Shade

Use trees to provide shade for lawn, gathering areas, and activity zones

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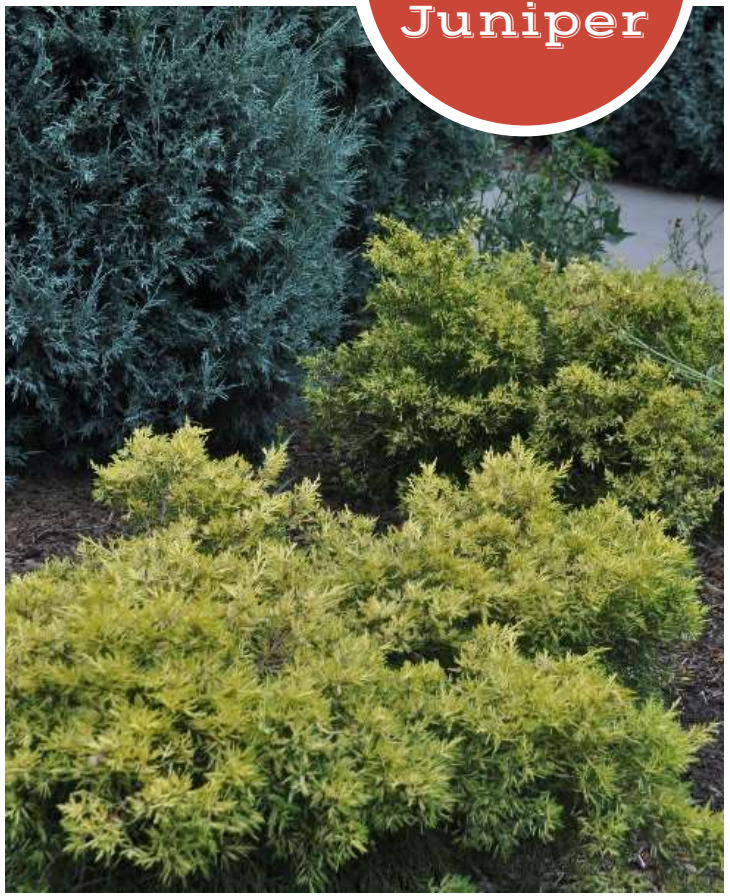
5 Planting Beds

Shrubs

- Low-maintenance color
- Privacy
- Provide multi-season interest
- Backbone plant of any good design

'Sea of Gold' Juniper



'Diabolo' Ninebark

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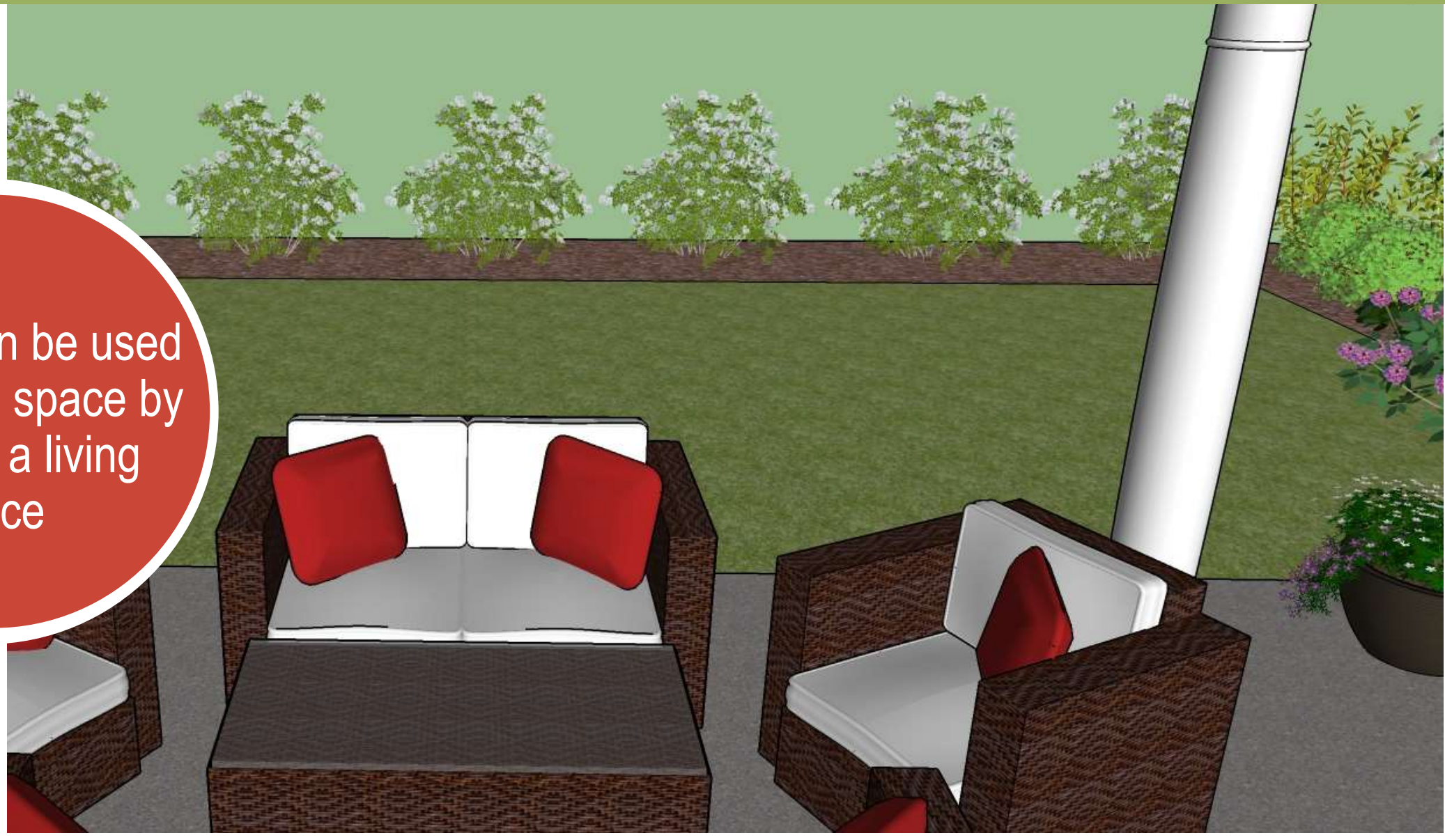
5 Planting Beds

Define Space

Shrubs can be used to define a space by creating a living fence



Ornamental Grasses

5 Planting Beds

- Provide movement and sound
- Add light and texture
- Provide winter interest
- Habitat for birds

Alkali Sacaton

Flame Grass

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Create Privacy

Trees, shrubs, and ornamental grasses can be used to add height and create privacy

Perennials

- Provide bursts of color
- Grow year after year
- Bloom at different times of the year
- Habitat for pollinators

Dianthus

Shasta Daisy

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5 Planting Beds

Planting in Layers

Annuals vs. Perennials

Best Practice

Don’t mix annuals and perennials in planting beds

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Best Practice

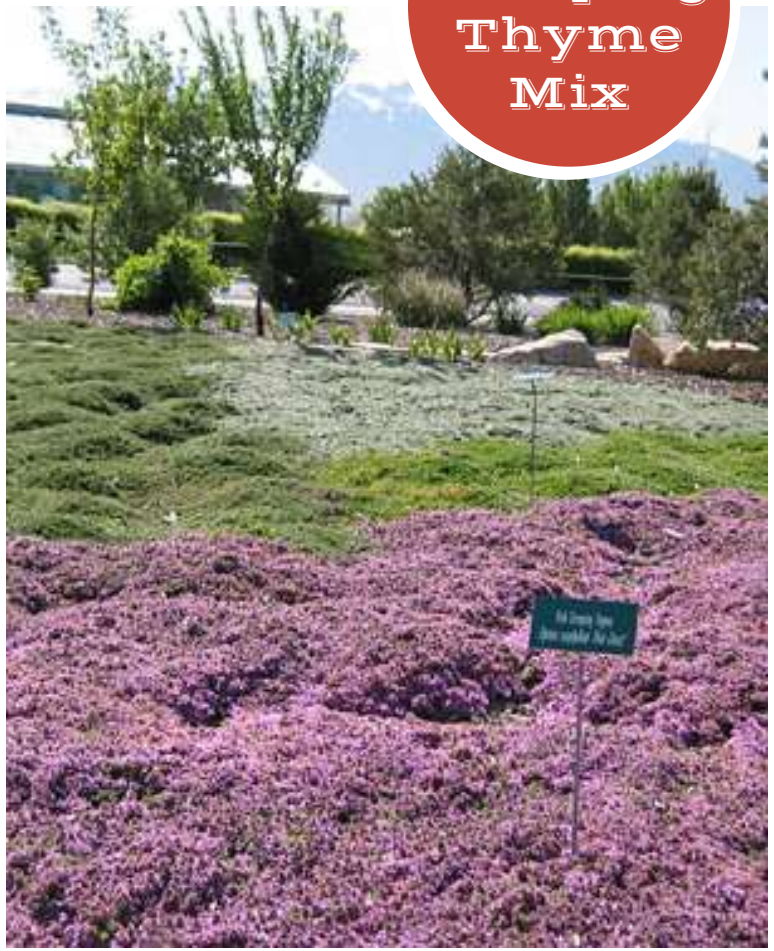
Save annual flowers for container accents

- Keeping annuals in containers will reduce maintenance.
- Drip irrigate containers when possible.

Groundcovers

- The carpet of the landscape
- Living mulch
- No need to mow
- Outcompete most weeds

Creeping Thyme Mix



Plumbago

Bulbs

- Waterwise
- Provide early spring color
- A mix of bulbs provides color spring through fall
- Low maintenance

Best Practice

Planting Times

Fall

- This is the best time to plant
- Smaller selection

Spring

- Also a good time to plant
- Selection is much greater

Summer

- Plants will struggle to develop a root system

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5 Planting Beds

Tree Planting

- Too high is better than too deep
- Don't cover the trunk flare
- Remove burlap and cage
- Staking is not always necessary

1. **Call Before You Dig** – Several days before planting, call the national 811 hotline to have underground utilities located.

2. **Handle with Care** – Always lift tree by the root ball. Keep roots moist until planting.

3. **Digging a Proper Hole** – Dig 2 to 5 times wider than the diameter of the root ball with sloping sides to allow for proper root growth.

4. **Planting Depth** – The trunk flare should sit slightly above ground level and the top-most roots should be buried 1 to 2 inches.

5. **Filling the Hole** – Backfill with native soil unless it's all clay. Tamp in soil gently to fill large air spaces.

6. **Mulch** – Allow 1 to 2 inch clearance between the trunk and the mulch. Mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep.

For more tree-planting tips and information, visit **arborday.org.**

Source: Arbor Day Foundation™

90075201

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5 Planting Beds

Watering New Plants

New plants have small root balls and **need water several times a week** (or more!) during the first growing season.

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Watering
Established Plants

- Plants with an established root system should be watered using drip irrigation
- Drip Irrigation needs its own zone because it runs longer than pop up heads

Clay Soil:

Water once a week for 60 minutes

Sandy Soil:

Water two days a week for 30 minutes.

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5 Planting Beds

Watering Guide

General Watering Guide for Central/Northern Utah

Lawns

How Often?	Clay Soil	Sandy Soil
Mother's Day (start watering)	Once every 5 days	Once every 3 days
Father's Day	Once every 3 days	Once every 2 days
Labor Day	Once every 5 days	Once every 3 days
Columbus Day	Stop Watering (winterize)	

How Long?	Clay Soil	Sandy Soil
Rotating	45 min. total	25 min. total
Fixed	25 min. total	15 min. total

Use the "cycle and soak" method for lawn. Set each zone for half the time needed, run all zones, then run each station a second time. This minimizes water runoff.

When?

Before 8 am
or
After 8 pm

for both lawn and planting beds.

Planting Beds

How Often?	Clay Soil	Sandy Soil
Mother's Day (start watering)	Once every 7 days	Once every 5 days
Father's Day	Once every 4 days	Once every 3 days
Labor Day	Once every 7 days	Once every 5 days
Columbus Day	Stop Watering (winterize)	

How Long?	Clay Soil	Sandy Soil
Drip (Recommended)	60 minutes	30 minutes

If you currently have spray irrigation in your planter beds, we recommend switching to drip.

Drip irrigation in planting beds dramatically reduces weeds while saving water.

Garden Park

www.ConservationGardenPark.org

Weather conditions may impact your watering needs.

Rebates for water efficiency available at utahwatersavers.com

Utah Water Savers

Know your plants

Where to look:

- www.conservationgardenpark.org
- Google
- Check all plant tags before you buy a plant

What to look for:

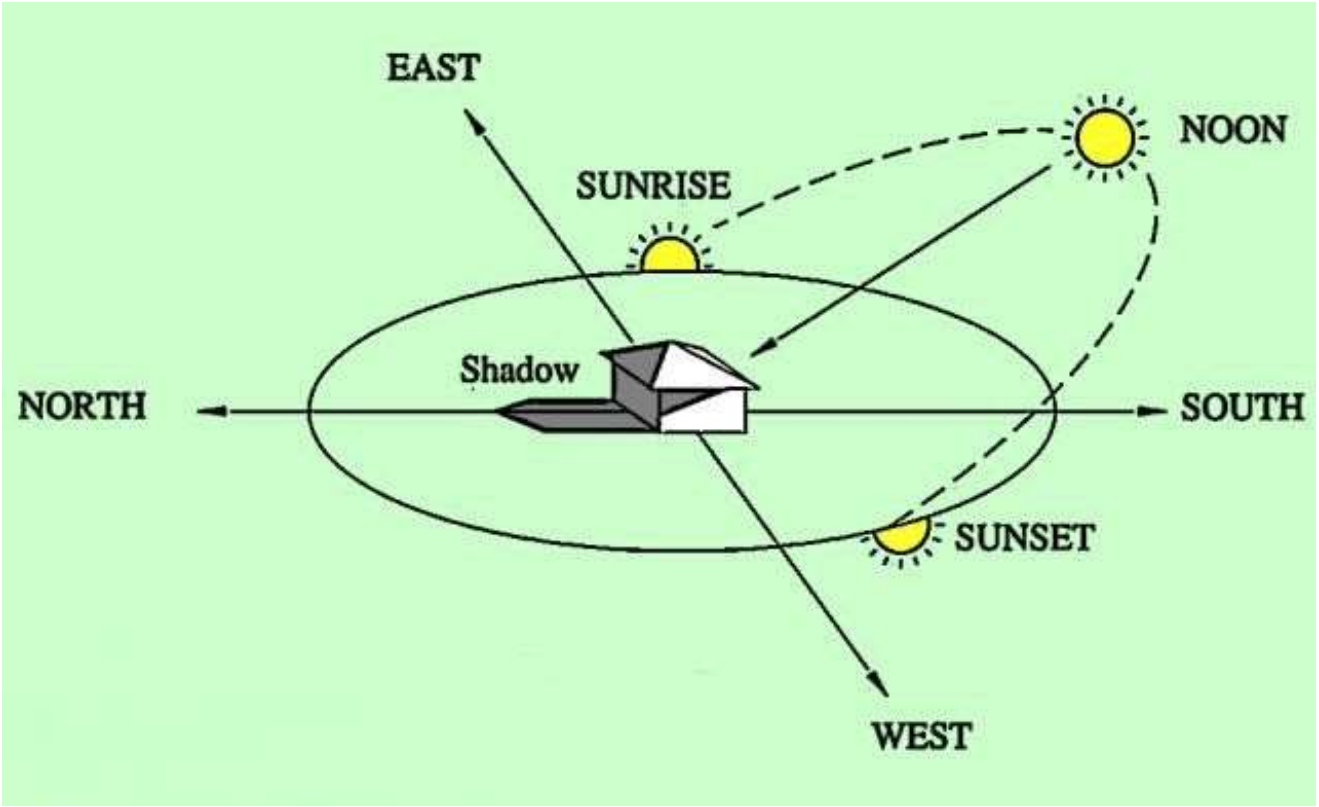
- Size
- Light requirements
- Perennial vs. annual
- Hardiness zone

Buy plants by botanical name, not the common name.

Location Affects Plants

What is a microclimate?

- A microclimate is when the climate of a small area is different from the area around it
- Some areas of your yard may be warmer or colder, wetter or drier, or less prone to frosts
- Microclimates are very prevalent in side yards and near foundations



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Sunny

Full-sun plants:

Areas facing south and west are the best place for heat-loving plants.

Part Sun

Part-sun plants:

- Require 6 hours of sun or less
- East side walls are a great place for these plants. There is sunlight for half of the day, but the sun is far less intense

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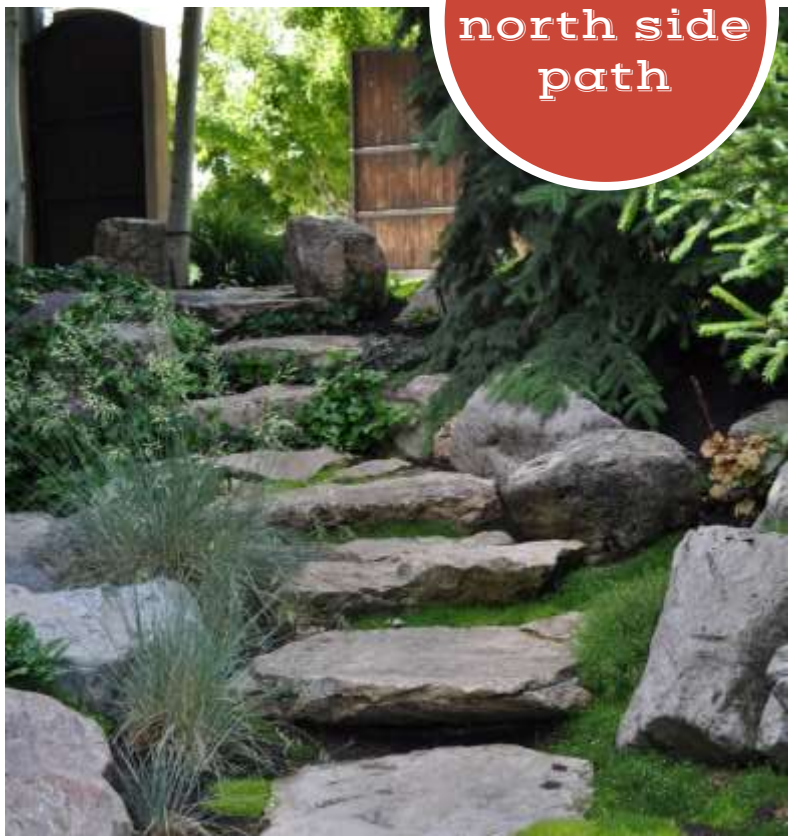
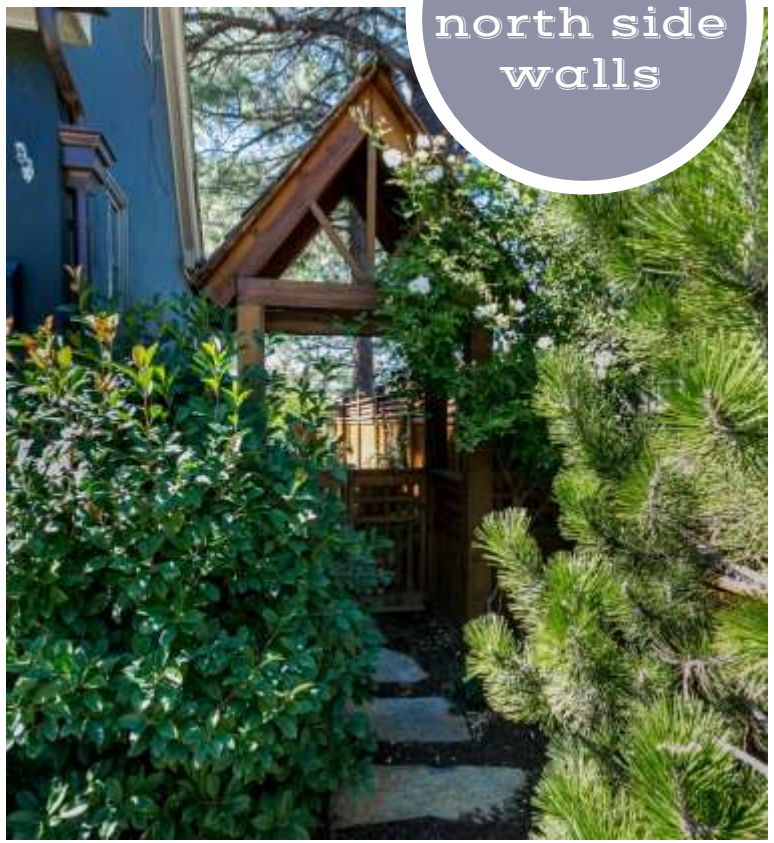
5 Planting Beds

Shade

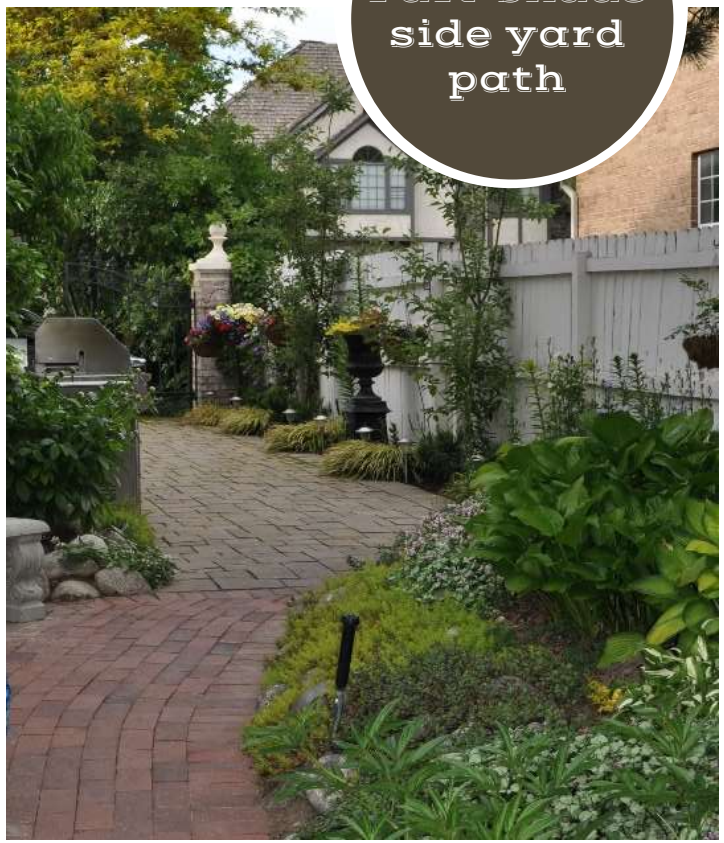
Shady north side path



Shady north side walls



Part-shade side yard path



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5 Planting Beds

Completed Planting Beds

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Questions?

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Landscape for where you live.

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