

Get a Discounted Rain Barrel!

- 55-gallon rain barrels on sale now for \$75
- Get a \$30 discount on up to 3 barrels for attending an online class – that makes only \$45 per barrel!
 - Rainwater Harvesting on August 25 at 6pm
 - Tarrant County residents only
- Barrel purchase open now through September 9th
- Barrel pick up on September 19 at your choice of location:
 - Fort Worth, Colleyville, Keller, Trophy Club
 - Mansfield (pick up on Sept 26)

[SaveTarrantWater.com/rainbarrels](https://www.savetarrantwater.com/rainbarrels)



[stw.fyi/rbs](https://www.stw.fyi/rbs)

The background of the entire image is a close-up photograph of several tall, purple flower spikes, likely lavender, against a soft-focus green background. The flowers are in sharp focus in the foreground, while the background is a bokeh of green and yellow light.

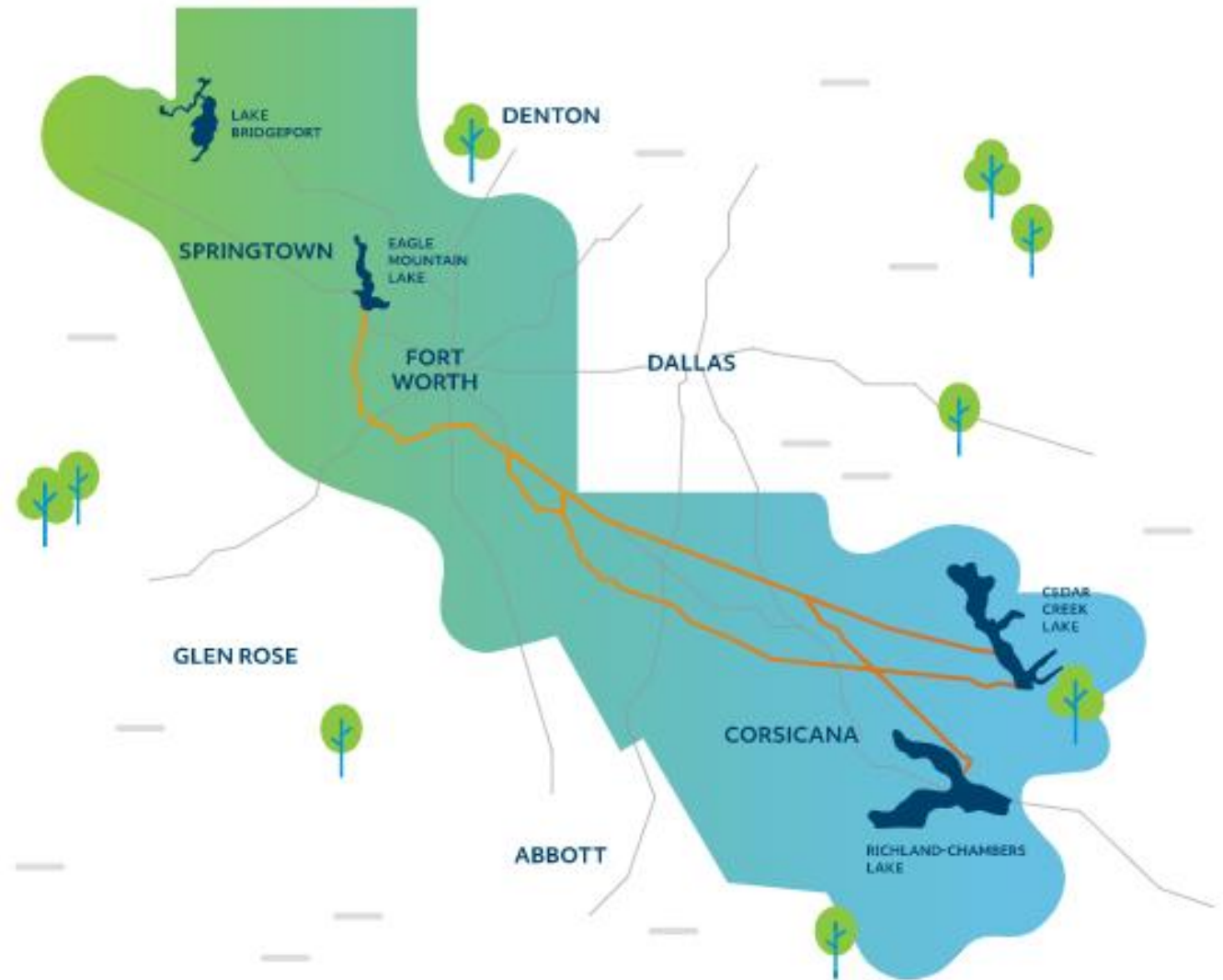
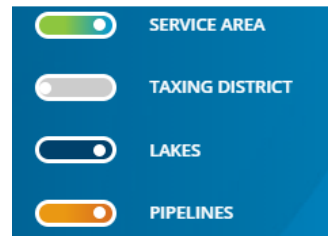
SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING IN AN HOA

HEATHER BASS
CONSERVATION SUPERVISOR



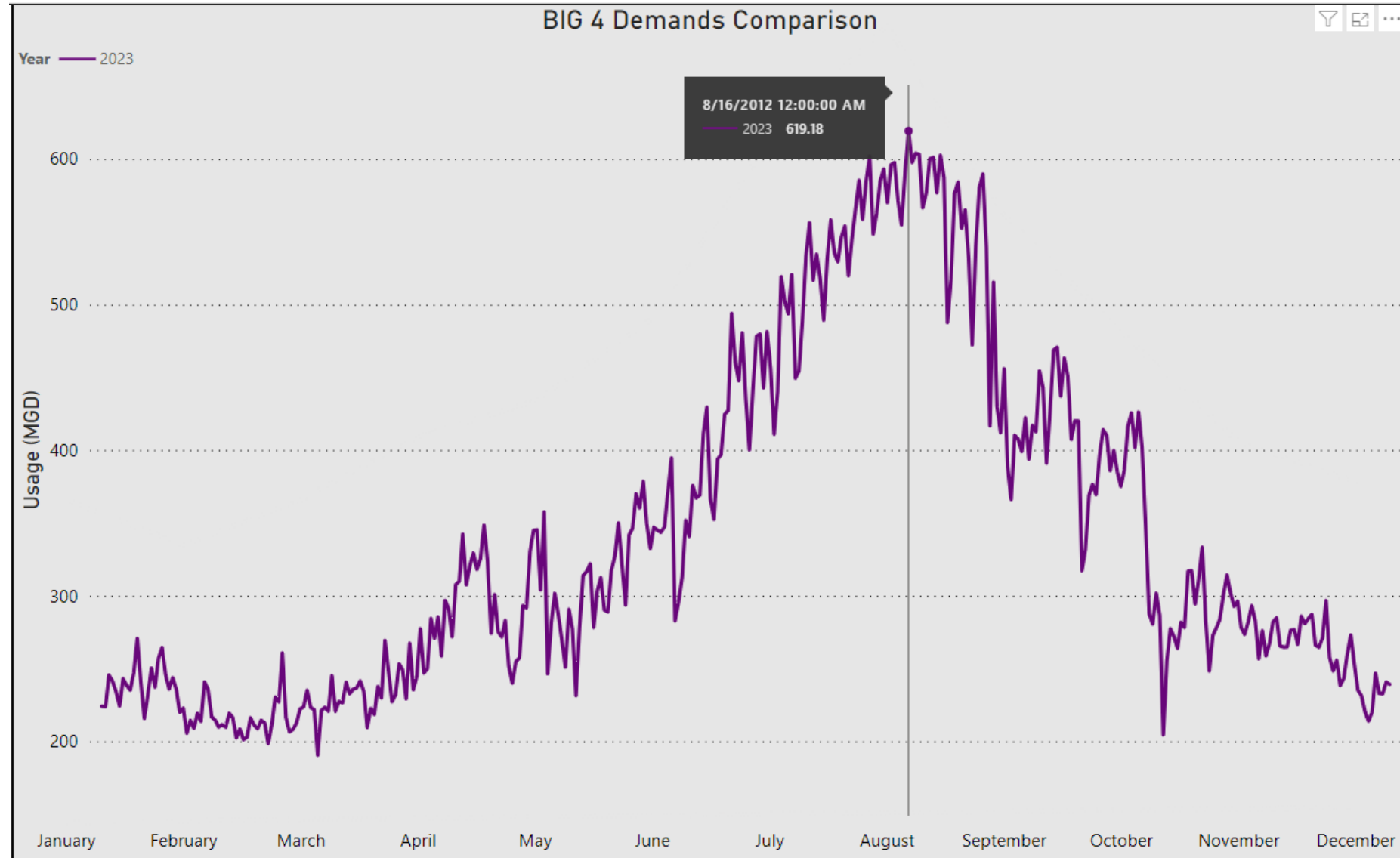
Mission:

- Water supply
- Flood control
- Recreation



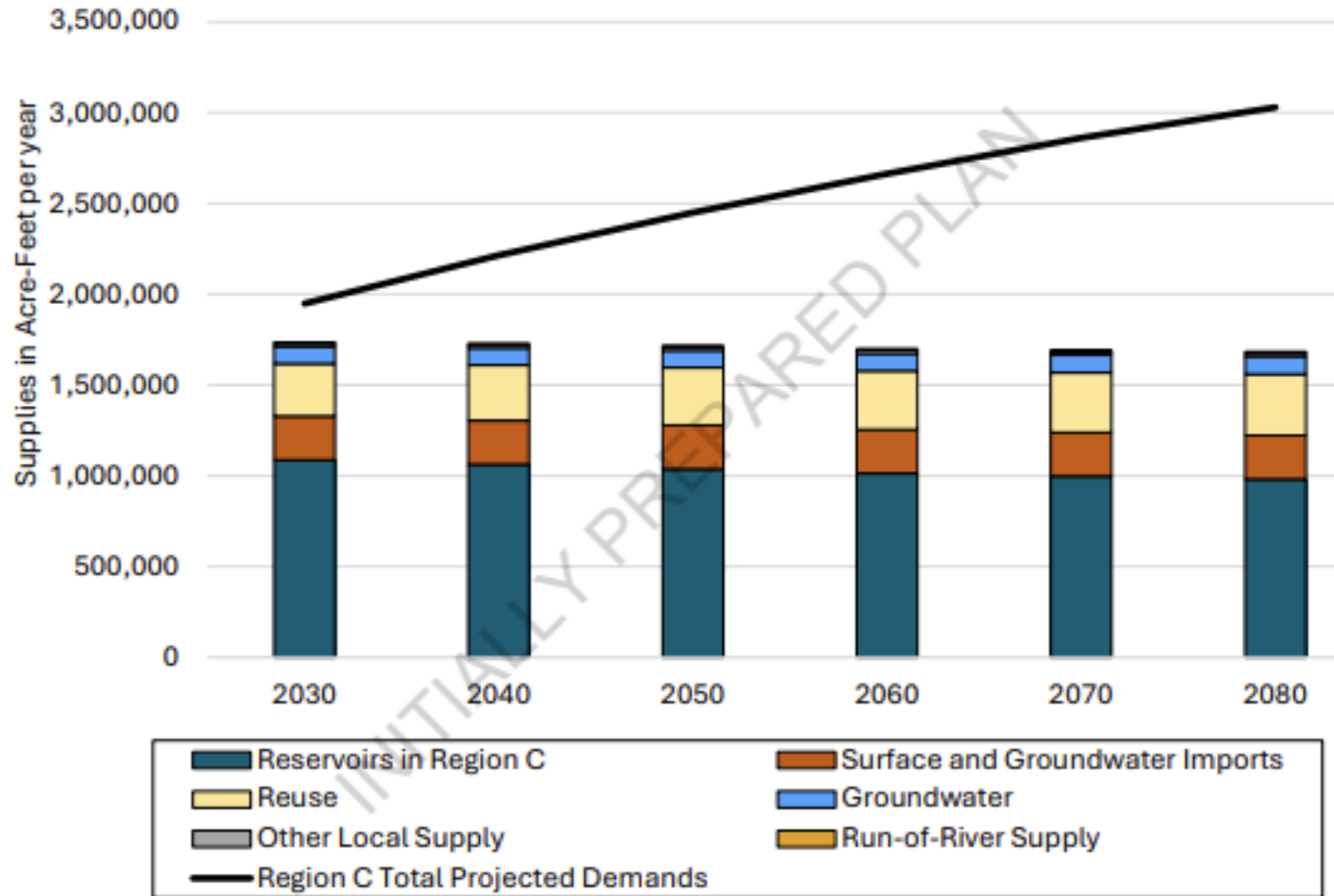
TRWD Service Area

Water Conservation is Important!



Conservation is an Important Water Supply Strategy

FIGURE ES.3 COMPARISON OF CURRENTLY AVAILABLE SUPPLIES AND PROJECTED DEMANDS





SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING IN AN HOA

HEATHER BASS
CONSERVATION SUPERVISOR



Landscape Design

Design tools at:

- Txsmartscape.com
- SaveTarrantWater.com – HPL calculator and sample designs
 - NPSOT.org
- Look for Texas Native Landscaping books

Overall Landscape Design

Divide your landscape into 3rds:

- 1/3 turf grass
 - 1/3 plant beds
 - 1/3 permeable hardscape
-
- Remove **non-functional** turf



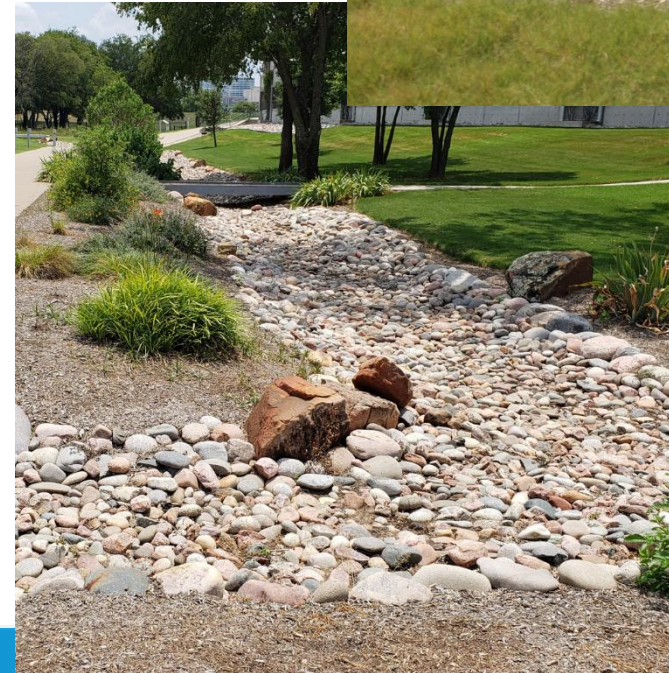
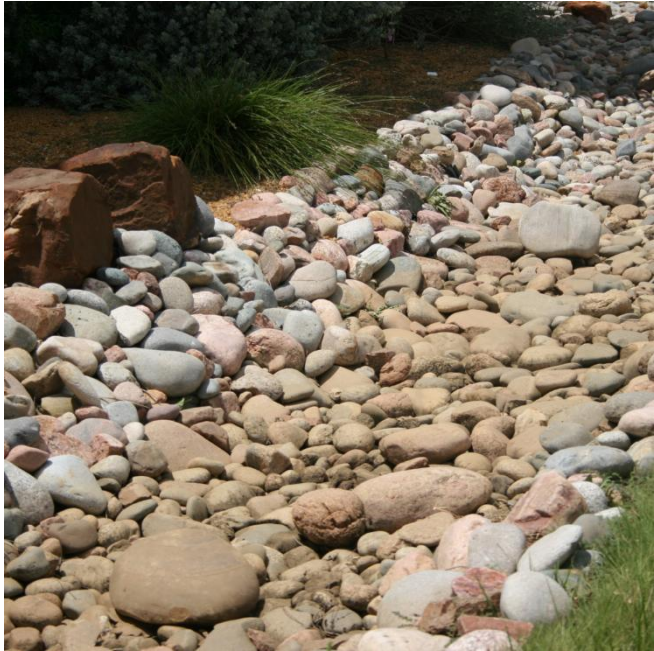
1/3 Permeable Hardscape

- **Permeable** - (of a material or membrane) allowing liquids or gases to pass through it.
- Stones
- Pavers
- Gravel
- Sand
- Dirt
- Mulch
- NOT concrete



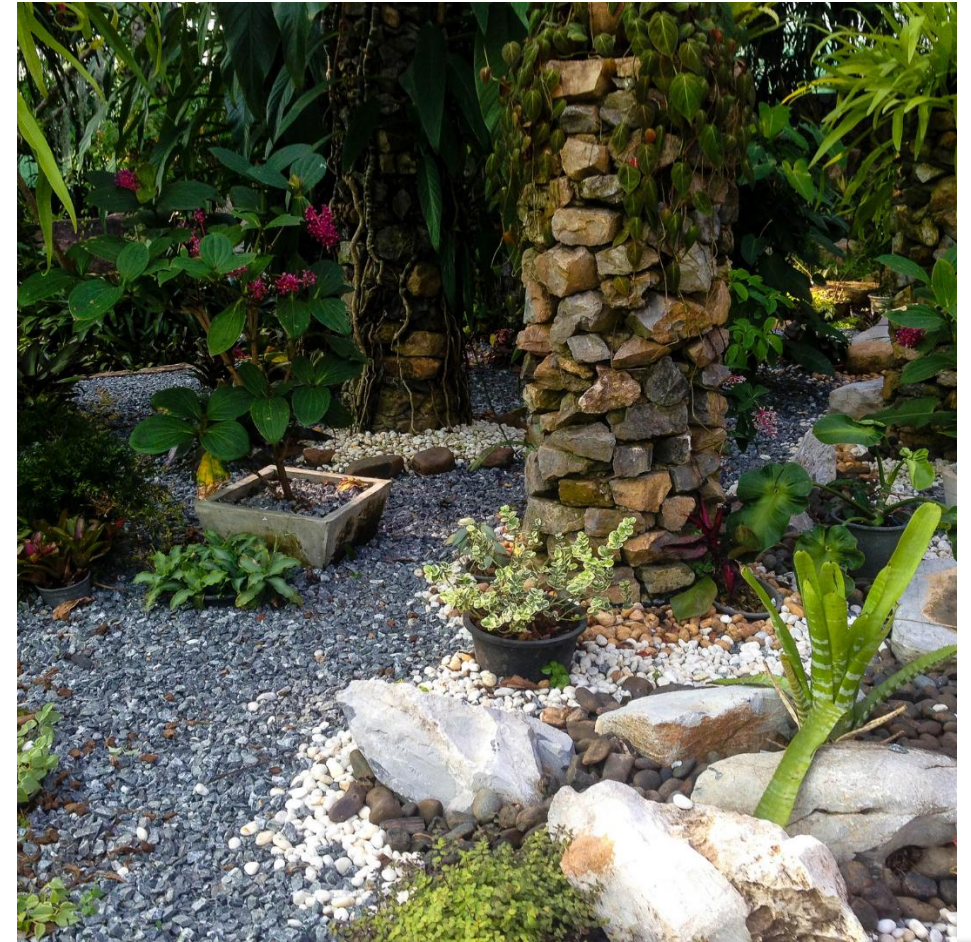
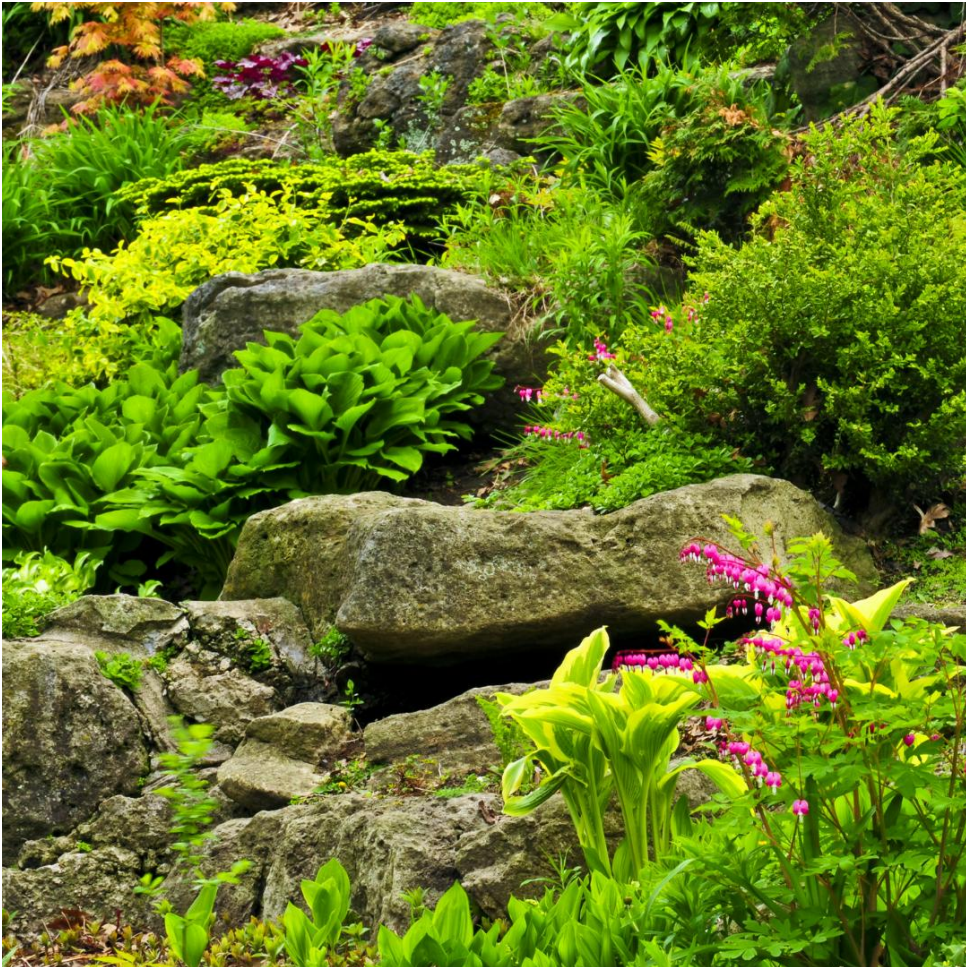
Dry Creek Beds

- Can use to control stormwater
- Microbes on rocks clean water

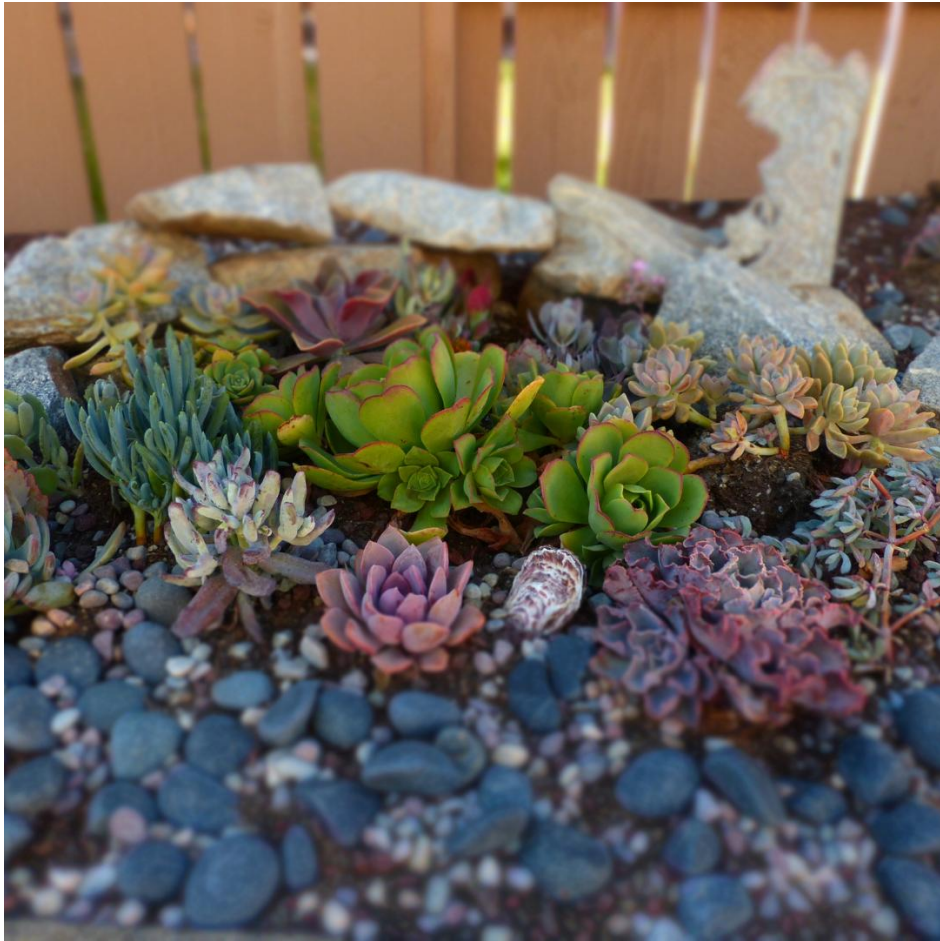


Rock Gardening

- Small stones, gravel, large boulders
- Rocks don't all have to be in the same area



Rock Gardening



Outdoor Living

- Patio
- Outdoor kitchen – BBQ grill
- Seating – outdoor furniture, benches
- Firepit
- Entertainment area
- Meditation or Prayer garden
- Memorial garden

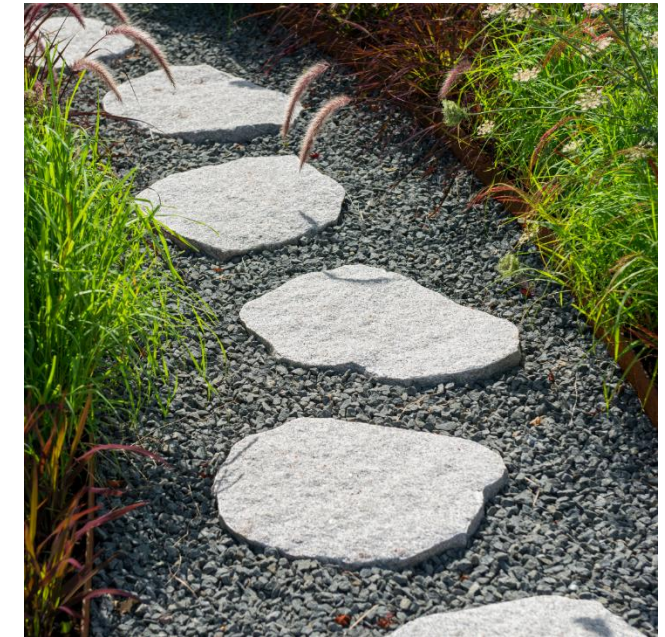
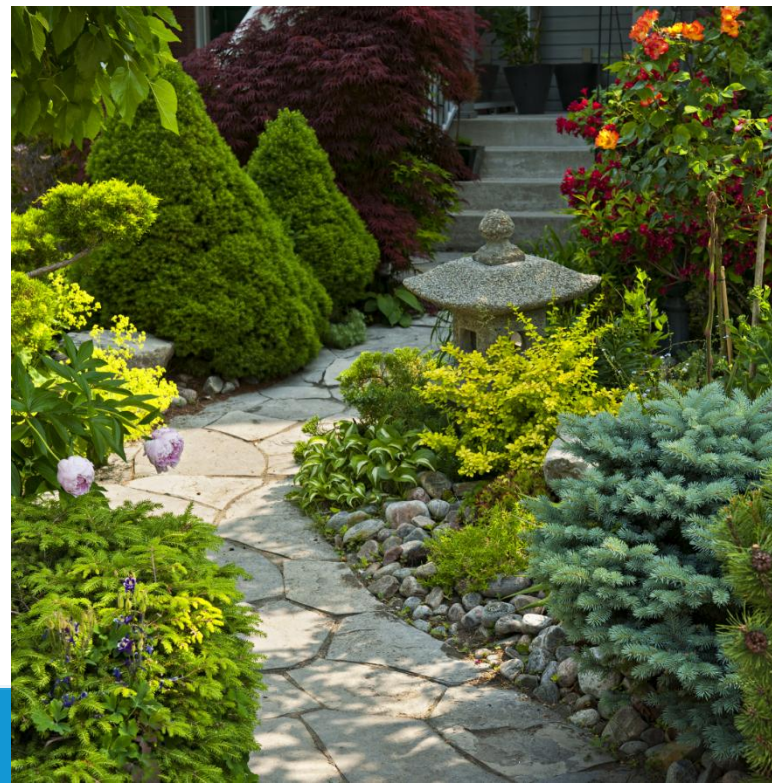
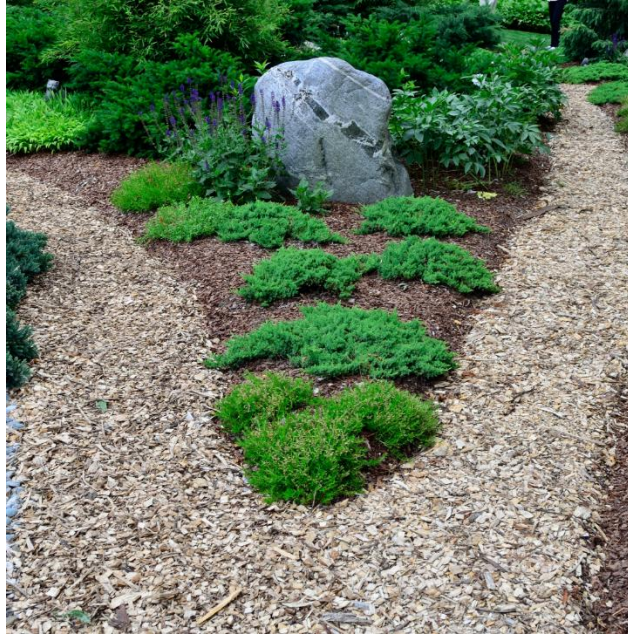


Outdoor Living



Paths

- Gravel, decomposed granite, mulch
- Pavers, flagstone
- No grout between!



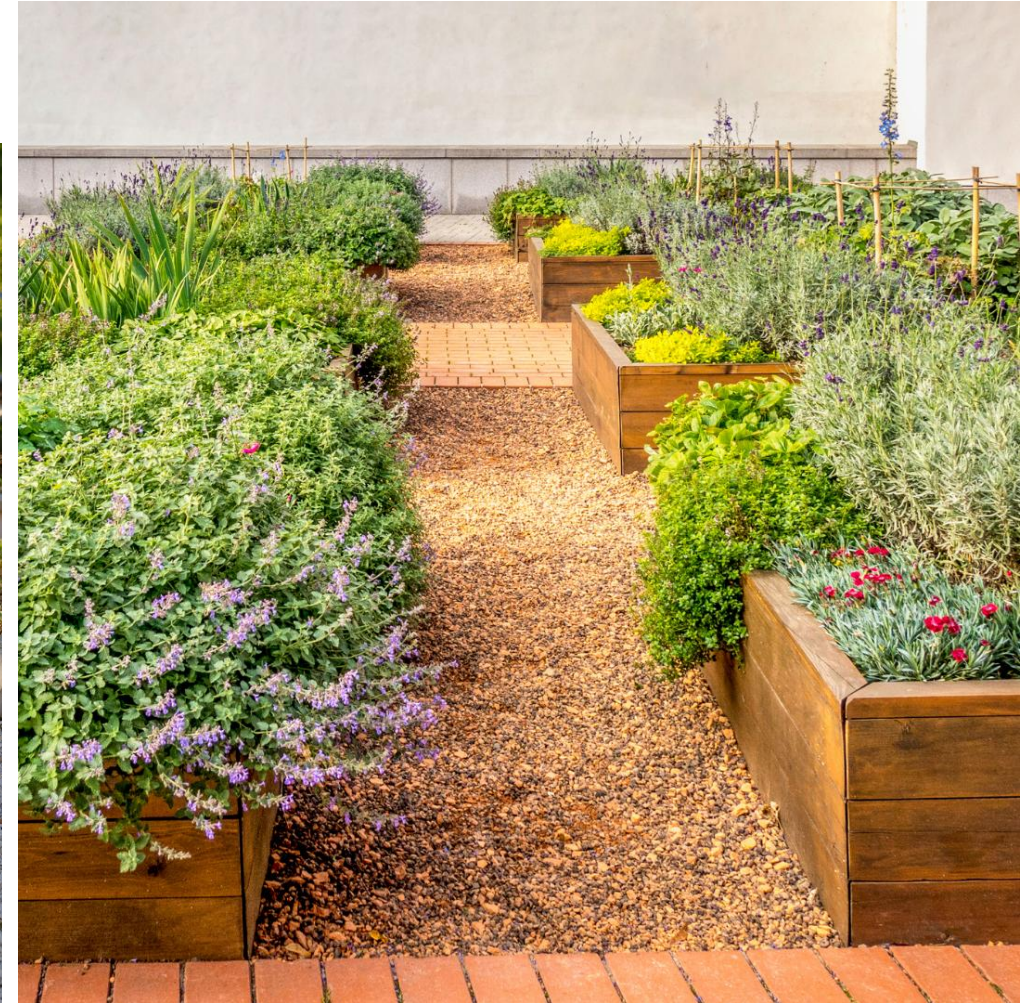
Compost Pile

- Divert waste from the landfill
- Make your own soil amendments



Raised Beds

- Permeable paths between



1/3 Non-Turf Plants



Native Plants



Native Texas Plants are Tough!

Native: of indigenous origin or growth

- Drought tolerant
- Heat tolerant
- Cold tolerant
- Pest tolerant
- Disease tolerant
- Love our hard clay soil
- Do not need fertilizer



Native Plants are Awesome!

Native Plants save water!

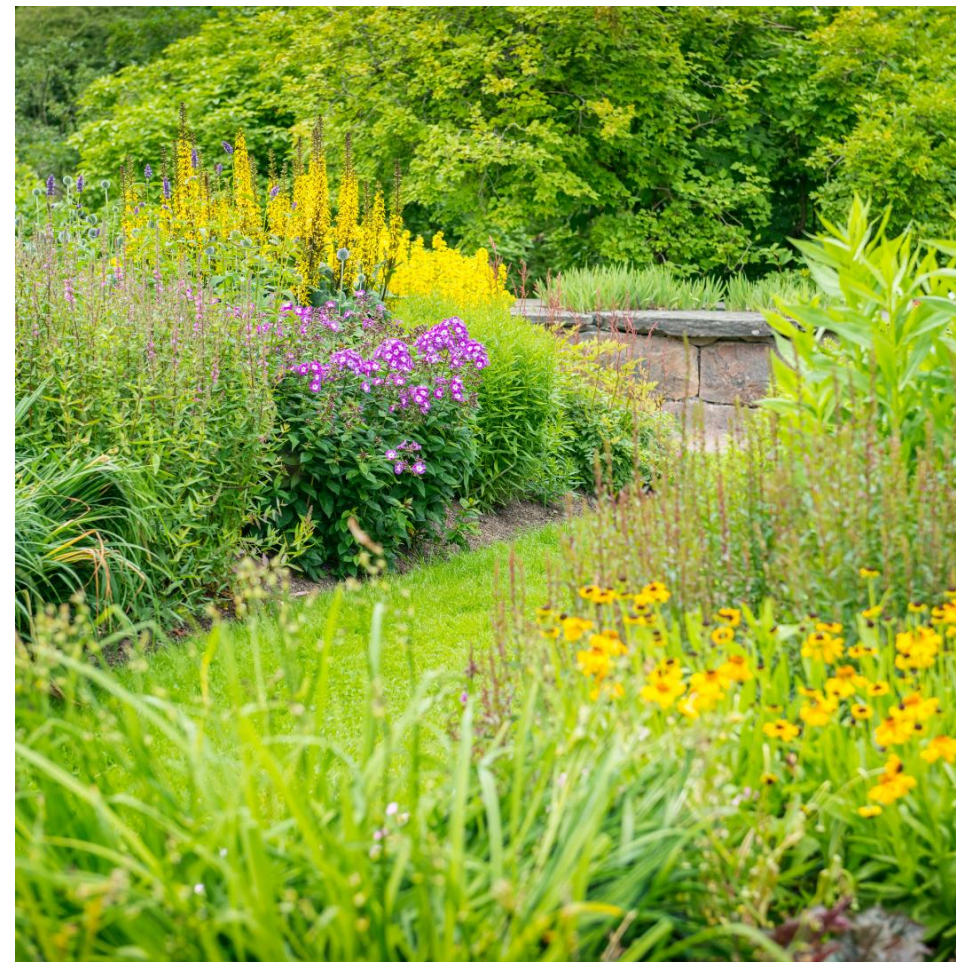
- Reduce localized temperature and heat island
- Reduce noise pollution
- Remove pollutants from water, soil, and air
- Slow water down to allow it to infiltrate, reducing flooding and refilling groundwater
- Support wildlife and pollinators
- Enhance human mental health
- Create ecosystem services



Ecosystem Services: direct and indirect benefits that ecosystems provide to humans

Landscaping with Native Plants

- Diverse sizes, textures, colors
- Will work for any type of design or aesthetic
 - Pollinator gardens
 - Rain gardens, bioswales, rock creek beds
 - Wildflower meadow or pocket prairie
 - Rainwater harvesting
 - Cottage Gardening
 - Traditional Landscaping



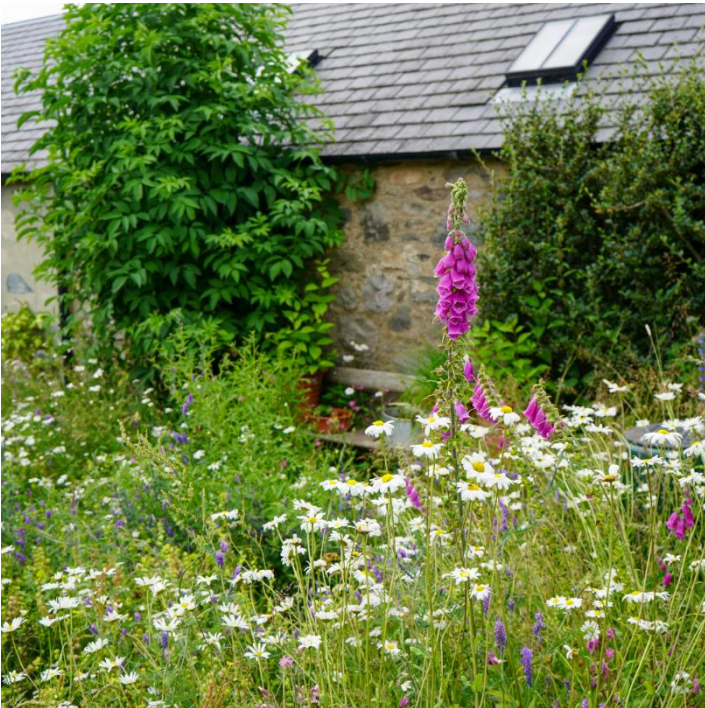
Native Plants vs. Lawn

- Example: 9200 sq ft landscape
- St. Augustine Turfgrass PF – 0.7 to 0.8 – 33.51 inches per year of irrigation
- Low water use adapted or native Texas plants – 0.3 to none – 16.76 inches per year of irrigation
- Lawn needs 25,691 gallons of water – on average, people water more
- Native plants need 12,849 gallons of water MAXIMUM

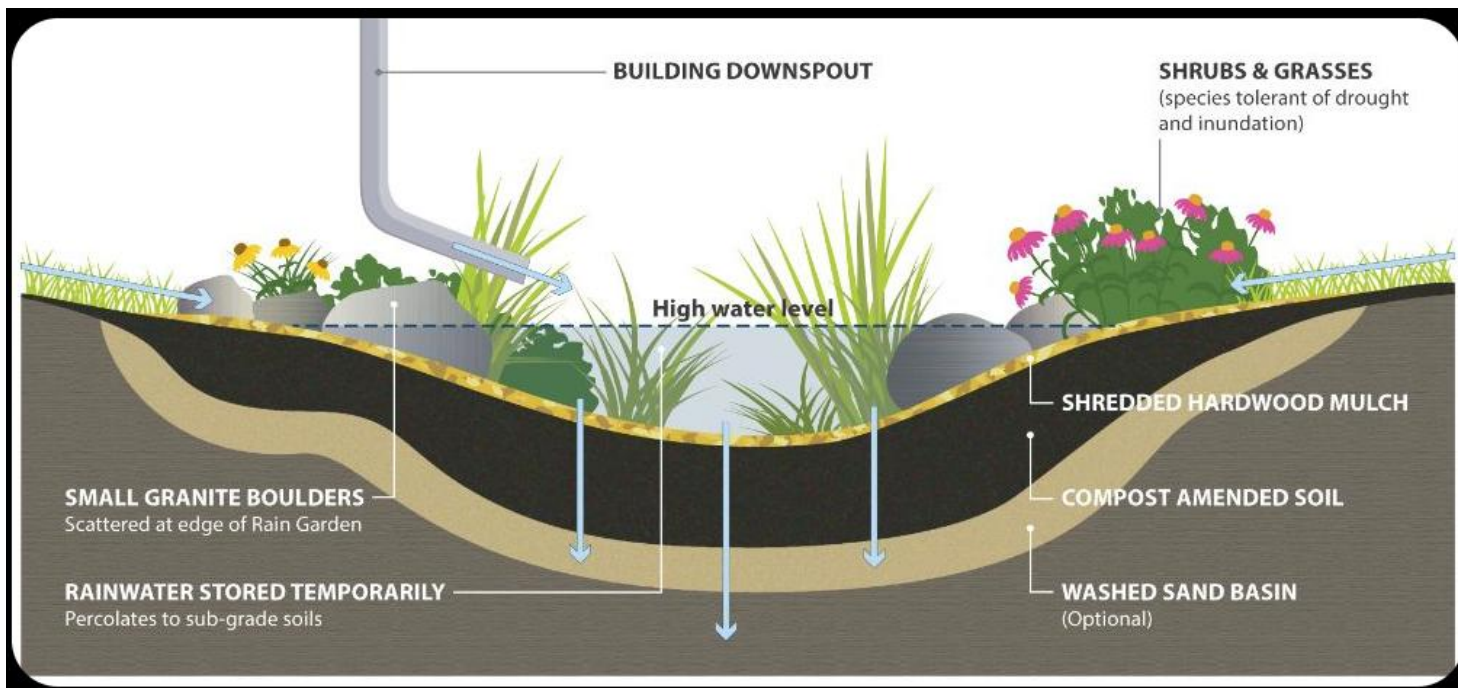
**A SAVINGS OF 13,000+ GALLONS
OF WATER A YEAR!**

Wildflower Patch / Pocket Prairie

- Seed wildflowers and native prairie plants

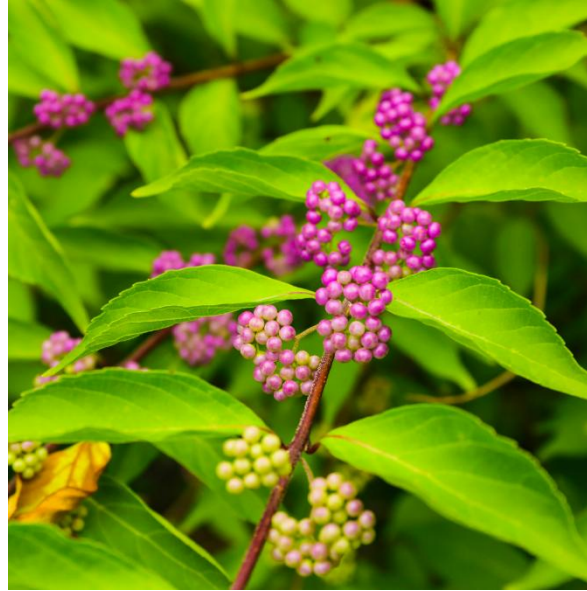


Rain Gardens



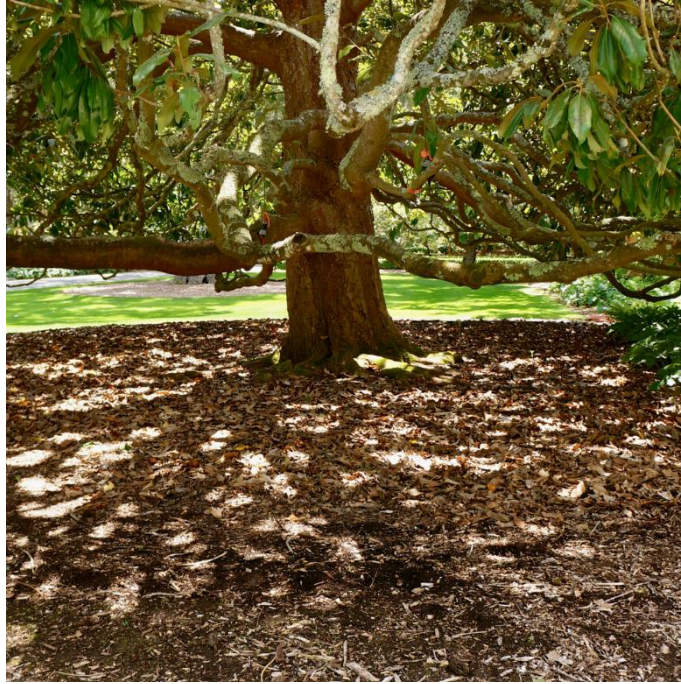
Under a Tree?

- Inland Seaoats
- Native Ferns
- Texas Sedge
- Beautyberry
- Turkscap
- Vines



Plant a Tree

- Shade
- Small, ornamental
- Fruit



Plant Some Food

- Vegetable beds
- Herb garden
- Kitchen garden
- Berry patch
- Fruit orchard



Alternative Groundcovers

- Horse Herb
- Frog Fruit
- Snakeherb
- Clovers
- Vines



Marsilea macropoda

Cues to Care

Make sure people who are viewing the landscape know the vegetation choices are intentional

Cues to Care

- Keep it clean
- Remove actual weeds
- Exhibit intention and care
- Group like plants together
- Symmetry, design, style
- Trim dead or brown growth in late summer
- Deadhead flowers to encourage more blooms



Cues to Care

Bird Feeders, Bird Houses, Bird Baths

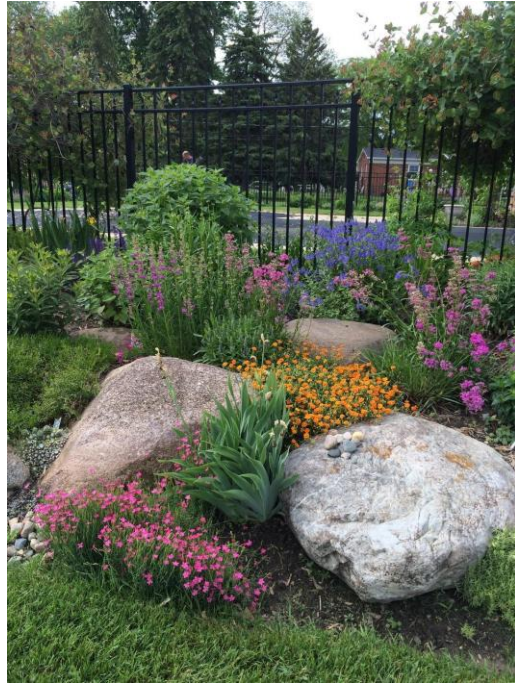


Yard Art



Cues to Care

Rocks

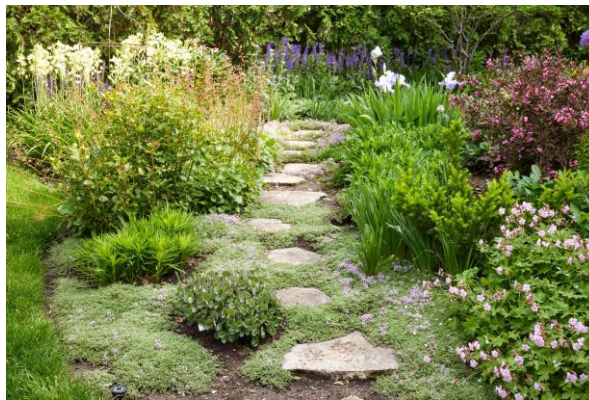


Mulch or Decomposed Granite



Cues to Care

Paths



Borders



Cues to Care

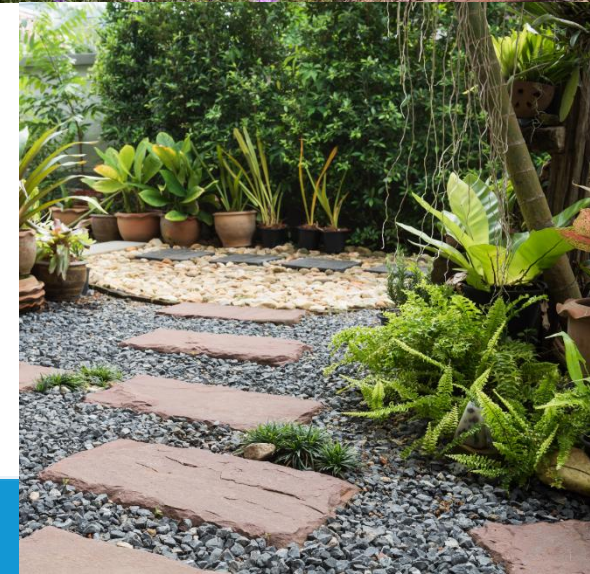
Get a certification and yard sign

- Monarch waystation – MonarchWatch.org
- National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat – certifiedwildlifehabitat.nwf.org
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Texas Wildscapes Certification – TPWD.Texas.gov
- Homegrown National Park – homegrownnationalpark.org
- Wildflower Area sign













before



after



Navigating HOAs and Code Compliance

More resources at:

- WaterSense – epa.gov/watersense
- Native Plant Society of Texas – npsot.org

Texas Property Code 202.007

- Details what an HOA or property management company can or cannot restrict for a homeowner
- Covers water efficiency landscaping, rainwater harvesting features, and composting

An HOA can NOT restrict anything that prohibits or restricts a property owner from implementing solid-waste composting of vegetation, installing rain harvesting, using efficient irrigation, or using xeriscaping/native turf.

Texas Property Code 202.007

What can they CAN restrict:

- Can require specific turf type ONLY IF the turf they require is water-conserving
- Can regulate installation of efficient irrigation systems ONLY IF requiring it to be hidden for aesthetic purposes
- Can regulate use of gravel, rocks, and cacti
- Can regulate yard maintenance ONLY IF it DOES NOT restrict or prohibit turf or landscape design that promotes water conservation
 - Example – can require native turf is maintained but CAN NOT restrict installation of native turf or mandate a high water use or traditional turf type
- Can require a landscape plan be submitted for review, but CAN NOT unreasonably deny or declare it does not match aesthetics

Texas Property Code 202.007

What can they CAN restrict (composting):

- Can restrict size, type, shielding, materials, and location of a compost bin ONLY IF the restrictions DO NOT INHIBIT space large enough to fit a functional compost bin and reasonable price

Texas Property Code 202.007

What can they CAN restrict (rainwater harvesting):

- Can restrict rainwater harvesting systems if on HOA or shared property
- Can restrict them being installed between the front of the house and the street
- Can require the color match the house
- Can restrict words or phrases on the system (can't be used as a sign)
- If visible from the street, another lot, or common area: can restrict size, type, shielding, and materials ONLY IF the restrictions DO NOT INHIBIT space large enough to fit a functional system and reasonable price

Texas HB 517

Relating to the authority of an HOA to assess a fine for discolored vegetation or turf during a period of residential watering restrictions

- Cannot assess a fine for not maintaining green vegetation during the time any temporary watering restrictions are mandated as a strategy to conserve water due to drought
- Cannot require turf or vegetation to be replaced during this time or for 60 days after the end of restrictions

Code Compliance

- Definition of a weed – a plant that is not valued where it is growing and is usually of vigorous growth
- Percentage of “ornamental”
- Keep any turf grass at correct length – keep clumping ornamental grasses tidy
- Remember cues to care
- Remind that your city and local water district have advised this type of vegetation for water conservation purposes!

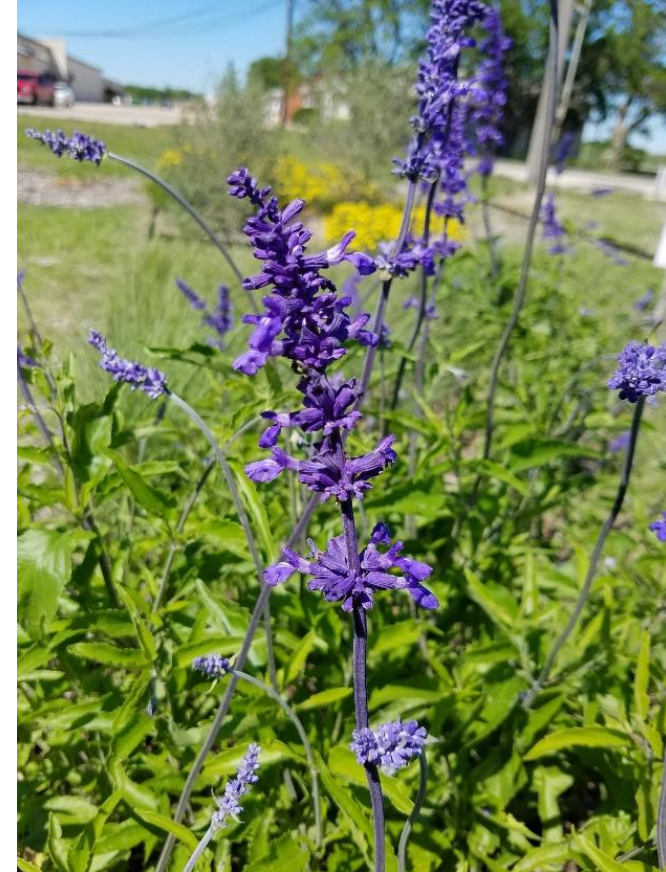
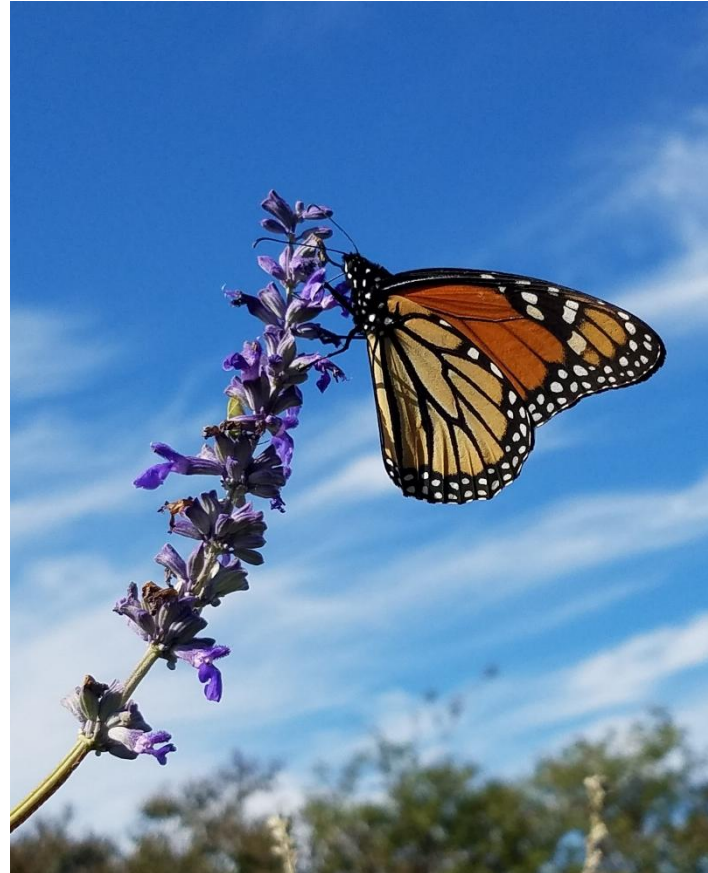
10 Plants that look great in suburban landscapes

Check out more at:

- [Wildflower.org](https://www.wildflower.org)
- [WaterisAwesome.com](https://www.waterisawesome.com)
- [Txsmartscape.com](https://www.txsmartscape.com)

Mealy Blue Sage

- *Salvia farinacea*
- AKA Henry Duelburg
- Blooms from spring to fall
- Little to no care - No irrigation needed
- Full sun
- 2-3 ft tall



Zexmenia or Wedelia

- *Wedelia acapulcensis*
- Blooms from spring to fall
- VERY hearty – no irrigation needed
- Spreads easily by seed
- 1-2 ft tall



Purple Coneflower

- *Echinacea purpurea*
- Medicinal herb
- Needs very little water or care
- Clumps at the ground – blooms shoot up 1-2 ft



Autumn Sage

- *Salvia greggii*
- Needs no irrigation
- Comes in many colors – pink, red, white
- Small and shrubby – 1-2 ft tall



Lantana

- *Lantana urticoides*
- Very hearty and drought tolerant
- Hummingbirds and butterflies



Fall Aster / Aromatic Aster

- *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*
- 1000s of blooms all at once!
- Otherwise a “regular” bush



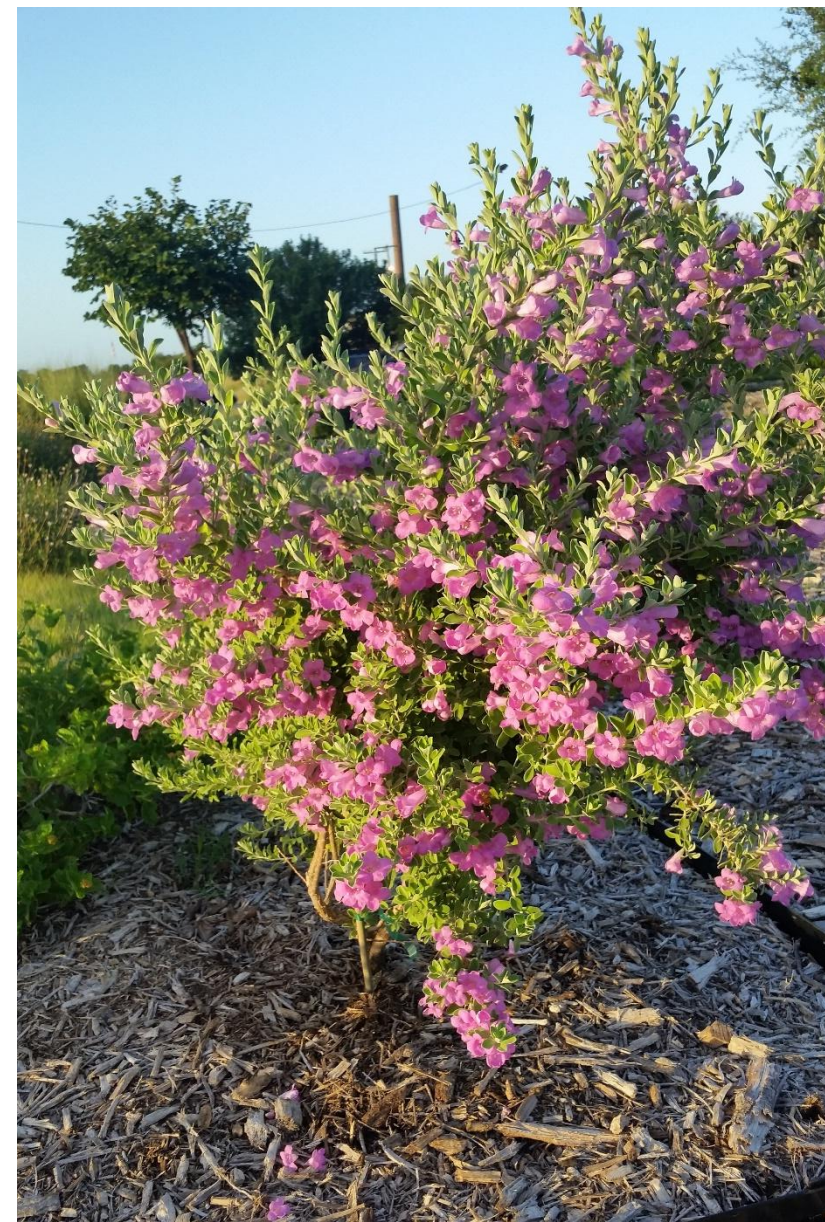
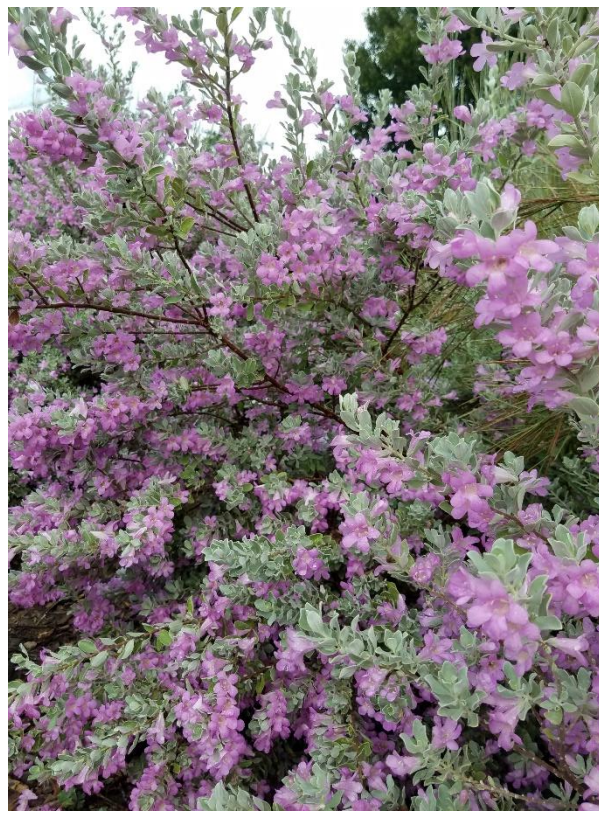
Turks Cap

- *Malvaviscus arboreus*
- Full sun or full shade
- Large bush – up to 7-8 ft tall
- Hummingbirds!



Texas Sage

- *Leucophyllum frutescens*
- Full sun
- Large bush – up to 7-8 ft tall
- Blooms after rain



Black Dalea

- *Dalea frutescens*
- Low growing bush – 1-2 ft tall
- Bees love it!



Muhly Grasses

- Lindheimer's Muhly – *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*
- Gulf/Pink Muhly – *Muhlenbergia capillaris*
- Large, clumping grass



Buffalo Grass

- *Bouteloua dactyloides*
- Native turf



Thank you! Questions?

Sign up for our newsletter!

Conservation@trwd.com

