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Localscapes

Creating Your Ideal Utah Yard

CENTRAL UTAH WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Easy to Understand

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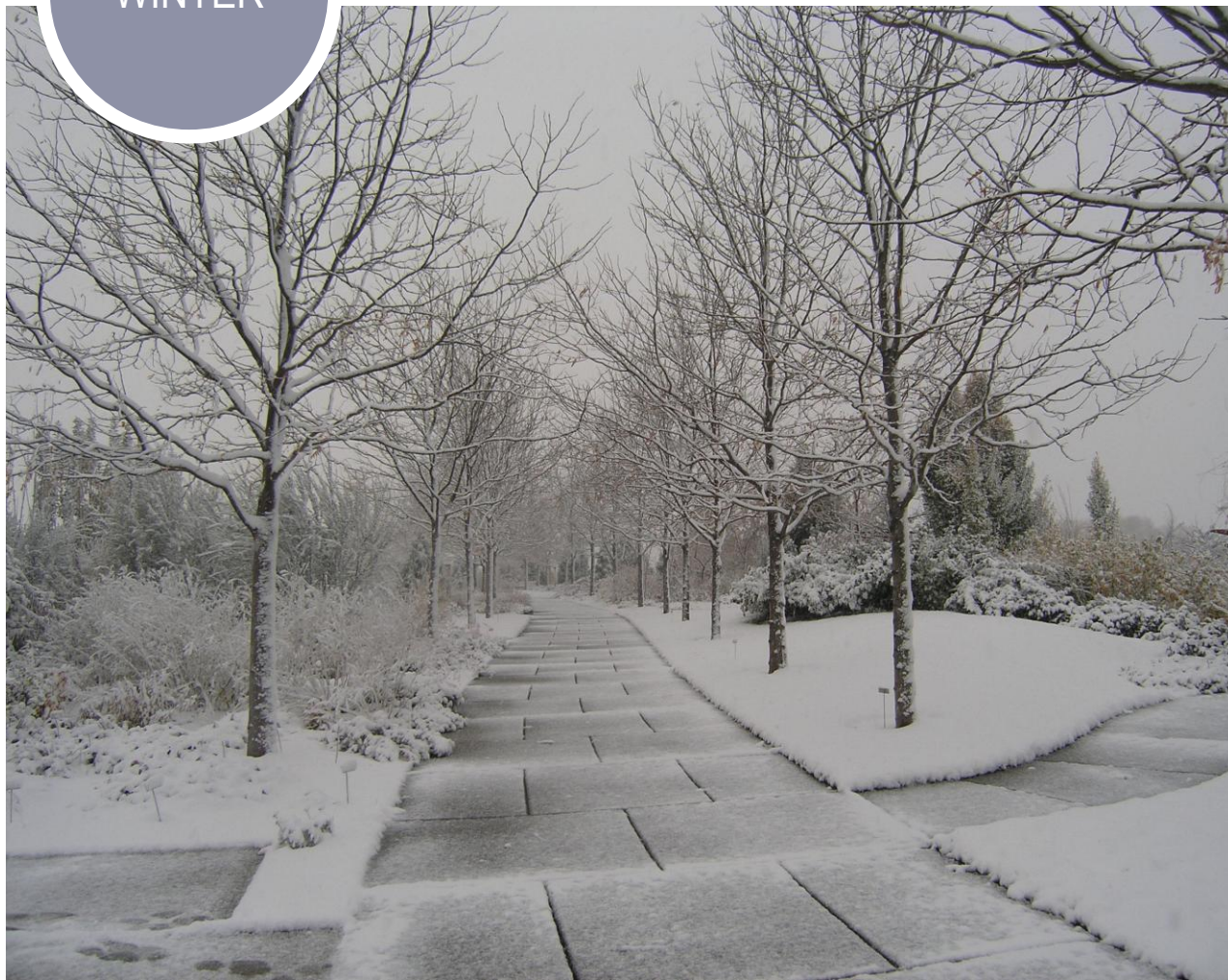
Utah Is a Desert

SUMMER

WINTER

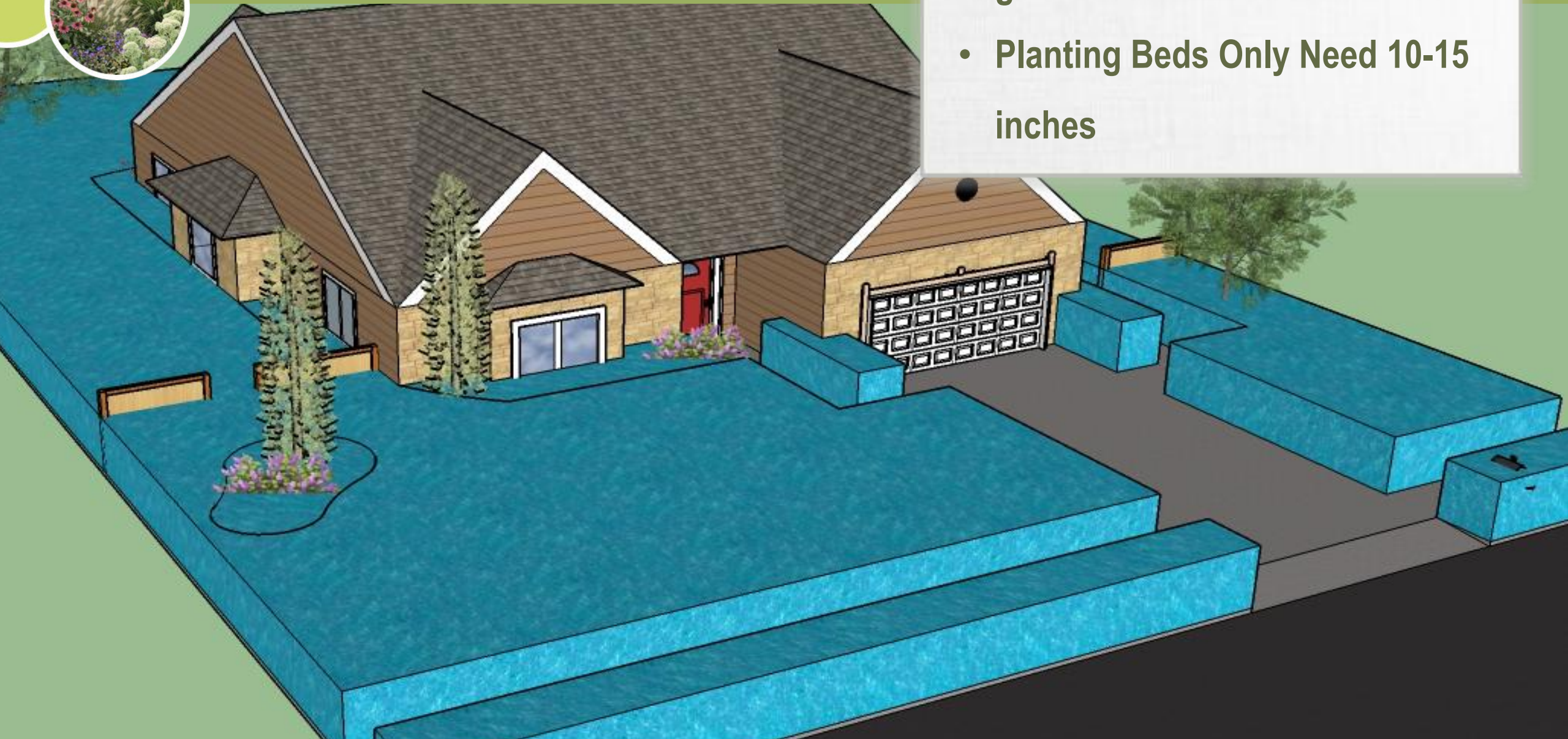


Traditional Utah Landscape

- .27 Acres
- 90% Lawn
- 40 inches of Water per Season

Why Does It Matter?

- 40 inches per Year = 176,250 gallons
- Planting Beds Only Need 10-15 inches



Utah Localscape

- 20% Lawn
- Lawn and Planting Beds Are Watered Separately
- Lawn Is a Designed Element

Utah Localscape

- Utah Localscape = 64,766 gal/year
- Annual Water Savings of 110,000 gallons!

Localscapes

- Designed for Utah
- Water Efficient
- Lower Maintenance
- Improved Functionality
- Better Curb Appeal
- Simplified Irrigation

Landscape Before

Landscape After

5 elements of a Localscape

1 Central Open Shape

The defining element of a Localscape, the central open shape can be lawn, hardscape, or groundcover.

2 Gathering Areas

Hardscape spaces to gather with friends and loved ones—like patios, seating areas, fire pits, and decks.

3 Activity Zones

Areas outside of lawn designed for your favorite activities, like horseshoe pits, trampolines, gardens, and hot tubs.

4 Paths

Connect the previous elements with pathways. Paths are never made from lawn but can be concrete, pavers, stone, or compacted mulch.

5 Planting Beds

The remaining spaces become the planting beds—the finishing touch to your Localscape.

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Follow these steps to start your own plan:

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Central Open Shape

1569

Central Open Shape

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Central Open Shape

Improves Function

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Central Open Shape 1

Improves Function

TYPICAL YARD

UTAH LOCALSCAPE

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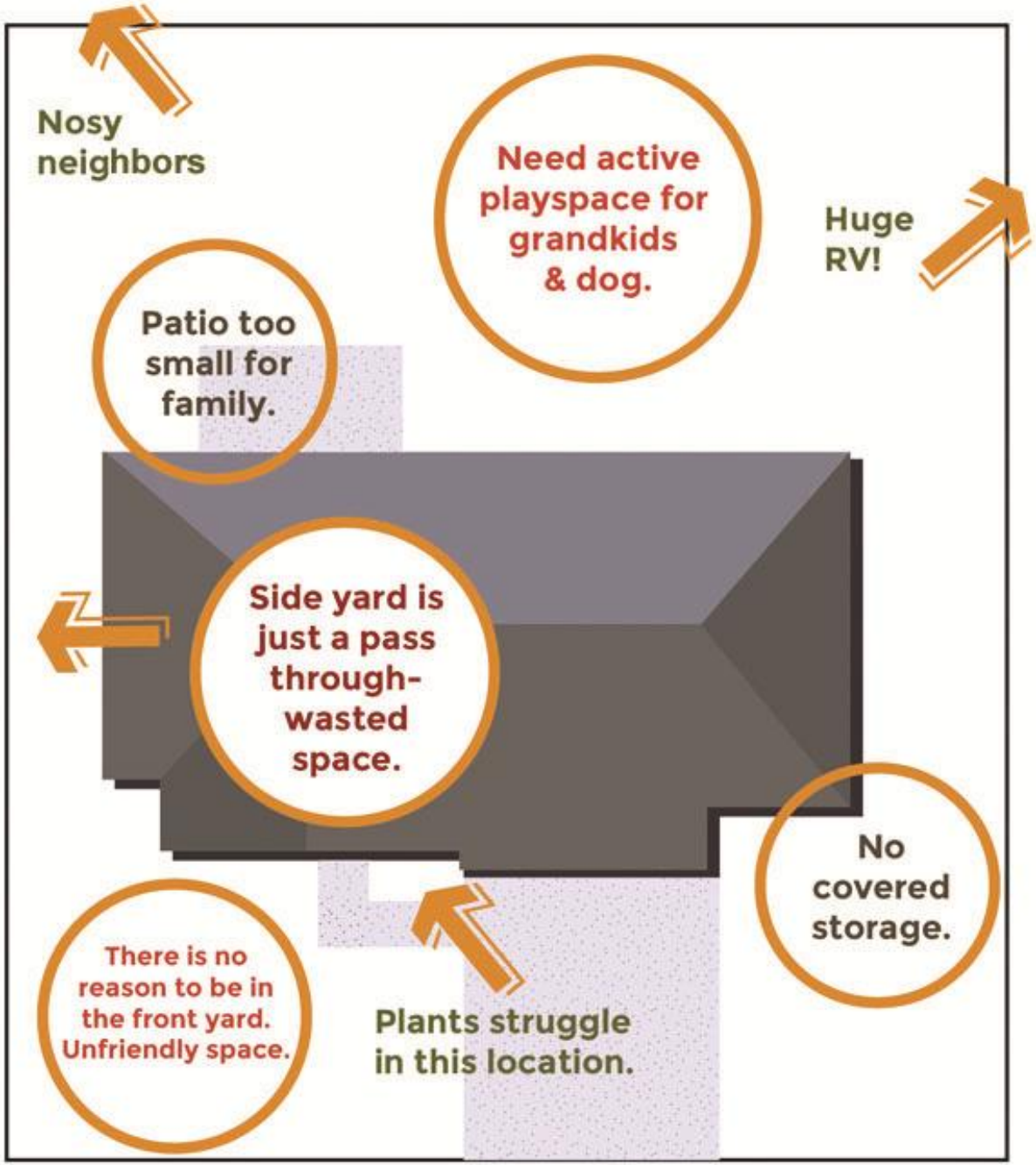
Central Open Shape 1

Simplifies Irrigation

Needs Assessment

Start by identifying the location of your Central Open Shape



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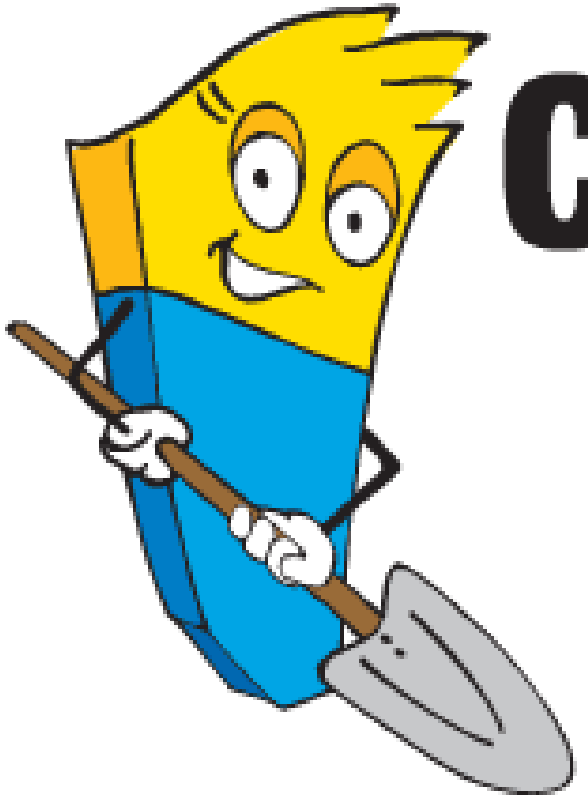
FREE Utility Line Location Service

Know what's below.

Call 811 before you dig.



BLUE STAKES OF UTAH

UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER, INC.

www.bluestakes.org

1-800-662-4111

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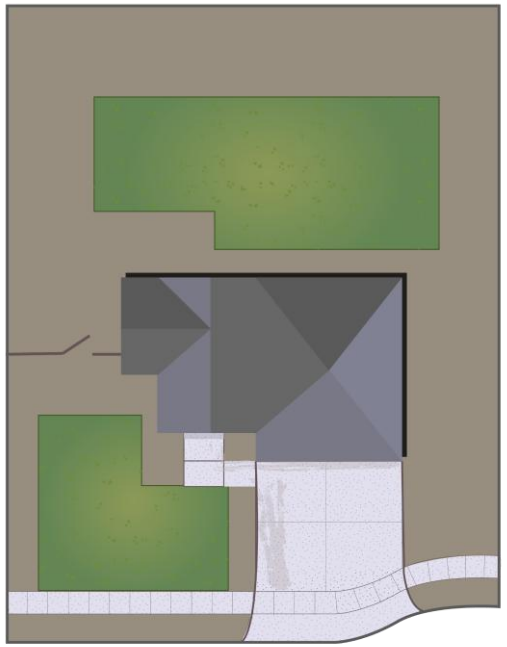
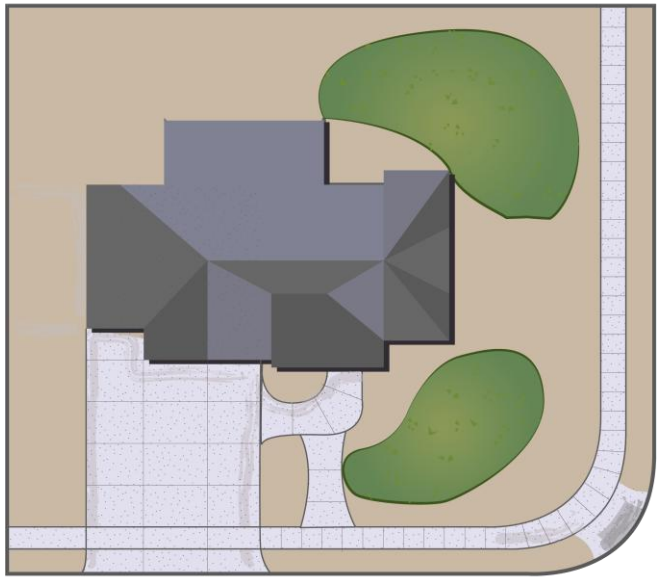
Central Open Shape 1

Central Open Shape Locations

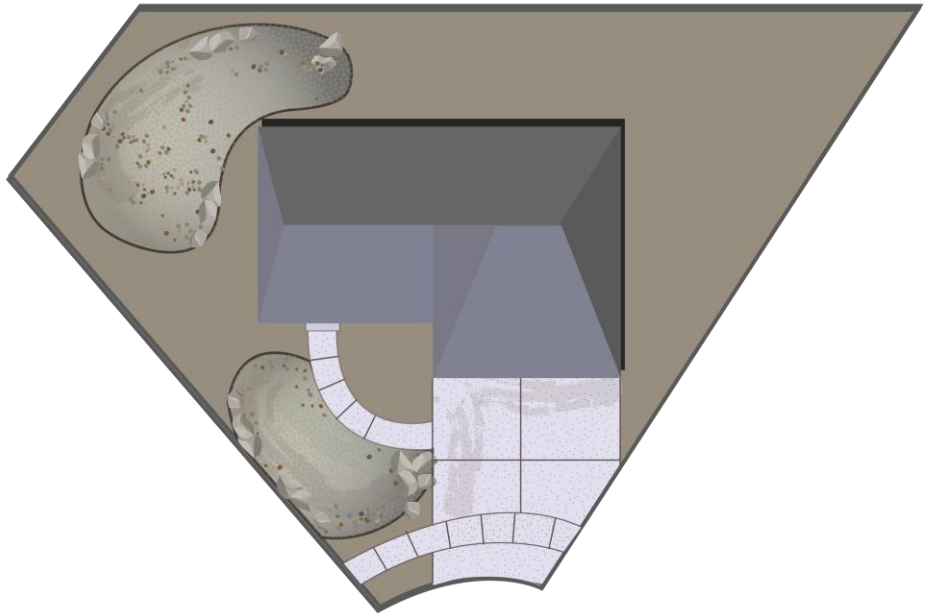
Rectangular Lot



Corner Lot



Irregular Lot



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Central Open Shape 1

Location Considerations

- Flat Open Area
- Room to Recreate
- Sun Exposure
- Aesthetics

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Central Open Shape 1

Contrasting and Permanent Materials

*Real results from past class participants

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Central Open Shape 1

Defined Edge

*Real results from past class participants

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Central Open Shape 1

Central Open Shape Materials: Hardscape

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Hardscape Materials: Pavers

Central Open Shape

Large enough to make a bold statement & anchor the design

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Central Open Shape

Hardscape Materials- Inorganic Mulch

Use 4-6 inches of compacted inorganic mulch

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Central Open Shape 1

Central Open Shape Materials: Living

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Central Open Shape

Living Materials: Groundcover

Creeping Thyme

Sun

Turkish Veronica

Part-Shade

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Central Open Shape

Living Materials: Lawn

Lawn is a designed element

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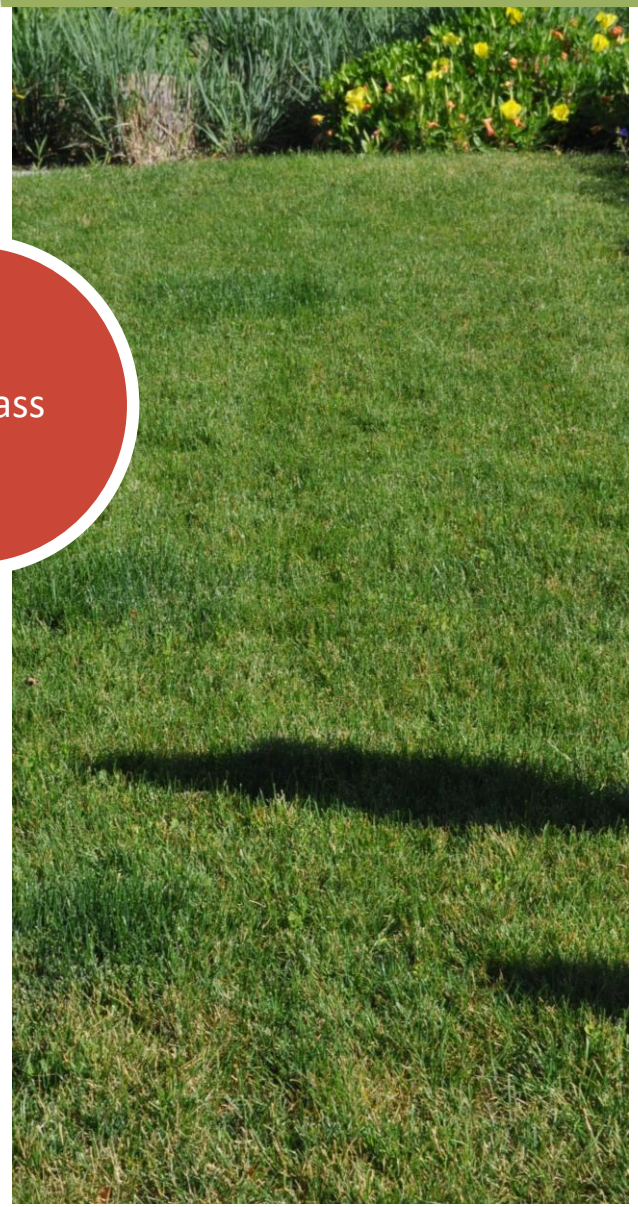
Central Open Shape

Lawn Varieties: Cool Season

Bluegrass



Fine Fescue Mix

Dwarf Tall Fescue

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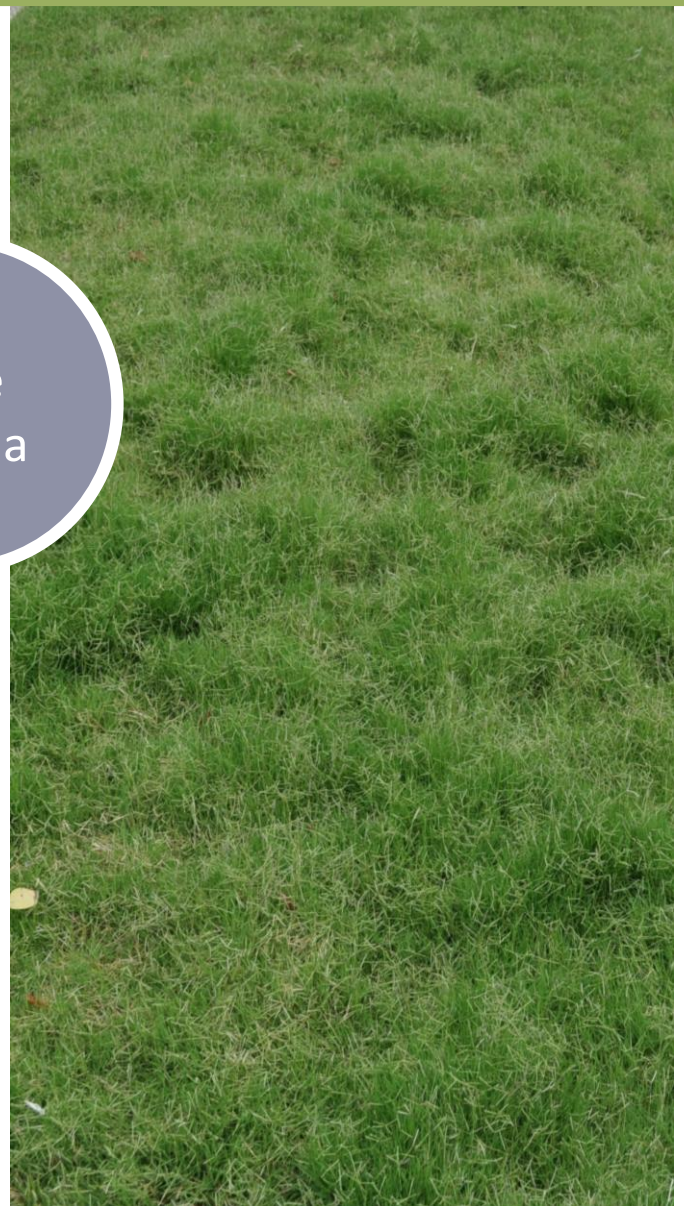
Central Open Shape 1

Lawn Varieties: Warm Season

Buffalo Grass

Blue Grama



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Central Open Shape

Lawn Varieties: Eco-lawns

Yarrow Mix

Clover Lawn

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Central Open Shape 1

Highly Efficient Shapes

Squares & rectangles are most efficient

Ovals & gentle curves are ok too

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Central Open Shape 1

Lawn Is not Less than 8 Feet Wide

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Central Open Shape 1

No Obstructions in the Lawn

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Central Open Shape 1

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

No Lawn on Slopes or Hillsides

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Central Open Shape 1

Limit Lawn to 35% or Less

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Central Open Shape 1

Use One Type of Head Per Zone

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Central Open Shape

Lawn Considerations

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Central Open Shape

Lawn Considerations

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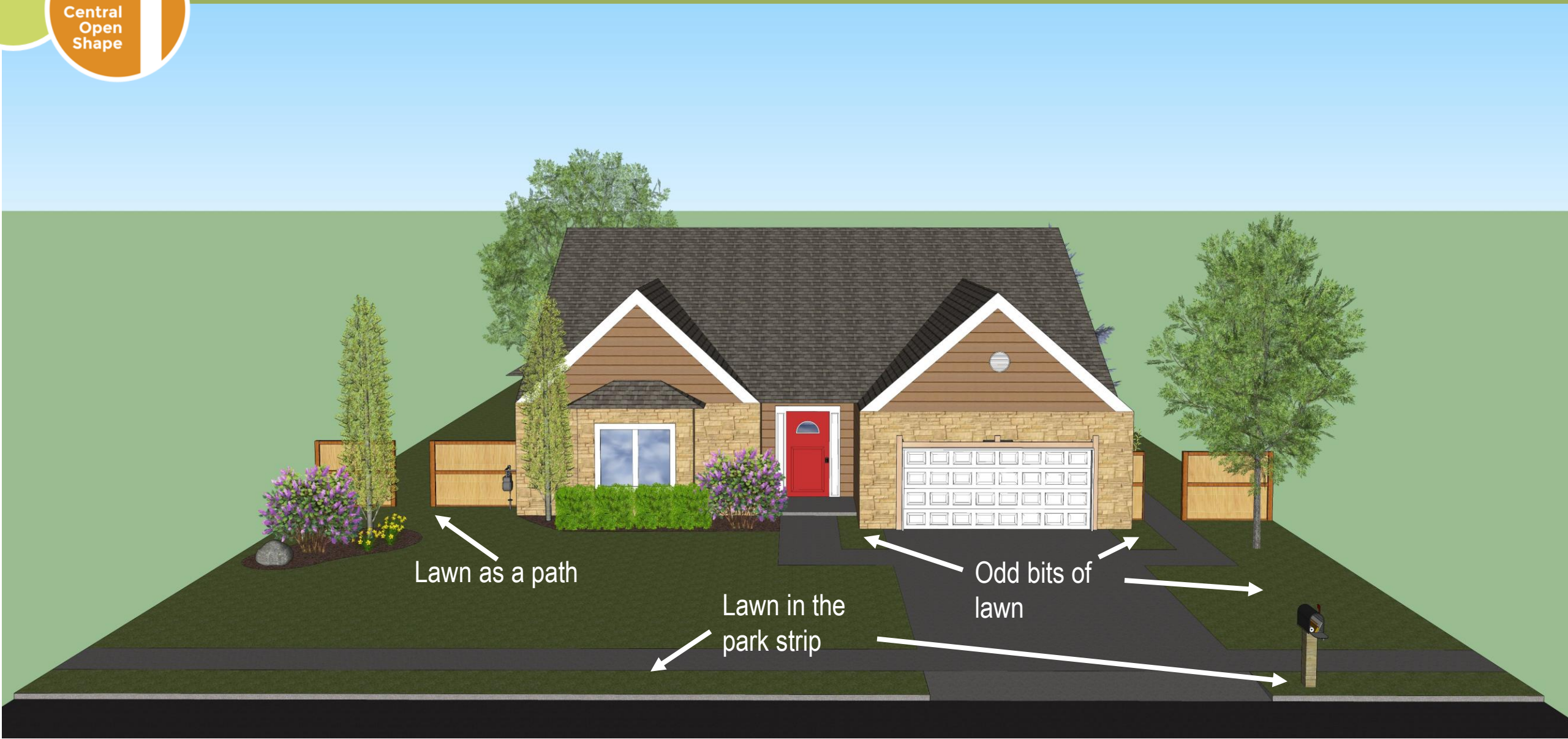
Central Open Shape 1

Typical Utah Landscape



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Central Open Shape 1

Typical Utah Landscape

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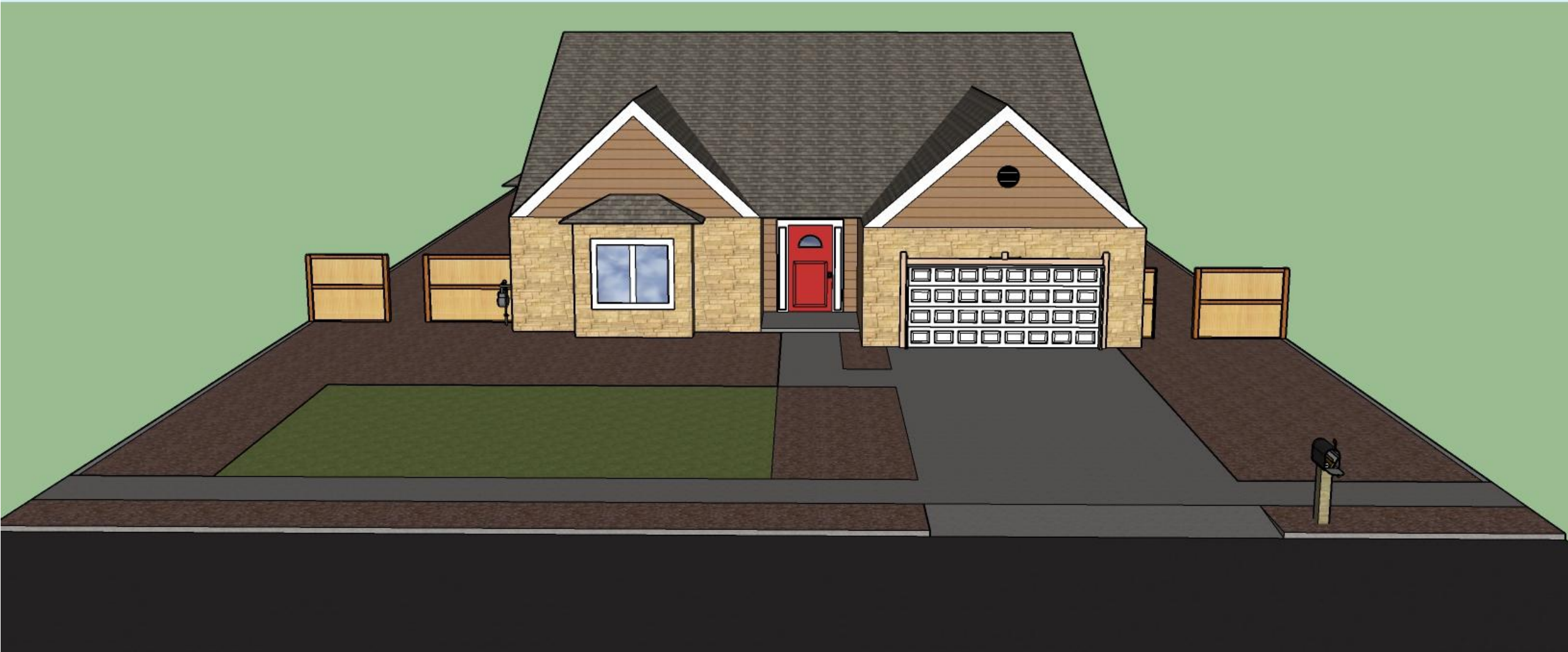
Central Open Shape 1

Completed Central Open Shape



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Central Open Shape 1

Step 1:

Mark Area to Be Removed

Marking Paint

Garden Hose

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Central Open Shape

Step 2:

Kill the Existing Lawn

- The lawn must be dead down to the roots
- If the roots are still alive the lawn will grow back
- This process can take several weeks

Plastic Sheeting

Chemical

Lawn Removal

Step 3: Remove Dead Lawn

Sod Cutter

Tiller

Shovel

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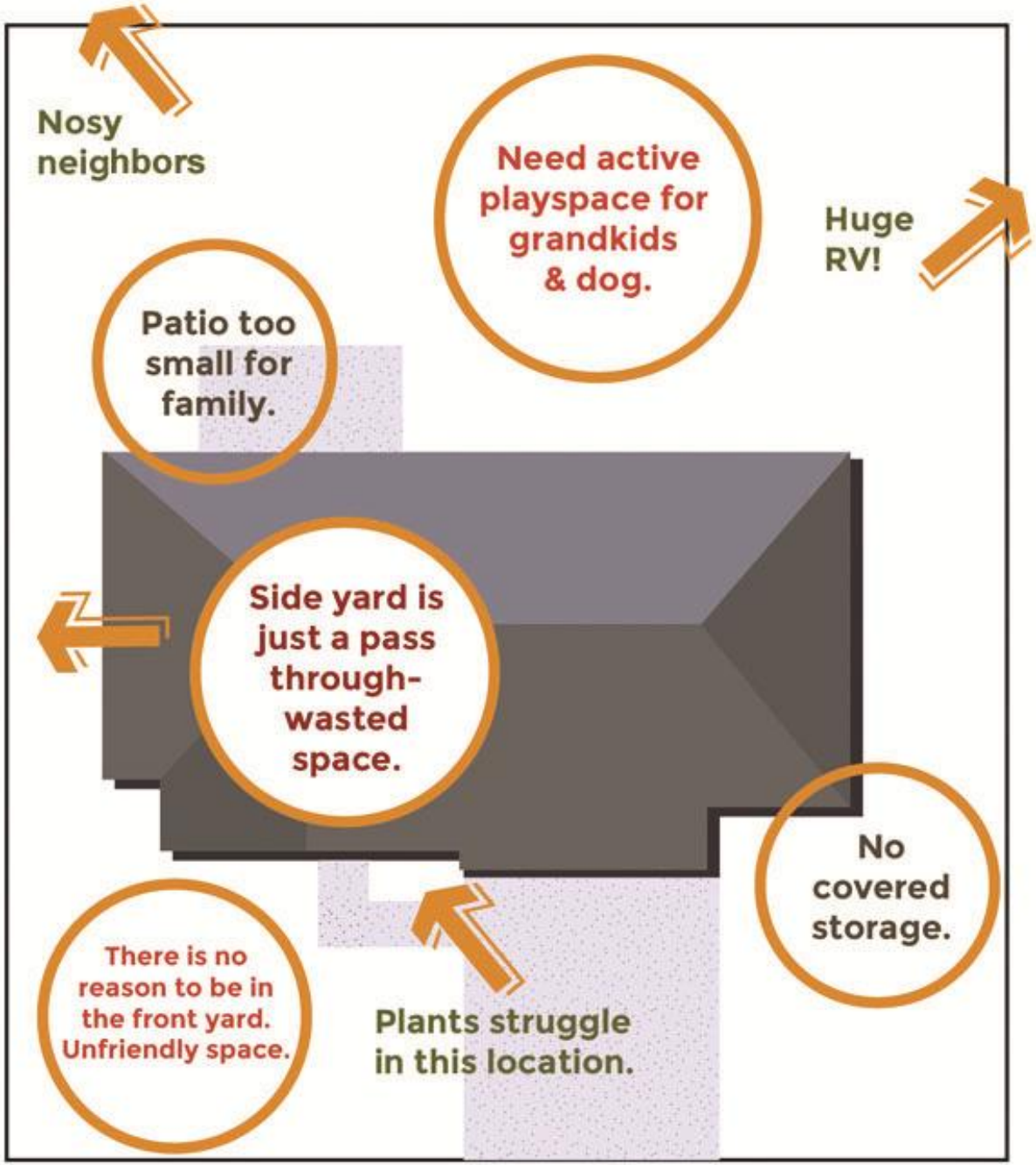
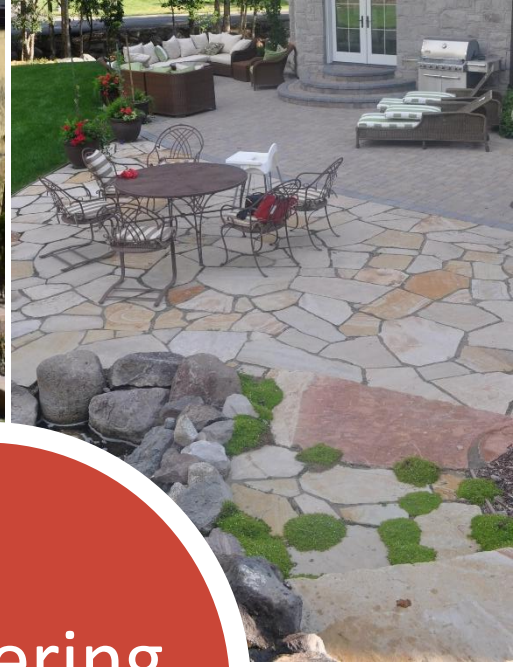
Gathering Areas, Activity Zones, & Paths

Needs Assessment

How do you want to enjoy the remaining areas of your landscape?



Gathering Areas



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Gathering Areas 2

Types of Gathering Areas

- Patios
- Informal Seating Areas
- Pergolas
- 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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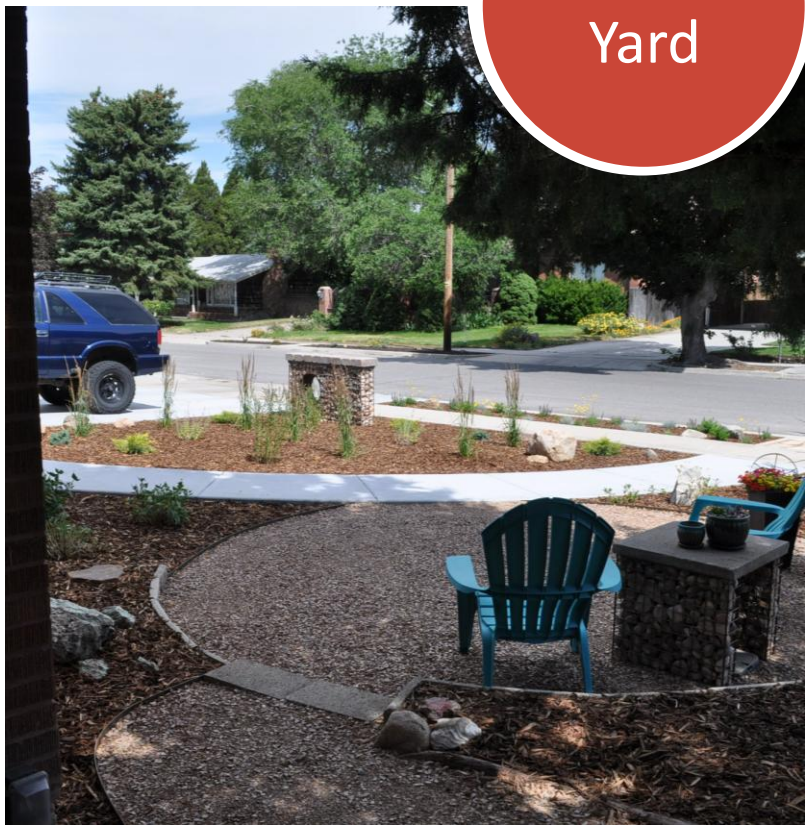
Gathering Areas 2

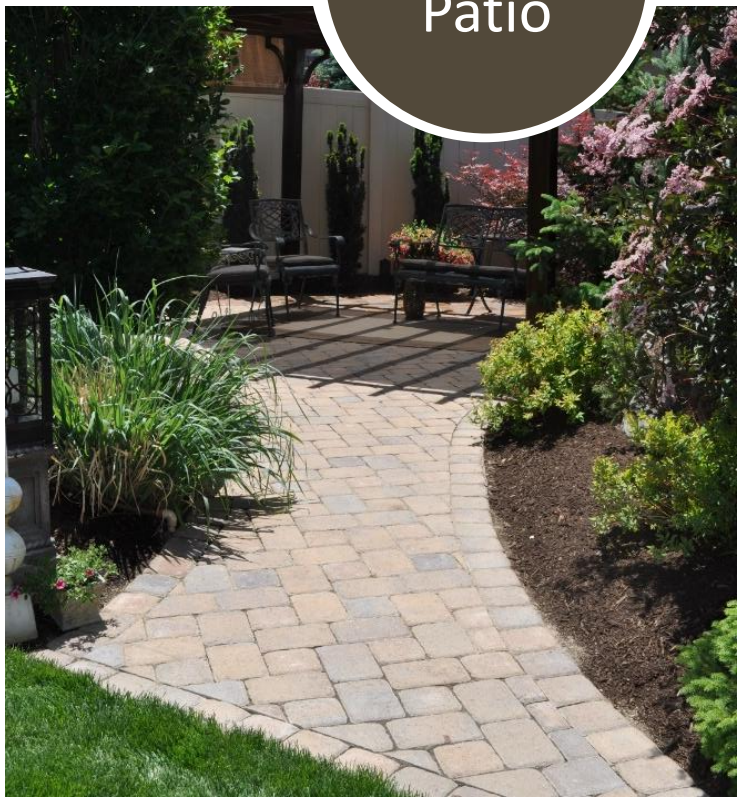
Location Ideas

Front Yard



Main Patio

Bonus Patio



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Gathering Areas 2

Material Considerations

- DIY vs. Contractor Installation
- Usage Frequency
- Availability
- Budget

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Gathering Areas 2

Gathering Area Materials

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Aggregate Calculator

US Aggregates > Aggregate Calculator

Length *

feet

Width *

feet

Depth *

inches

Aggregate

Sand/Gravel

Estimated Tons Needed

0

Click the button below for exact quantity, type of material, and cost (including delivery).

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Gathering Areas 2

Gathering Area Before

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Gathering Areas 2

Gathering Area After

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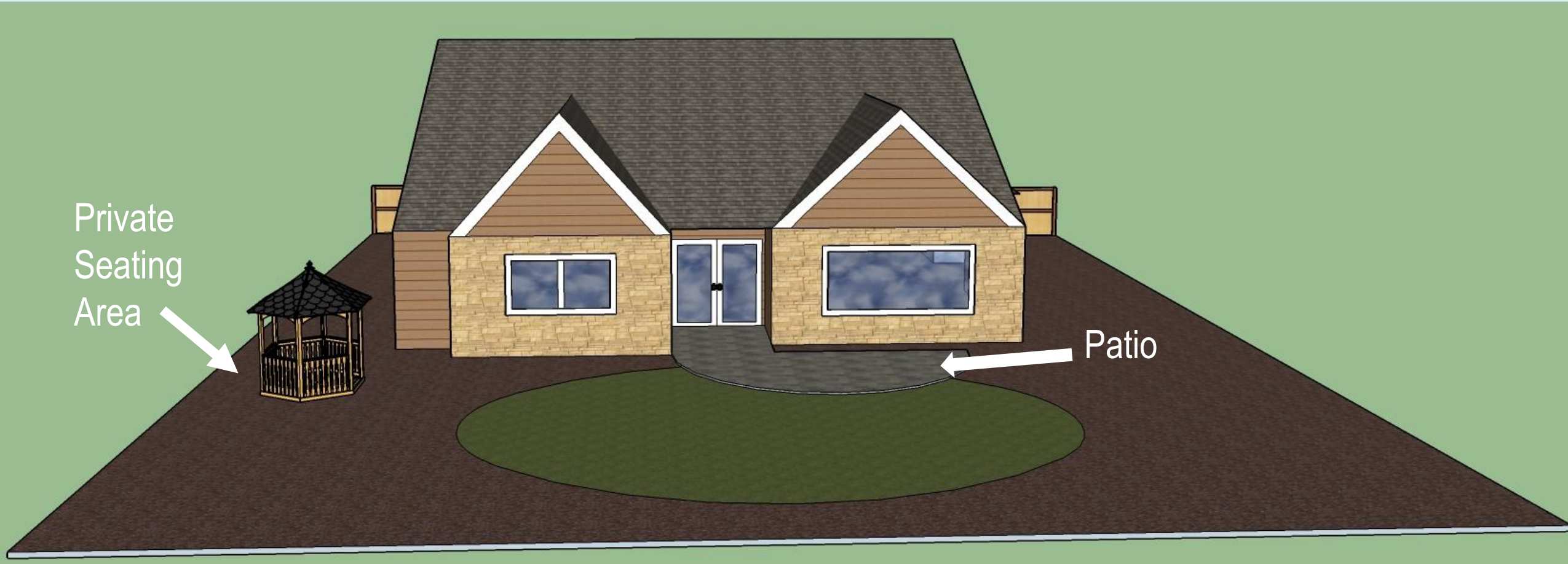
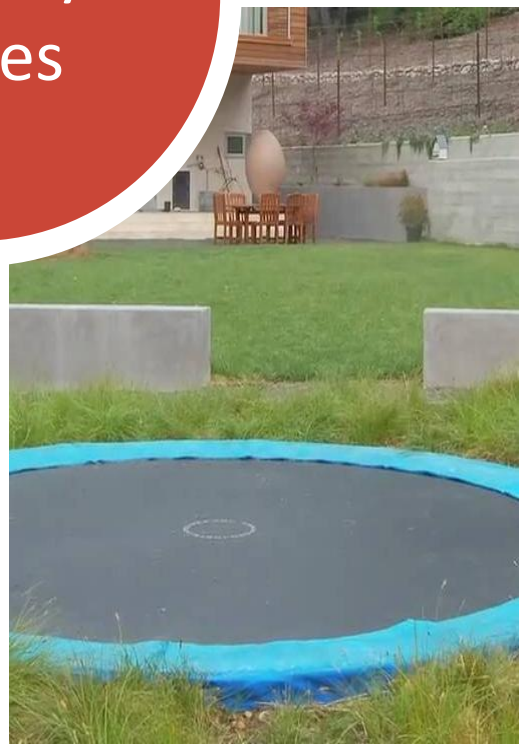
Back Yard

Gathering Areas



Activity Zones



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Activity Zones 3

Types of Activity Zones

- Vegetable Gardens
- Children's Play Area
- Storage
- Sport Courts
- Trampoline
- Hot Tub
- Dog Run
- Other Active Recreation Areas

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Activity Zones 3

Location Considerations

- Sun Exposure
- Space Requirements
- Attractiveness
- Purpose
- Need for Monitoring Activity from Indoors

Designated
Activity Zones
Reduce
Maintenance

Design the Space to Fit the Desired Activity Zone

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Activity Zones 3

Activity Zone Surface Materials:

Sand

Gravel

Wood Chips

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Best Practice

Vegetable Garden Watering

Water with Drip Irrigation on Its Own Valve

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Activity Zones 3

Adaptability

Children's Play Space Is Easily Converted to a Gathering Area

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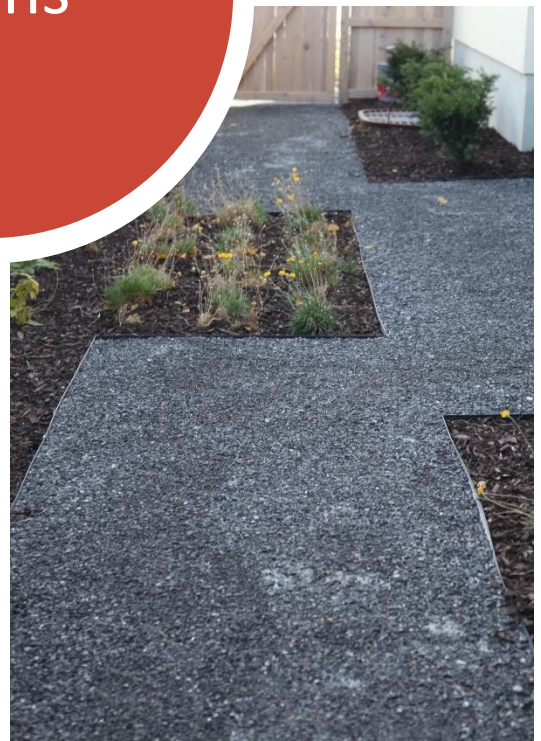
Back Yard

Backyard Activity Zones

Paths



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4 Paths

Path Locations

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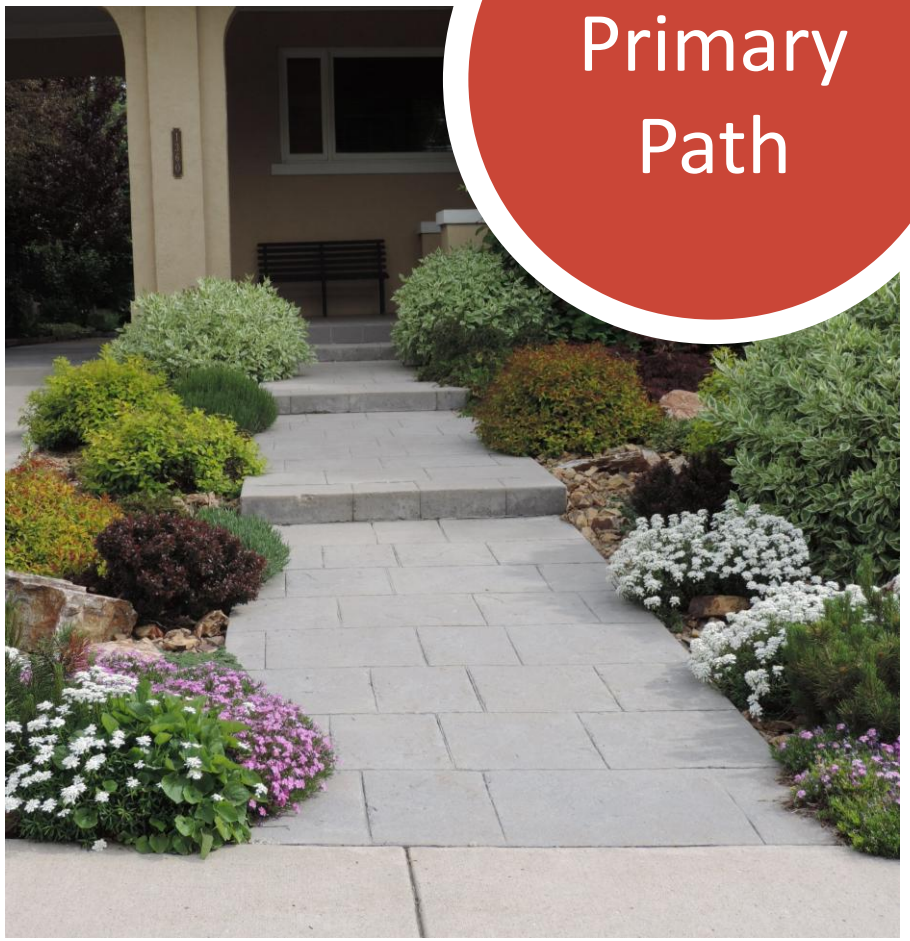
4 Paths

Primary and Secondary Paths



Primary Path

Secondary Path

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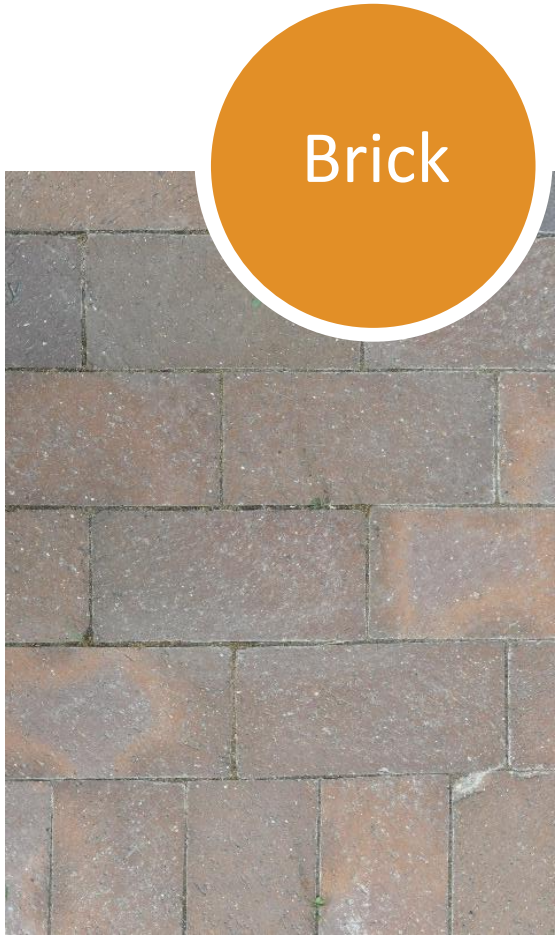
4 Paths

Primary Path Materials



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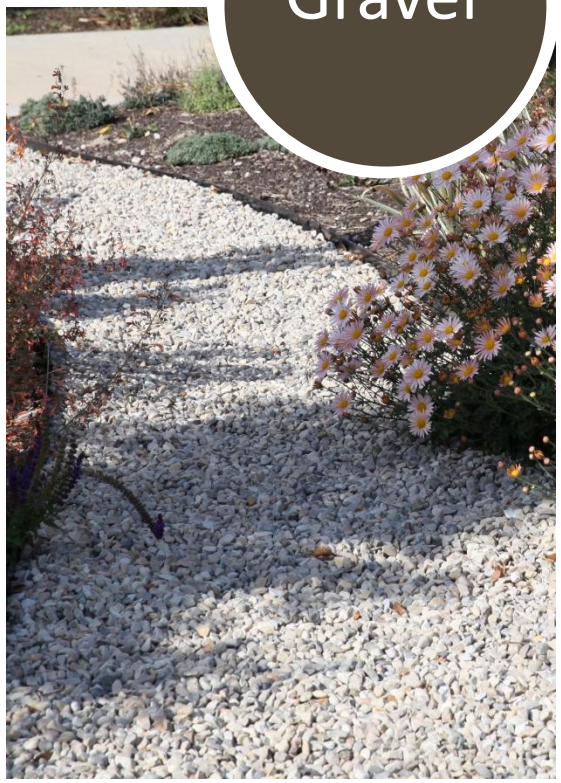
4 Paths

Secondary Path Materials

Bark

Chat or Chips

Gravel



Flagstone

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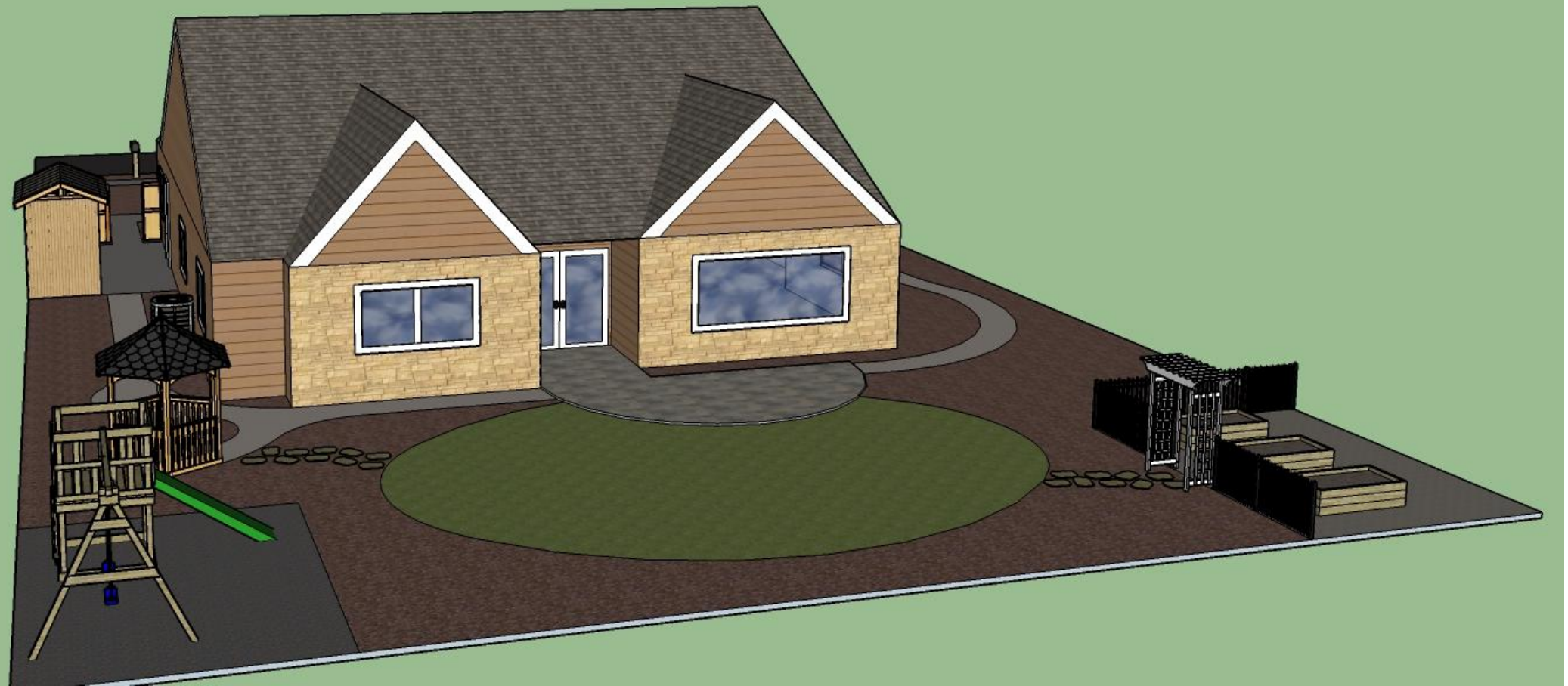
Back Yard

Backyard Paths



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Best Practice

Edging

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

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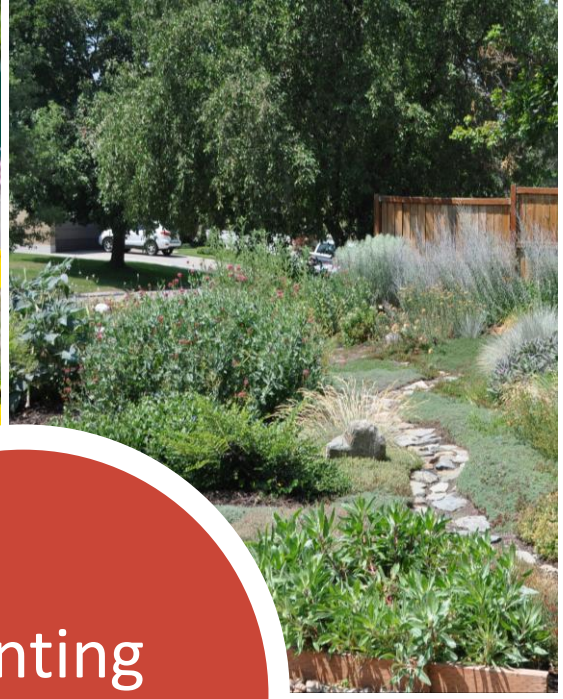
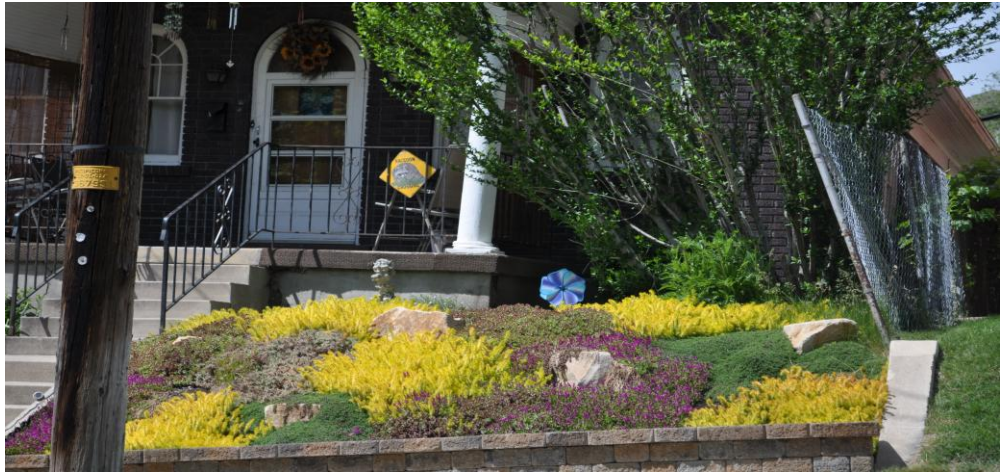
Planting Beds

Planting Beds

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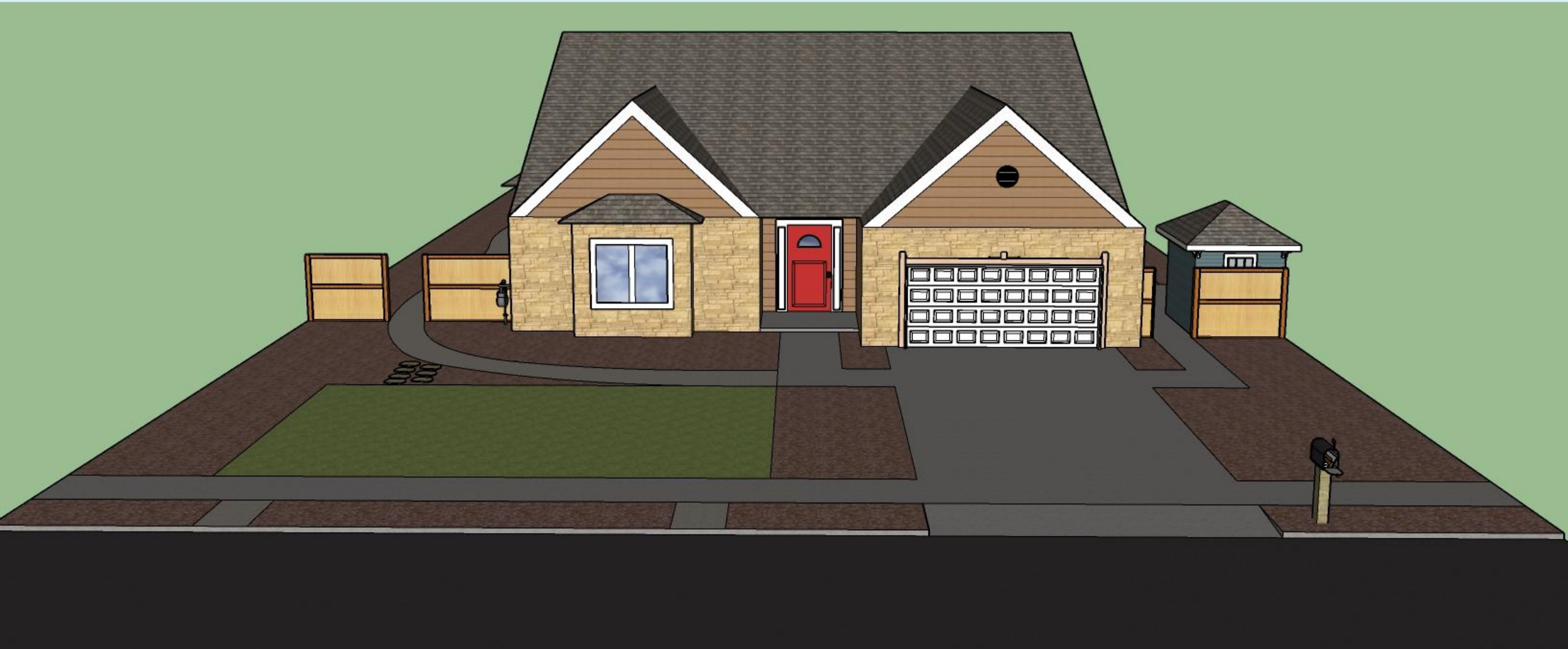
5 Planting Beds

Planting Beds



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5 Planting Beds

Building Planting Beds

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5 Planting Beds

Step One - Install Drip Irrigation

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5 Planting Beds

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

Bubblers & Micro-sprays Are not Considered Drip

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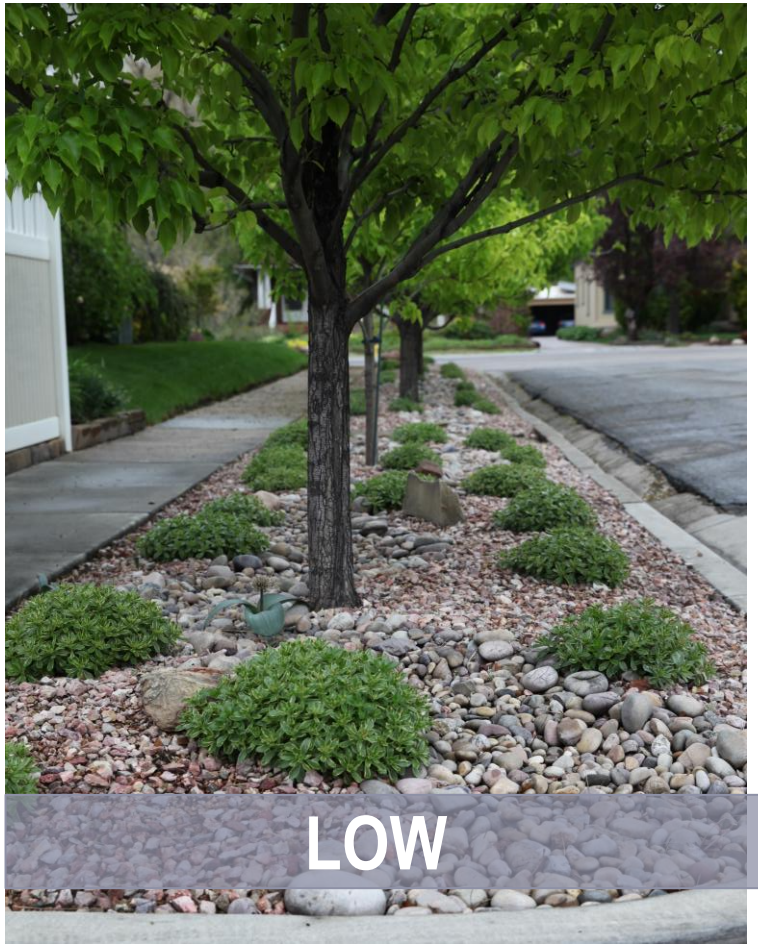
5 Planting Beds

Drip Irrigation Considerations

Choose drip irrigation that supports your plant density preference



LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH

Filter & Pressure Regulator

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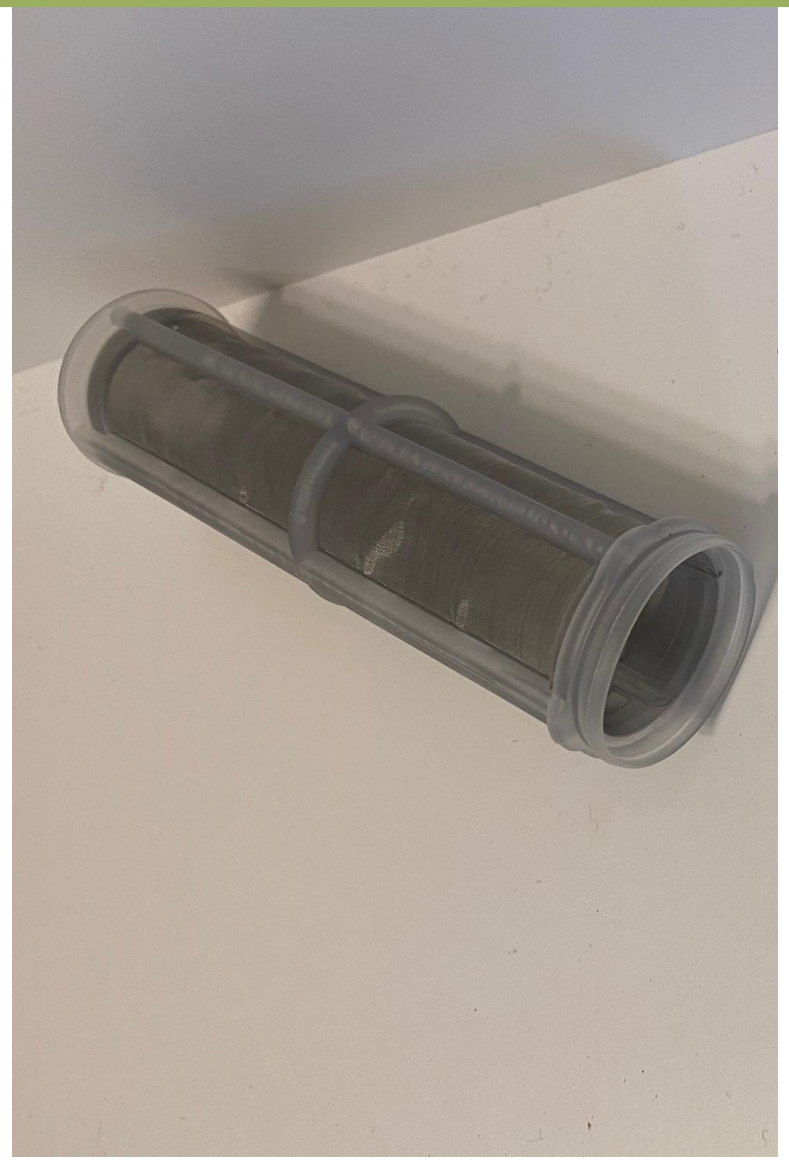
5 Planting Beds

Filter/Pressure Regulator



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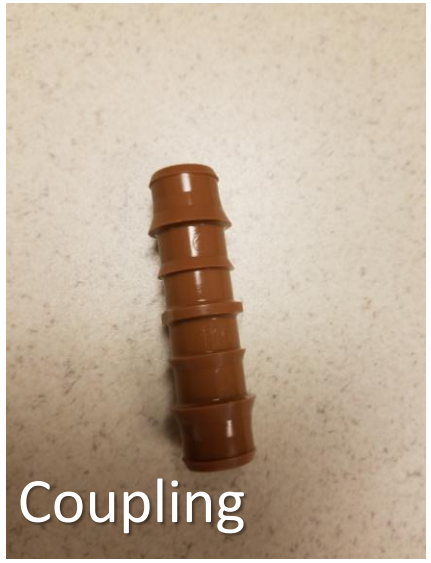
5 Planting Beds

In-line Drip Irrigation Materials



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5 Planting Beds

In-line Drip Irrigation

- Drip Emitters Are Built Directly into the Lines
- Water Planting Beds Evenly
- Installed on the Surface, or Just Beneath the Soil, Under a Layer of Mulch
- Easy Maintenance

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Best Practice

In-line Drip Irrigation

To ensure trees get plenty of water, loop multiple inline drip rings around the trunk.

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Best Practice

In-line Drip Irrigation

To ensure trees get plenty of water, loop multiple inline drip rings around the trunk.

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5 Planting Beds

Point Source Drip Irrigation Materials

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5 Planting Beds

Point Source Drip Irrigation

- Drip Emitters Are Attached to the Main Tubing Line with Spaghetti 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

- Need at Least 10-15 gallons of Water per Hour to Each Tree
- Add More Emitters as Plants Mature
- Periodically Give Trees Extra Water During the First Two Years

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5 Planting Beds

Drip Using Secondary Water

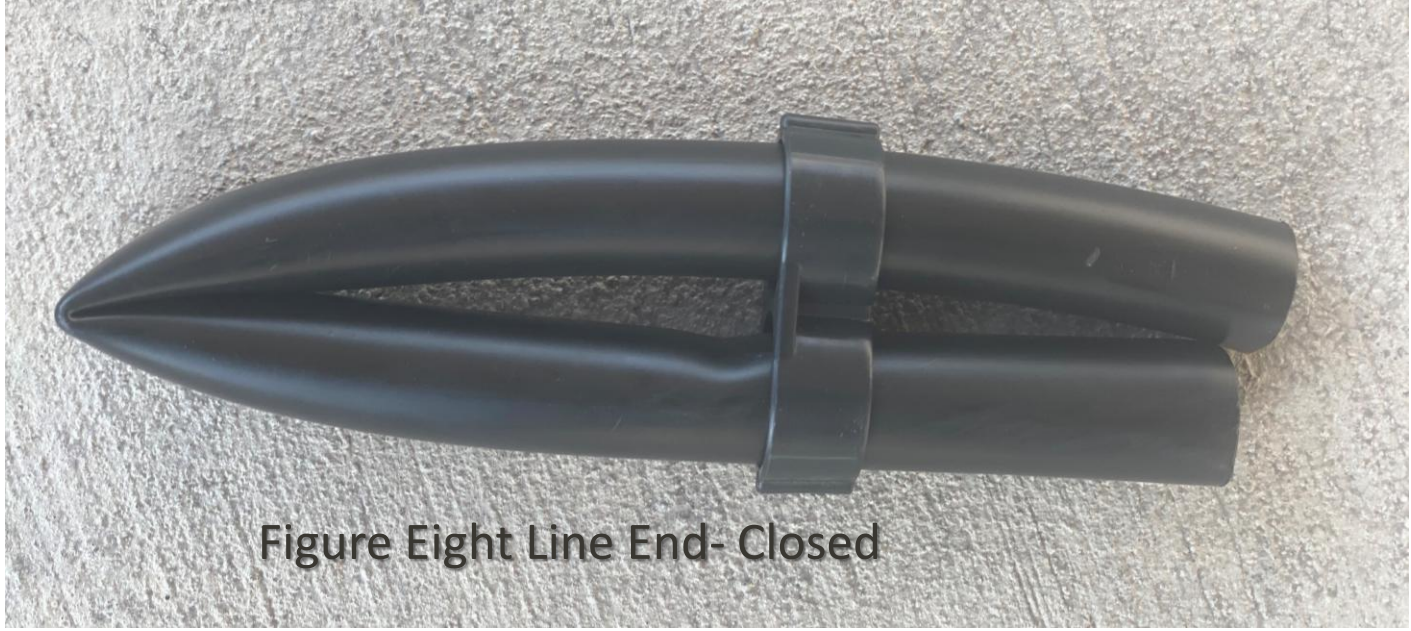

Figure Eight Line End- Closed

Secondary Irrigation Filter

Figure Eight Line End- Open for Line Flushing

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5 Planting Beds

Step Two - Add Plants

Localscapes Requirement

5 Planting Beds

Plants Must Fill at Least 50% of the Planting Beds at Maturity

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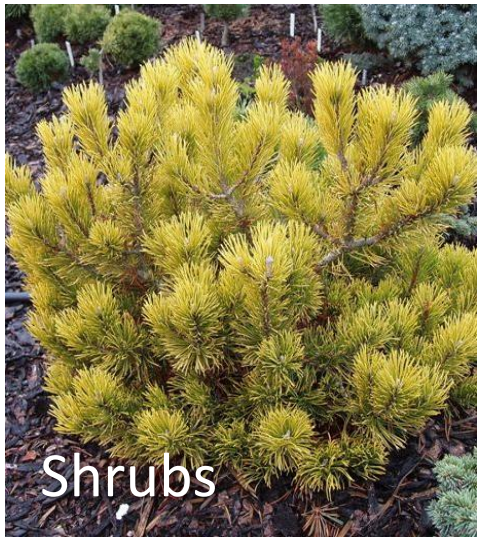
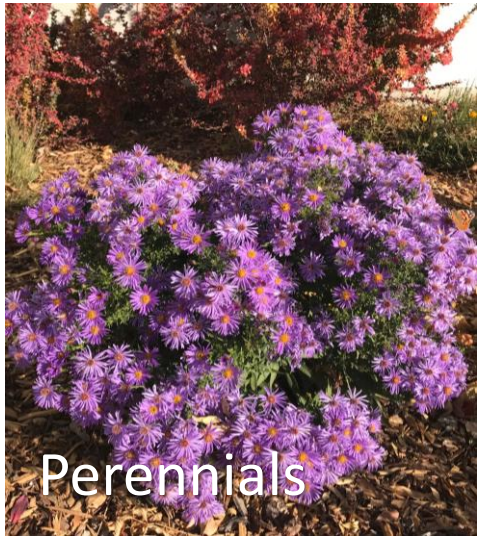
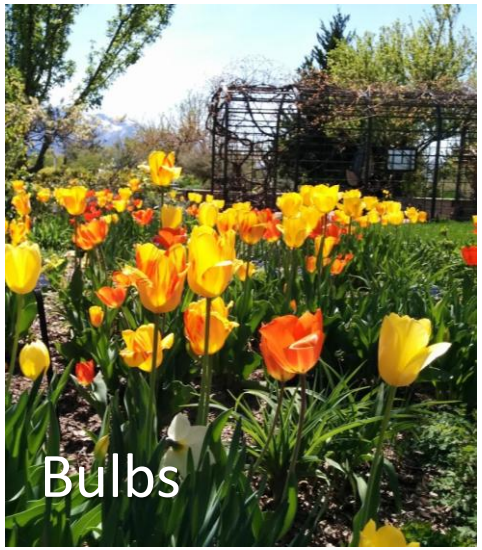
5 Planting Beds

Plant Materials







Know Your Plants

Where to Look:

- www.conservationgardenpark.org
- www.cuwcd.gov/plants
- Local Nurseries
- Check Plant Tags Before You Buy Plants

What to Look for:

- Size
- Light Requirements
- Perennial vs. Annual
- Hardiness Zone
- Botanical Name

Buy Plants by Botanical Name, not the Common Name.

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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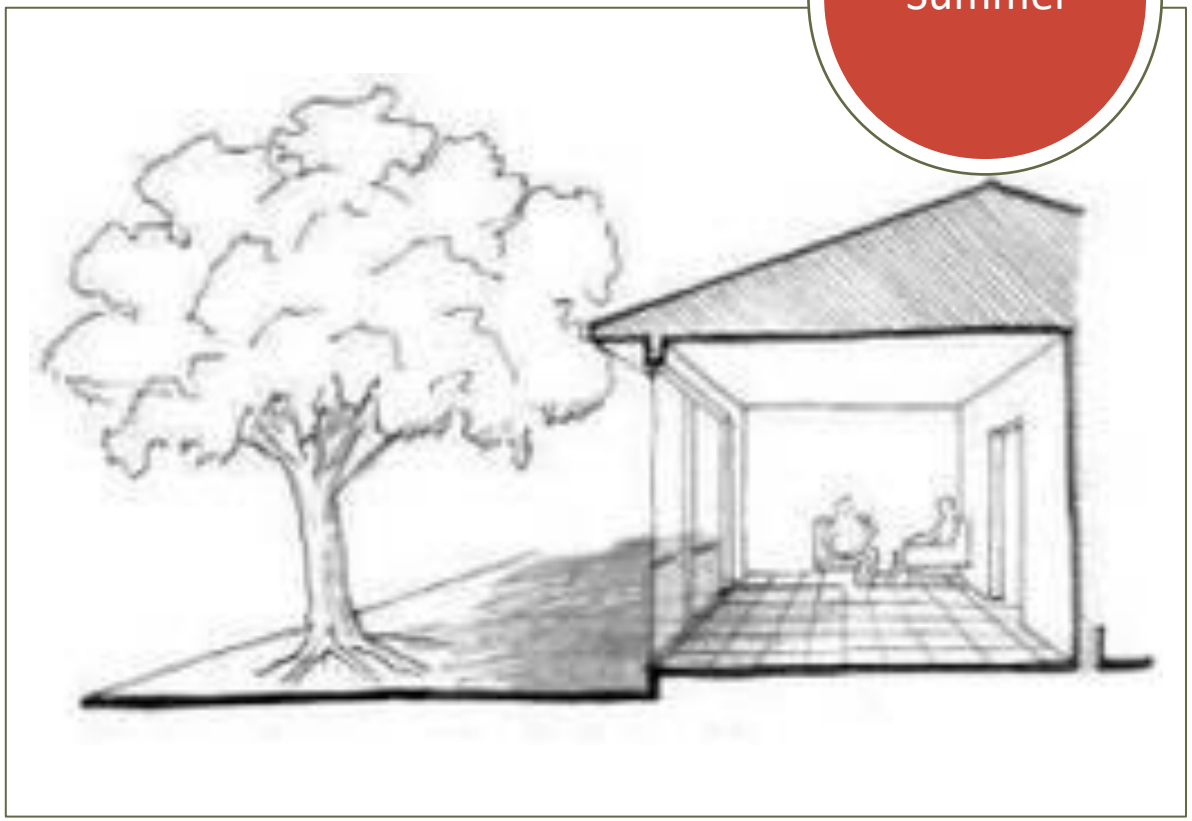
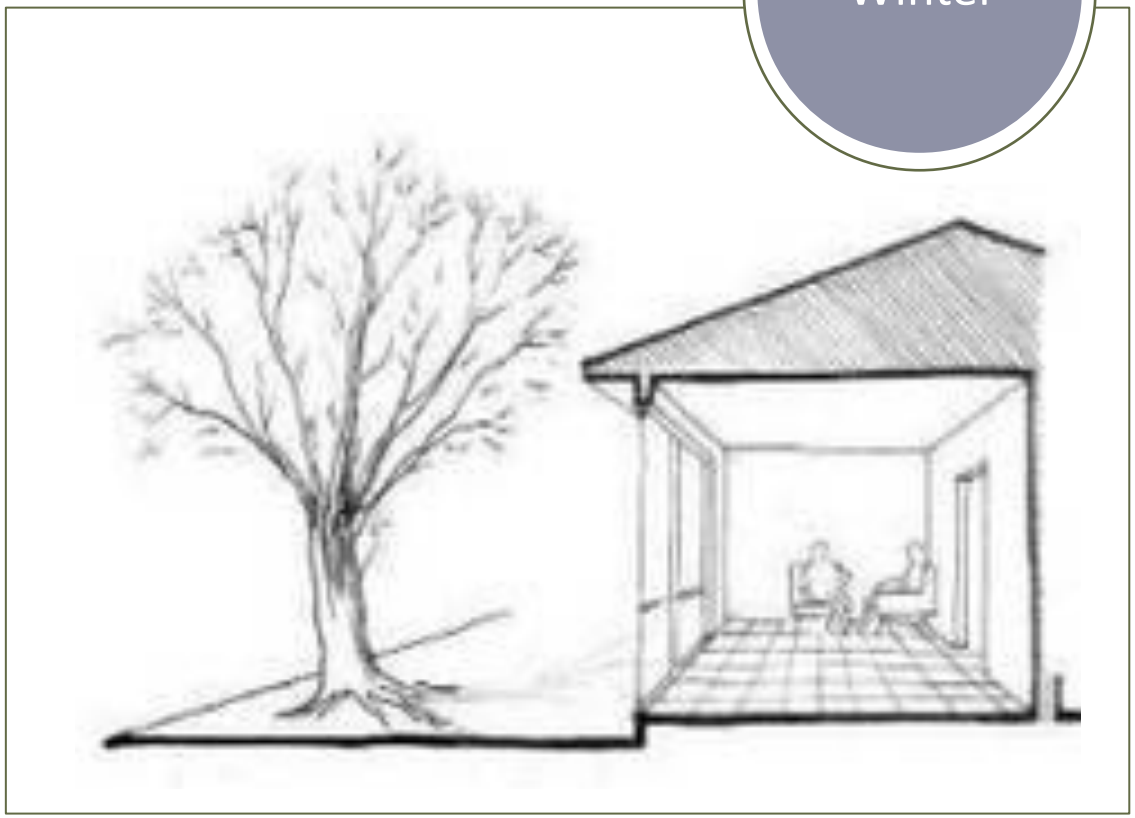
5 Planting Beds

Tree Location - Energy Efficiency

Summer



Winter



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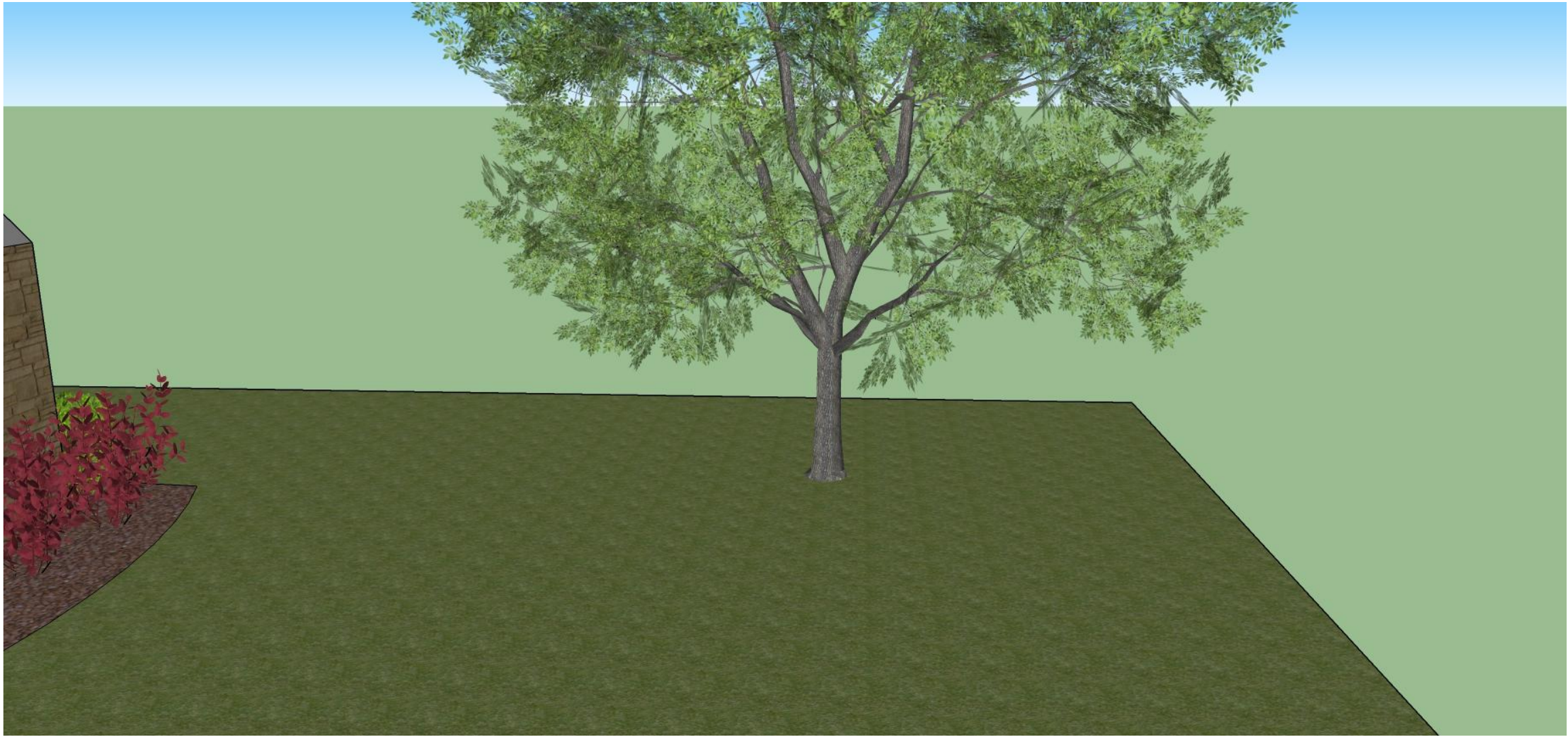
5 Planting Beds

Shade

Use Trees to Provide Shade for Lawn, Gathering Areas, & Activity Zones



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5 Planting Beds

Shade

Use Trees to Provide Shade for Lawn, Gathering Areas, & Activity Zones

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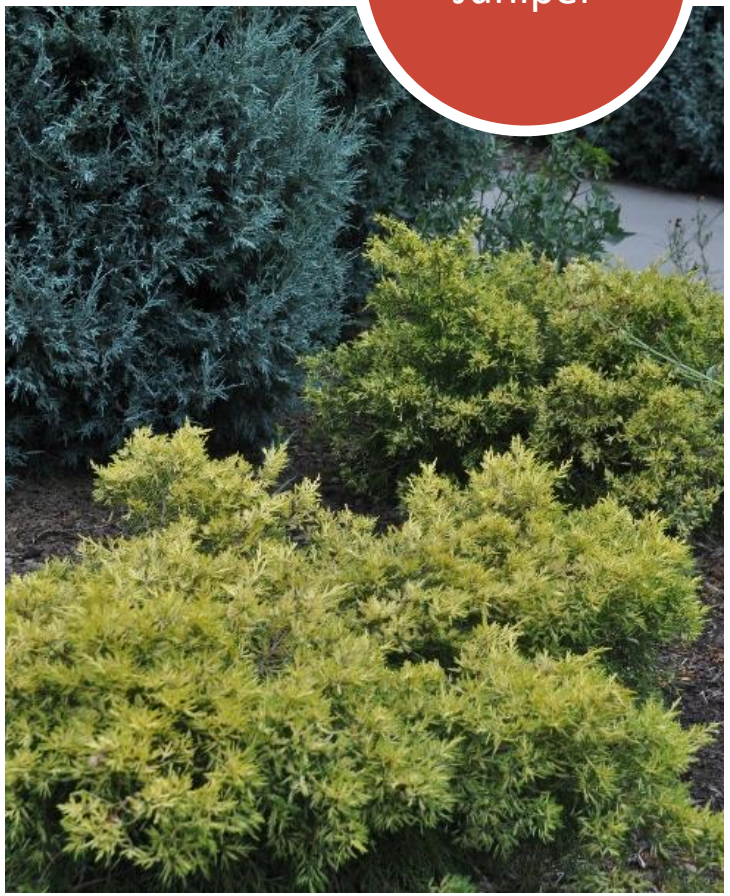
5 Planting Beds

Shrubs

- Low-Maintenance Color
- Privacy
- Provide Multi-Season Interest
- Backbone Plant of Any Good Design



'Sea of Gold' Juniper

'Diablo' Ninebark

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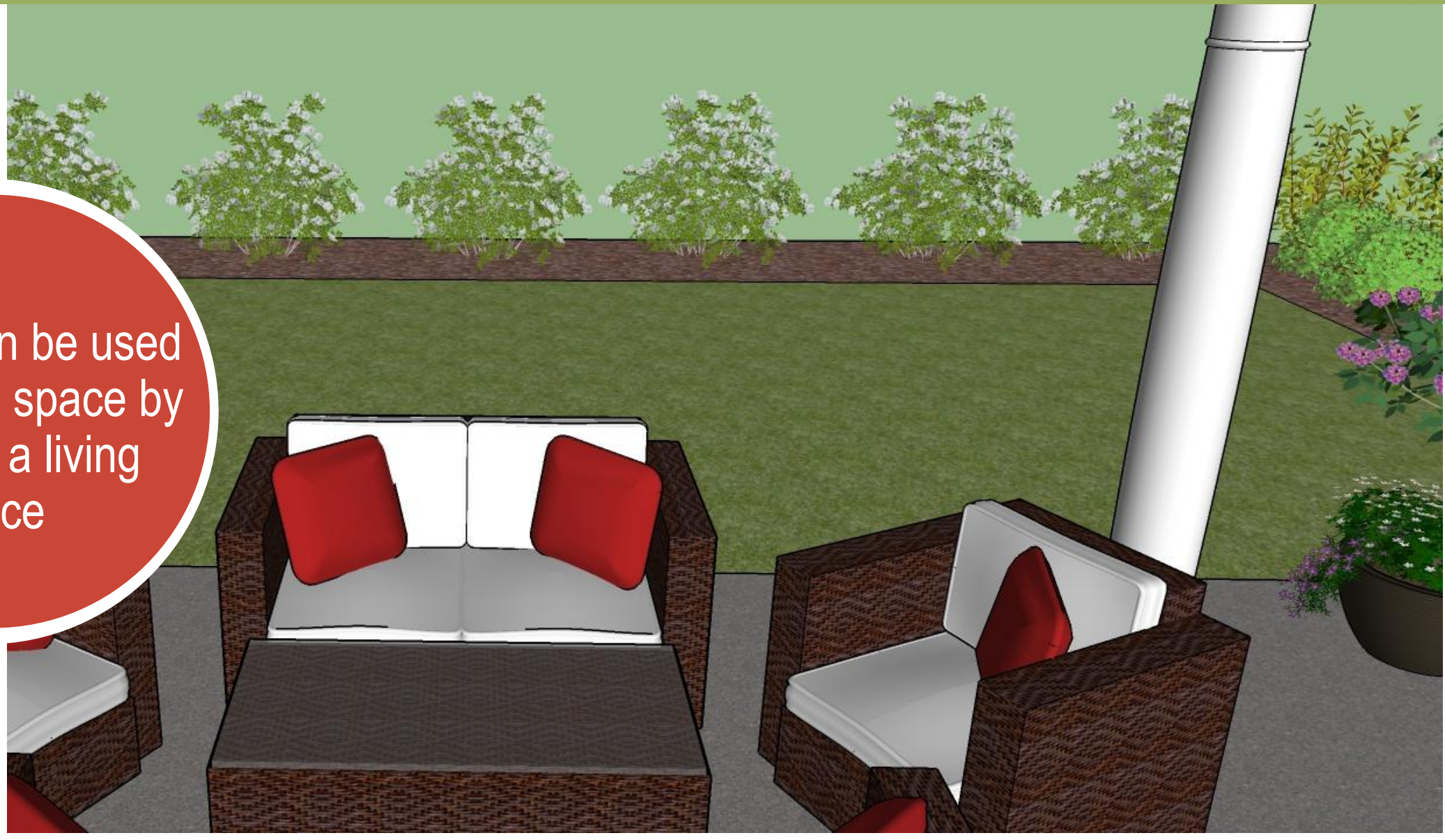
5 Planting Beds

Define Space



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

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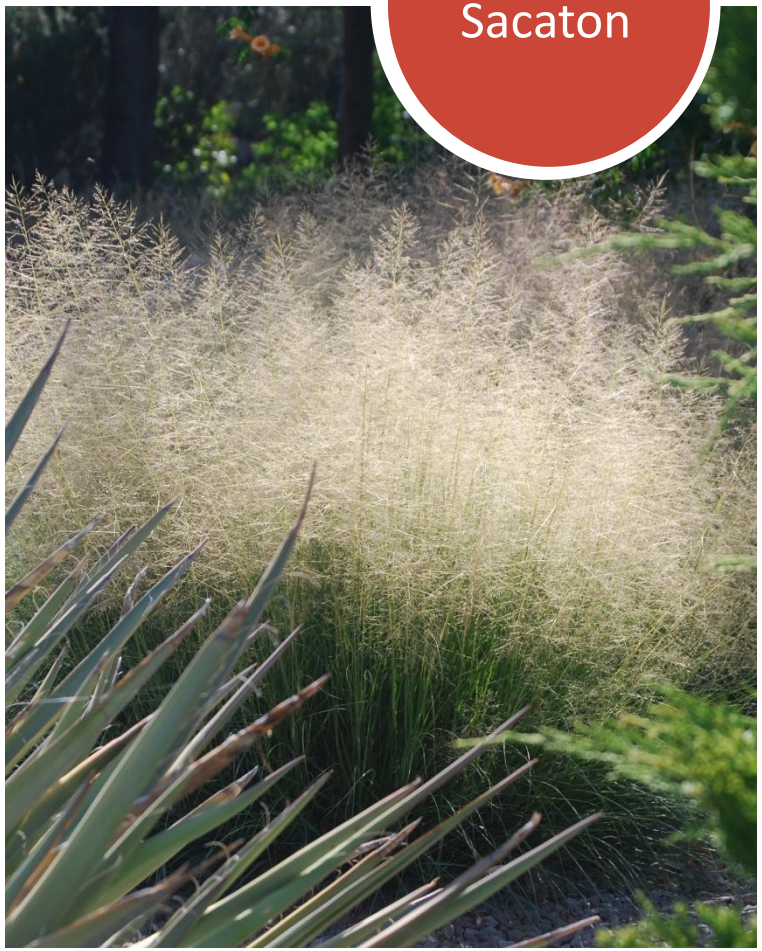
5 Planting Beds

Ornamental Grasses

- Provide Movement & Sound
- Add Light & Texture
- Provide Winter Interest
- Habitat for Birds

Alkali Sacaton



Flame Grass

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5 Planting Beds

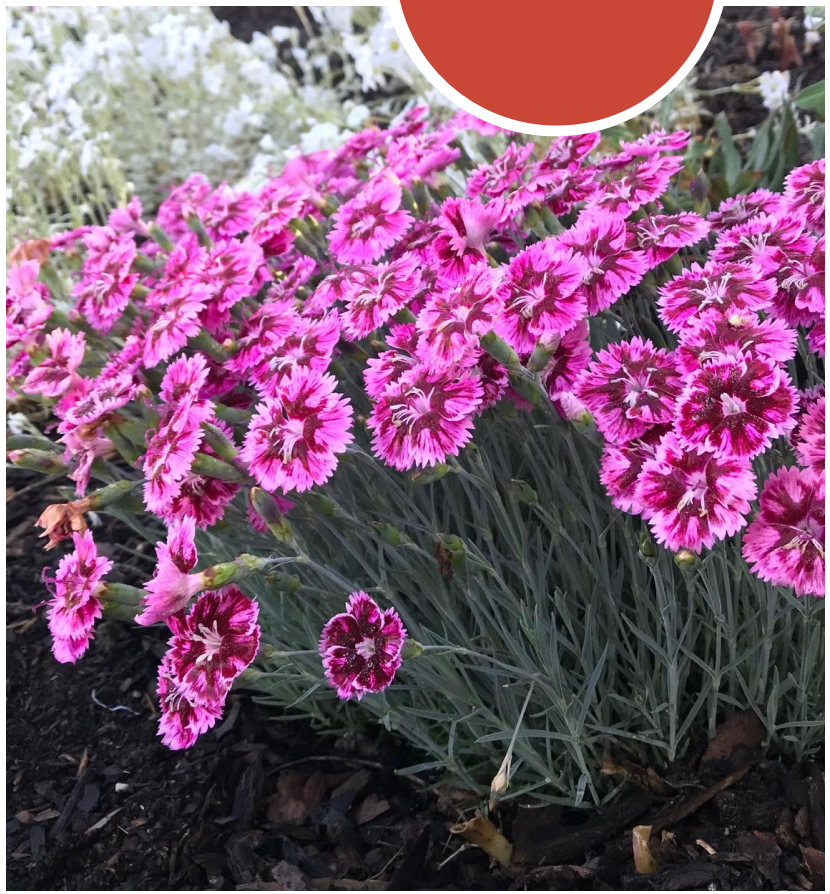
Create Privacy

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

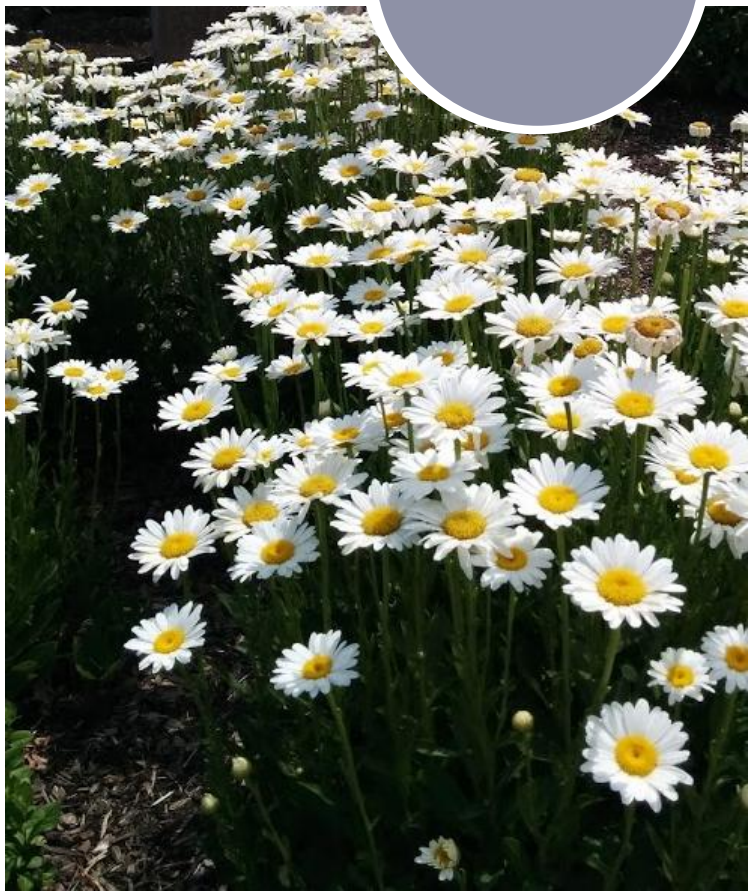
Perennials

- 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

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Annuals vs. Perennials

Best Practice

Don’t Mix Annuals & Perennials in Planting Beds

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Best Practice

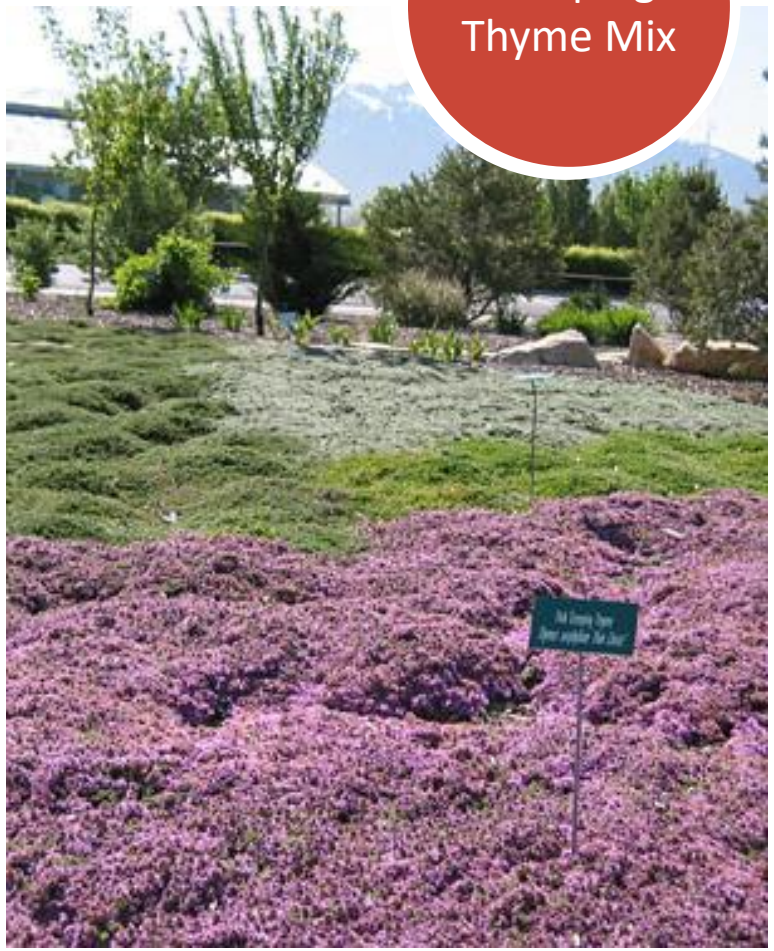
Save Annual Flowers for Container Accents

- Keeping Annuals in Containers Will Reduce Maintenance
- Drip Irrigate Containers on Their Own Zone

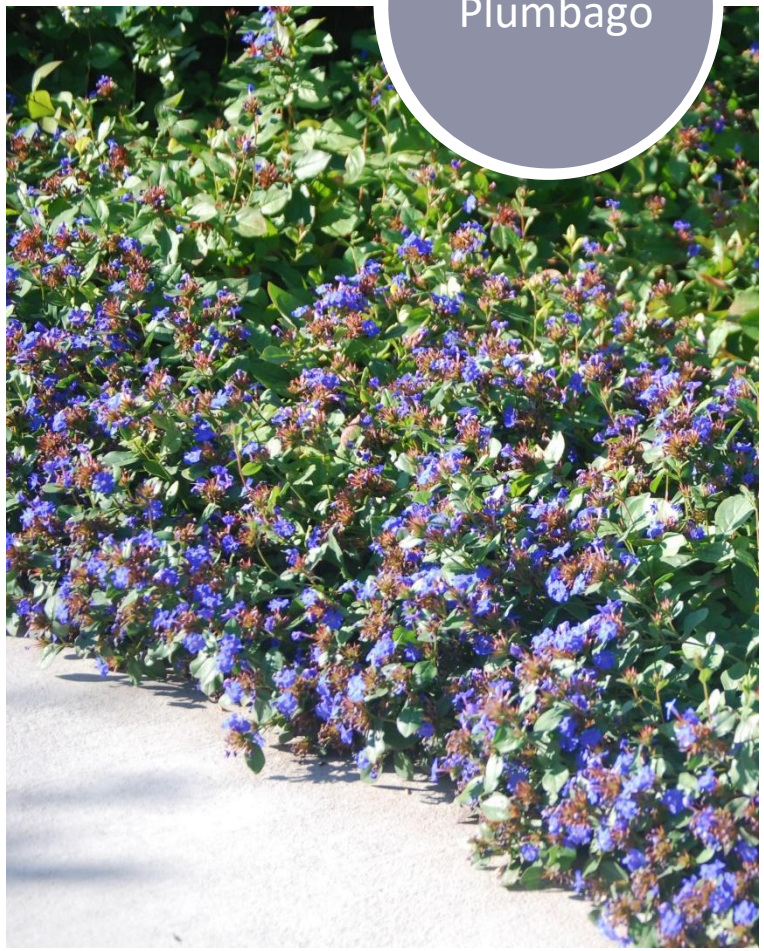
Groundcovers

- 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

Tulips
(early spring)

Allium
(late spring-summer)

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Best Practice

Planting Times

Fall

- Best Time to Plant
- Smaller Selection

Spring

- Also a Good Time to Plant
- Selection Is Much Greater

Summer

- Not Recommended; Plants Will Struggle

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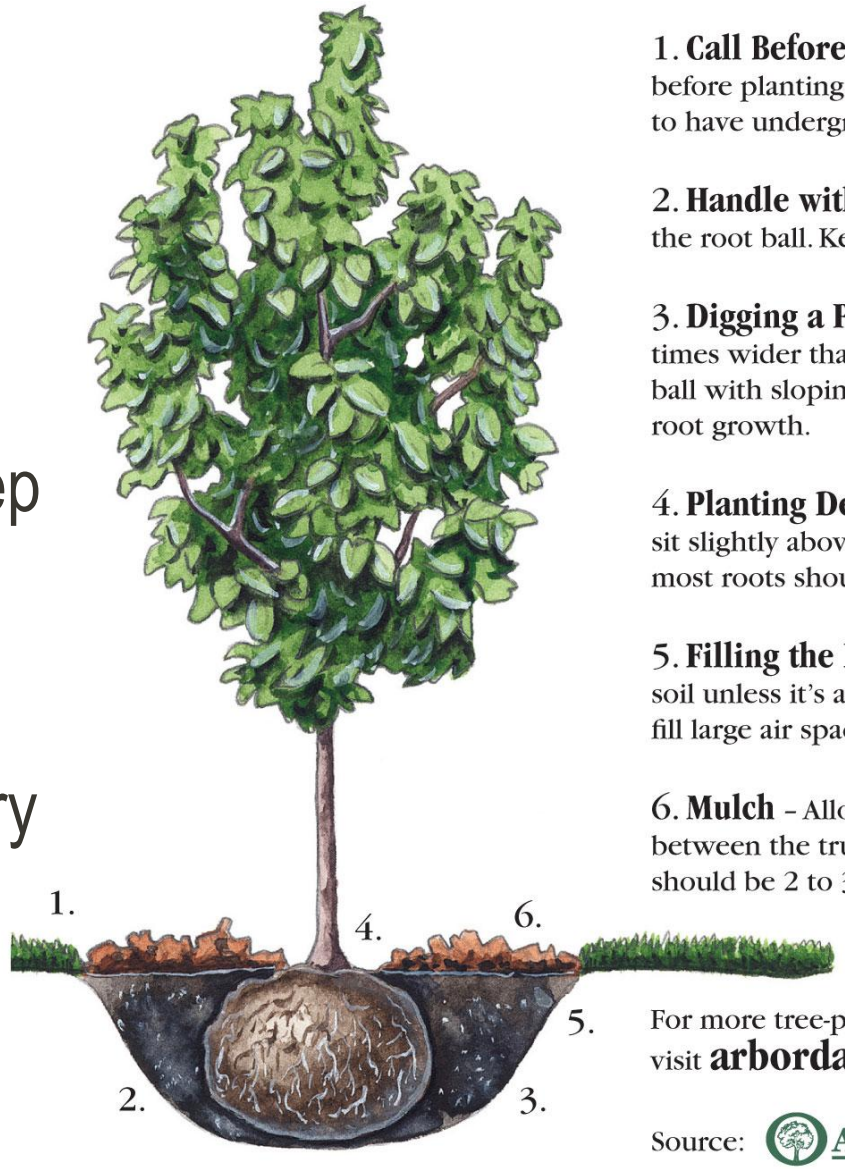
5 Planting Beds

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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5 Planting Beds

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 Over-head Spray

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.

Conservation Garden Park

www.ConservationGardenPark.org

Weather conditions may impact your watering needs.

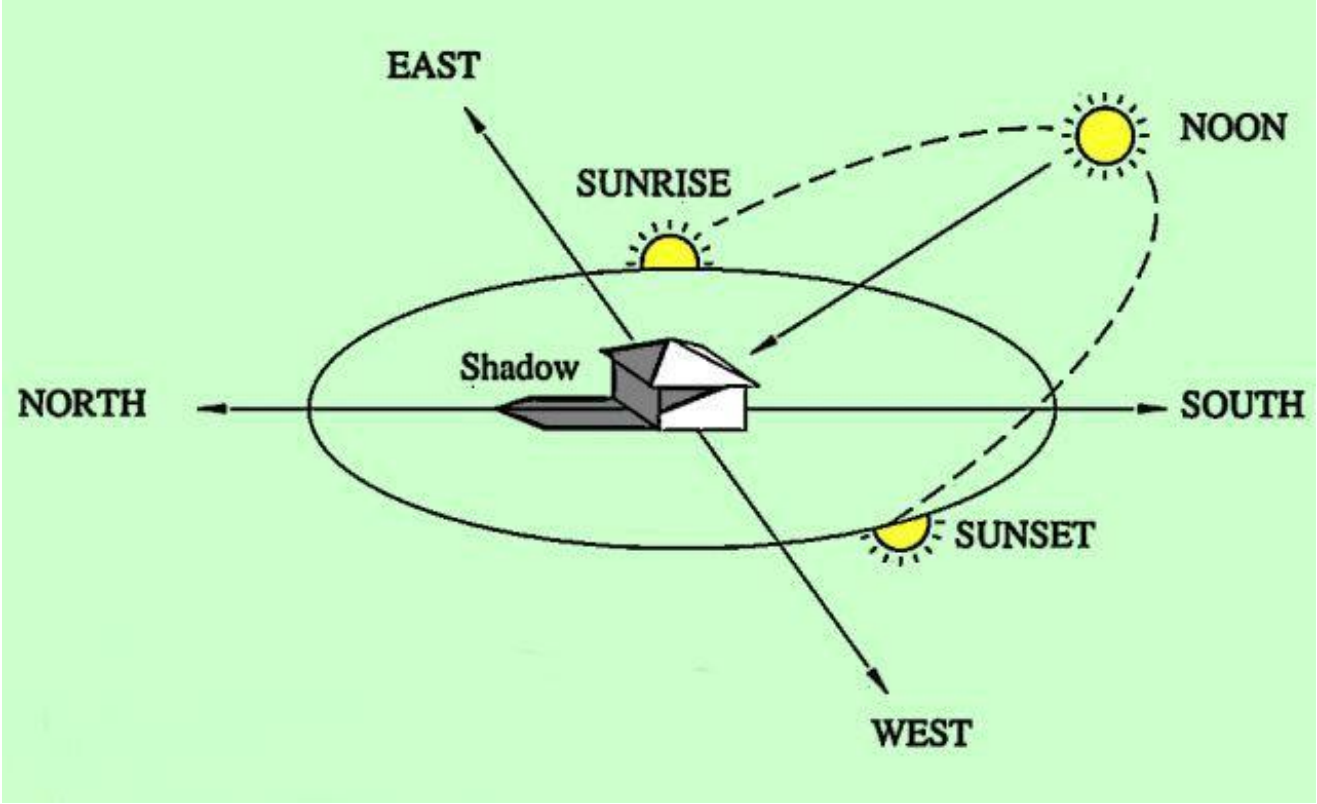
Rebates for water efficiency available at utahwatersavers.com

Utah Water Savers

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
- Side yards and foundations create microclimates



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5 Planting Beds

Full Sun

Full Sun Plants:

Areas Facing South & West Are the Best Place for Heat-loving Plants.

Hardscape & Walls Retain & Reflect Heat

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5 Planting Beds

Partial Sun

Partial Sun Plants:

- Require 6 Hours of Sun or Less
- The East Side Is 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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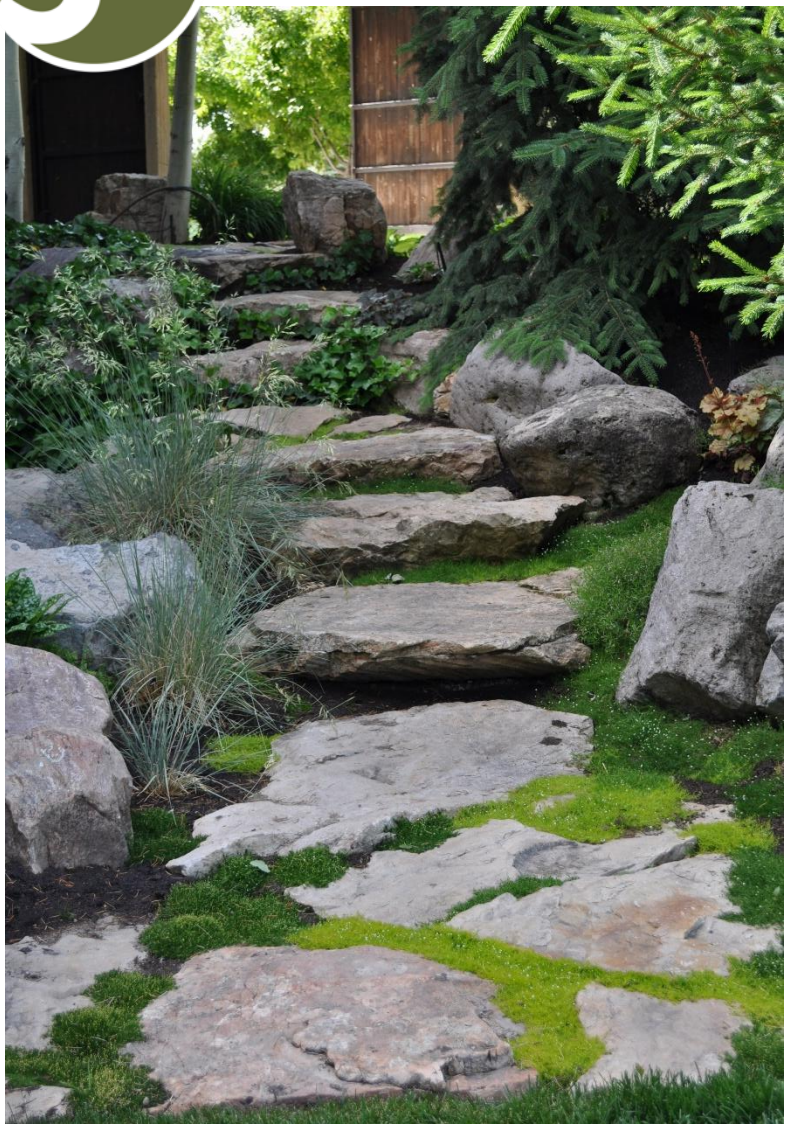
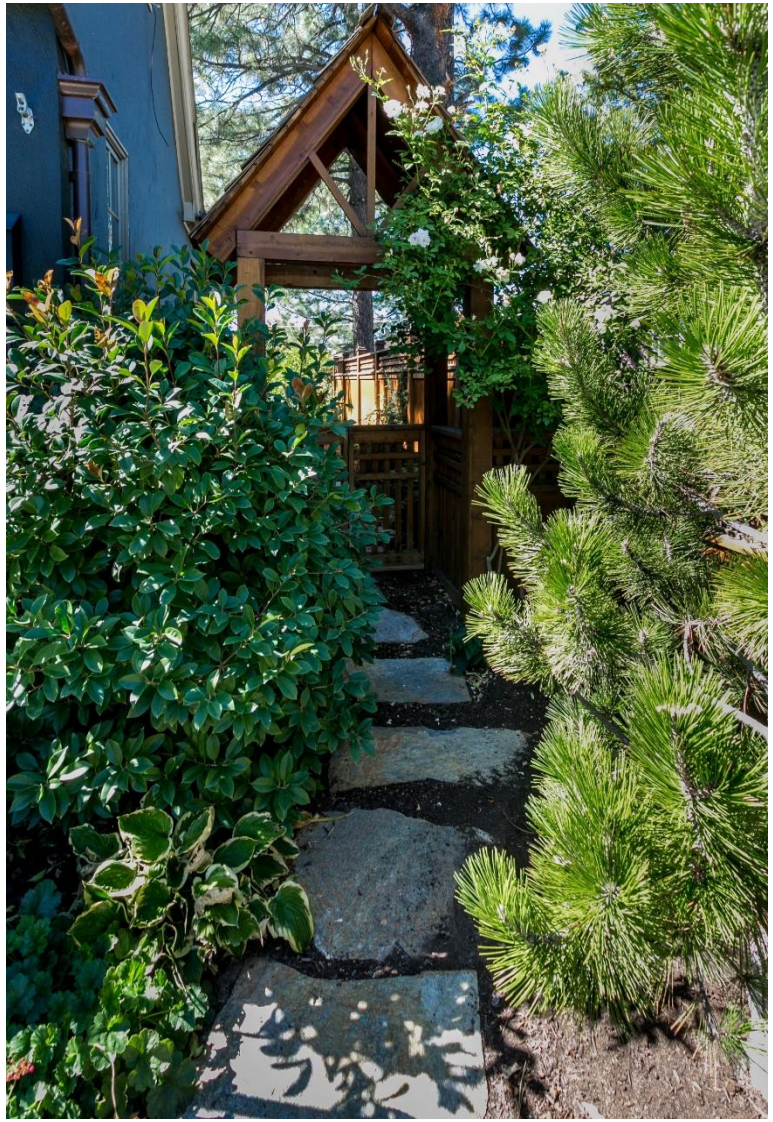
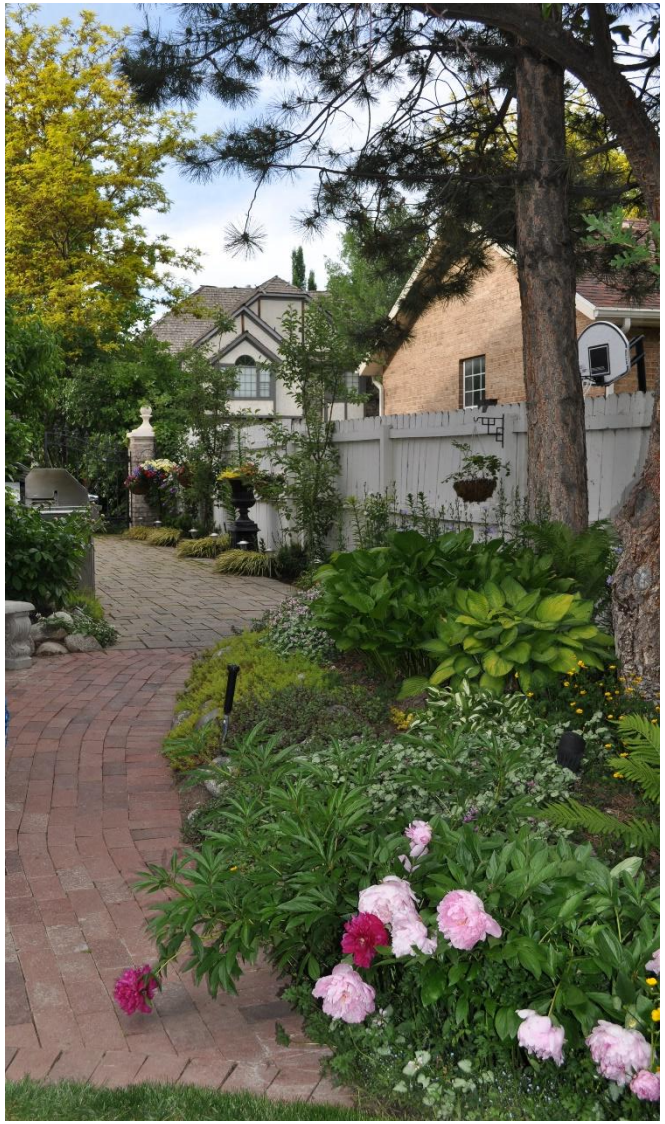
5 Planting Beds

Shade







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5 Planting Beds

Step Three - Mulch

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5 Planting Beds

Mulch Materials

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5 Planting Beds

Localscapes Requirement

- There Should Be 3-4” of Mulch in the Planting Beds
- No Bare Soil

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5 Planting Beds

Localscapes Requirement

- There Should Be 3-4” of Mulch in the Planting Beds
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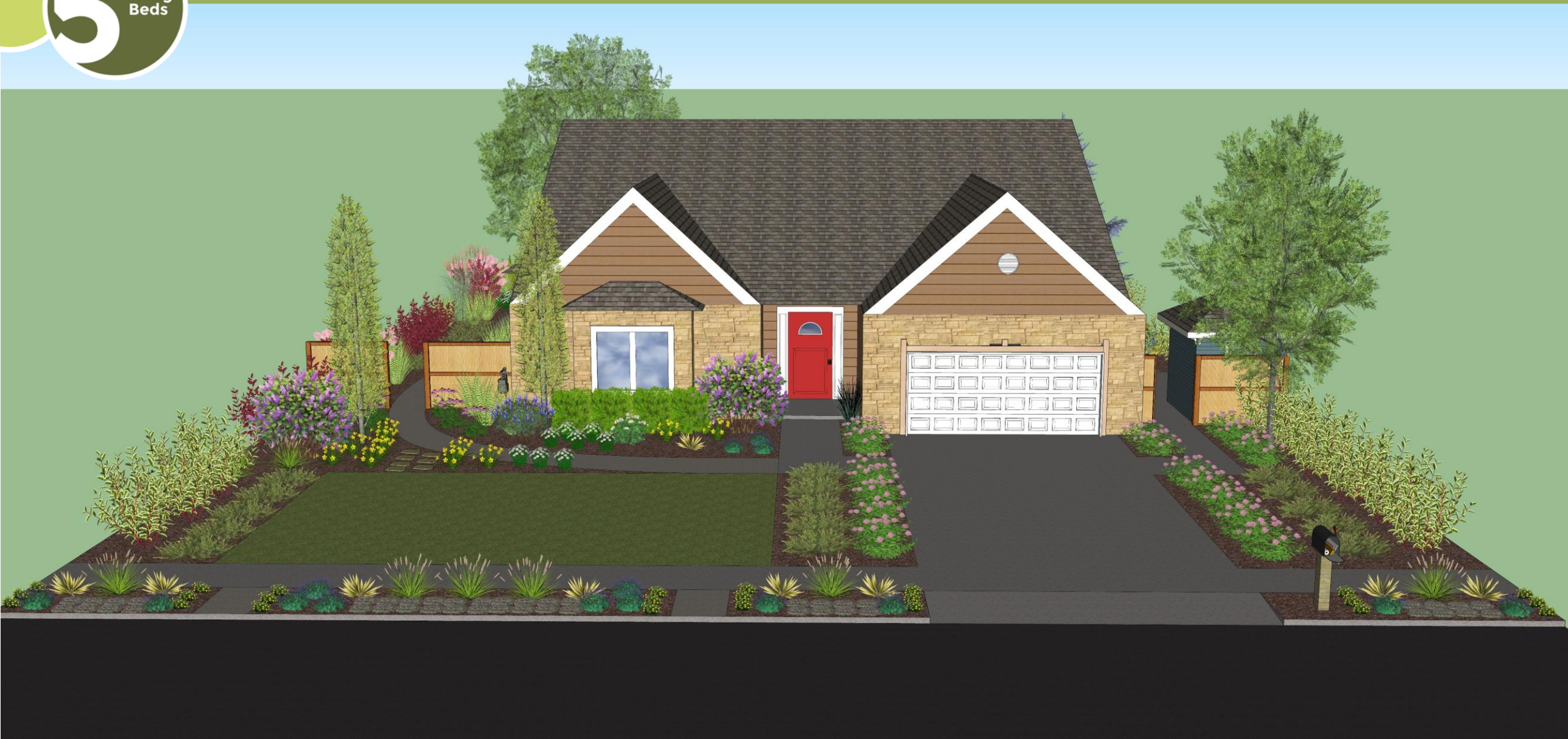
5 Planting Beds

Completed Planting Beds



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RECTANGULAR LOT

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CORNER LOT

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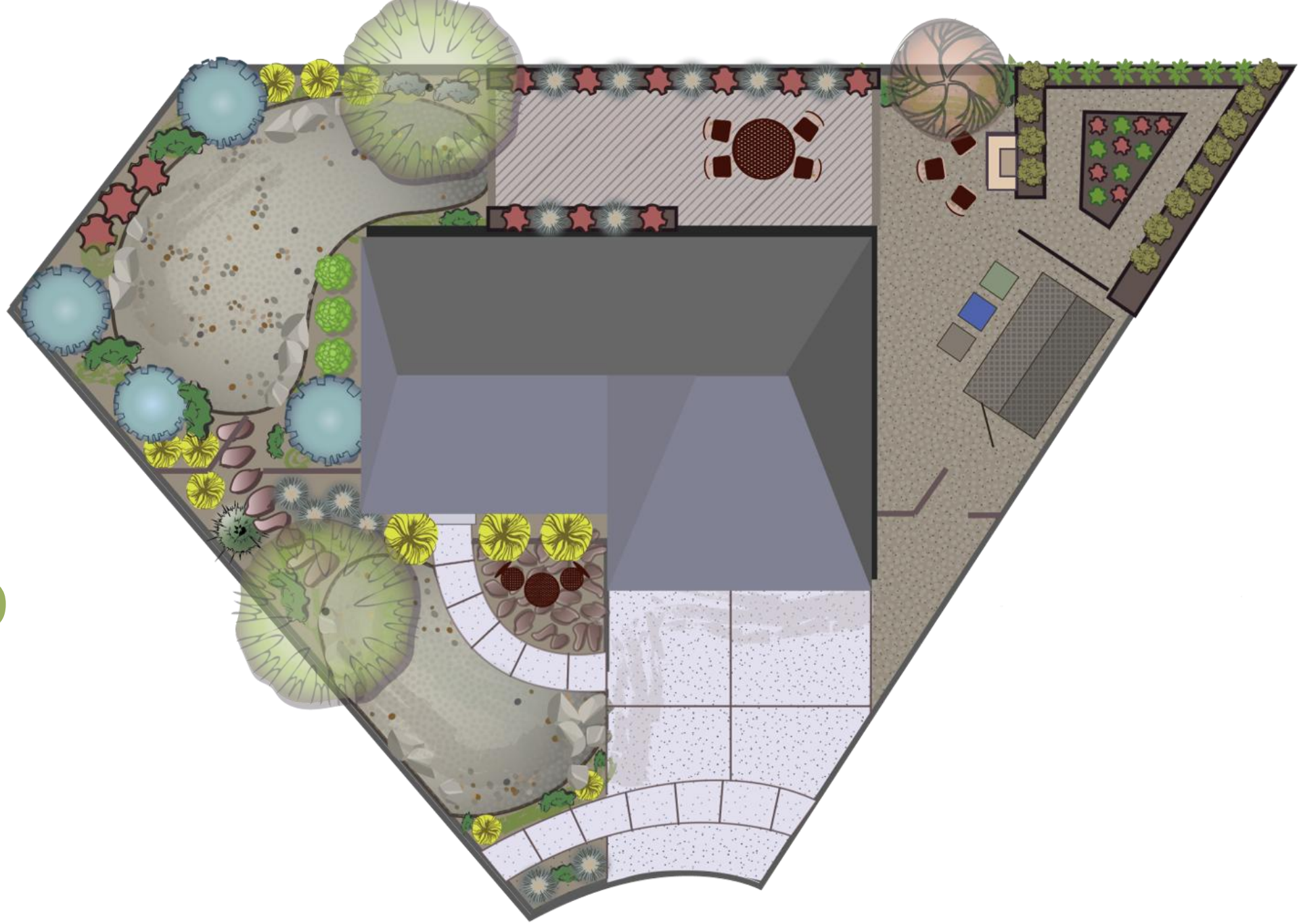
ODD-SHAPED LOT



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Resources

Localscapes Requirements

- ❑ The project is oriented around a Central Open Shape of lawn, gravel, hardscape or groundcover that has a defined edge and creates contrast with the surrounding landscape.
- ❑ The Central Open Shape is at least 8 feet wide at its narrowest point.
- ❑ The Central Open Shape is not obstructed by trees, posts, playsets, planting beds, or other elements.
- ❑ If lawn is used for the Central Open Shape, it does not exceed 35% of the total landscaped area.
- ❑ Lawn is not used anywhere outside of the Central Open Shape.
- ❑ Planting Beds are drip irrigated and have 50% plant coverage at least 3-4 inches of mulch.

Utah Water Savers

- Landscape Incentive Program
- List of Eligible Cities
- Smart Controller Rebate
- Low-flow Toilet Rebate

UtahWaterSavers.com

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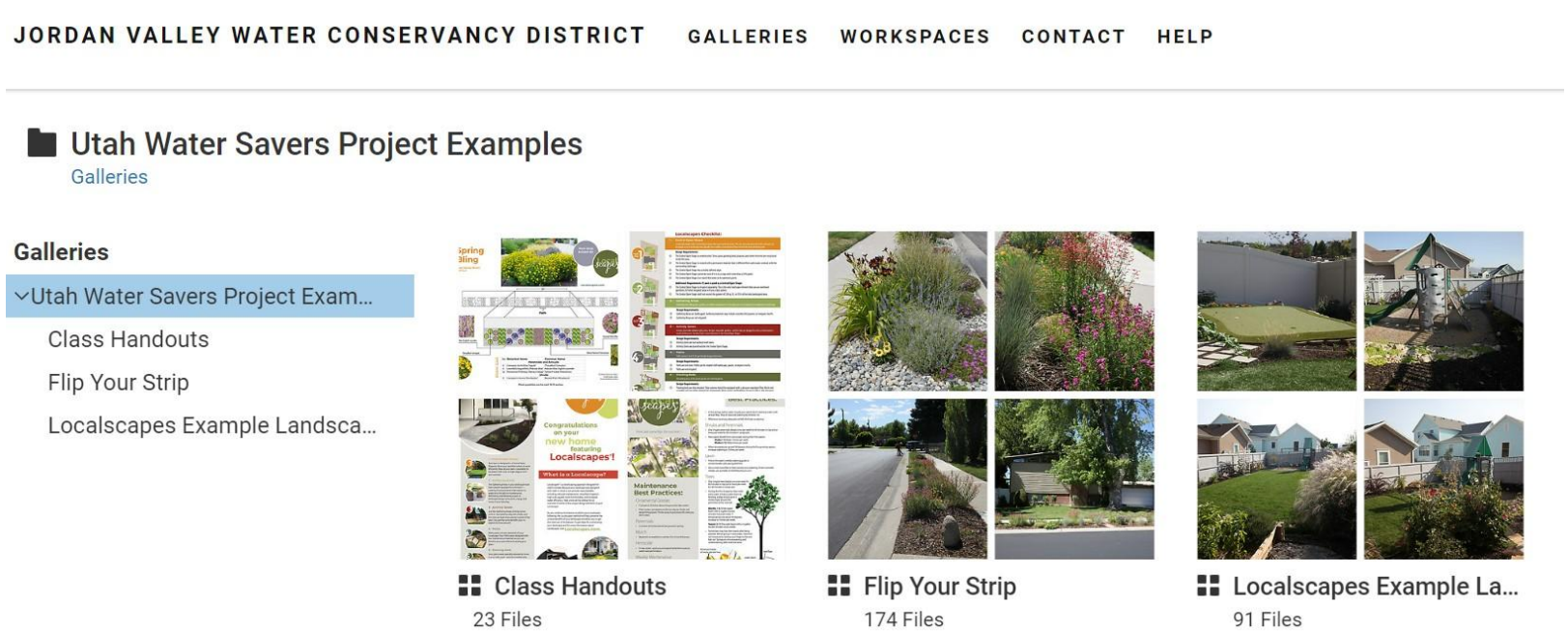
Join the Work Group!

- Ask Questions
- Share Photos
- Get Advice!

Photo Gallery

- Public Access
- See Completed Projects
- Get Handouts



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Need more help?

Contact us at

info@localscapes.com

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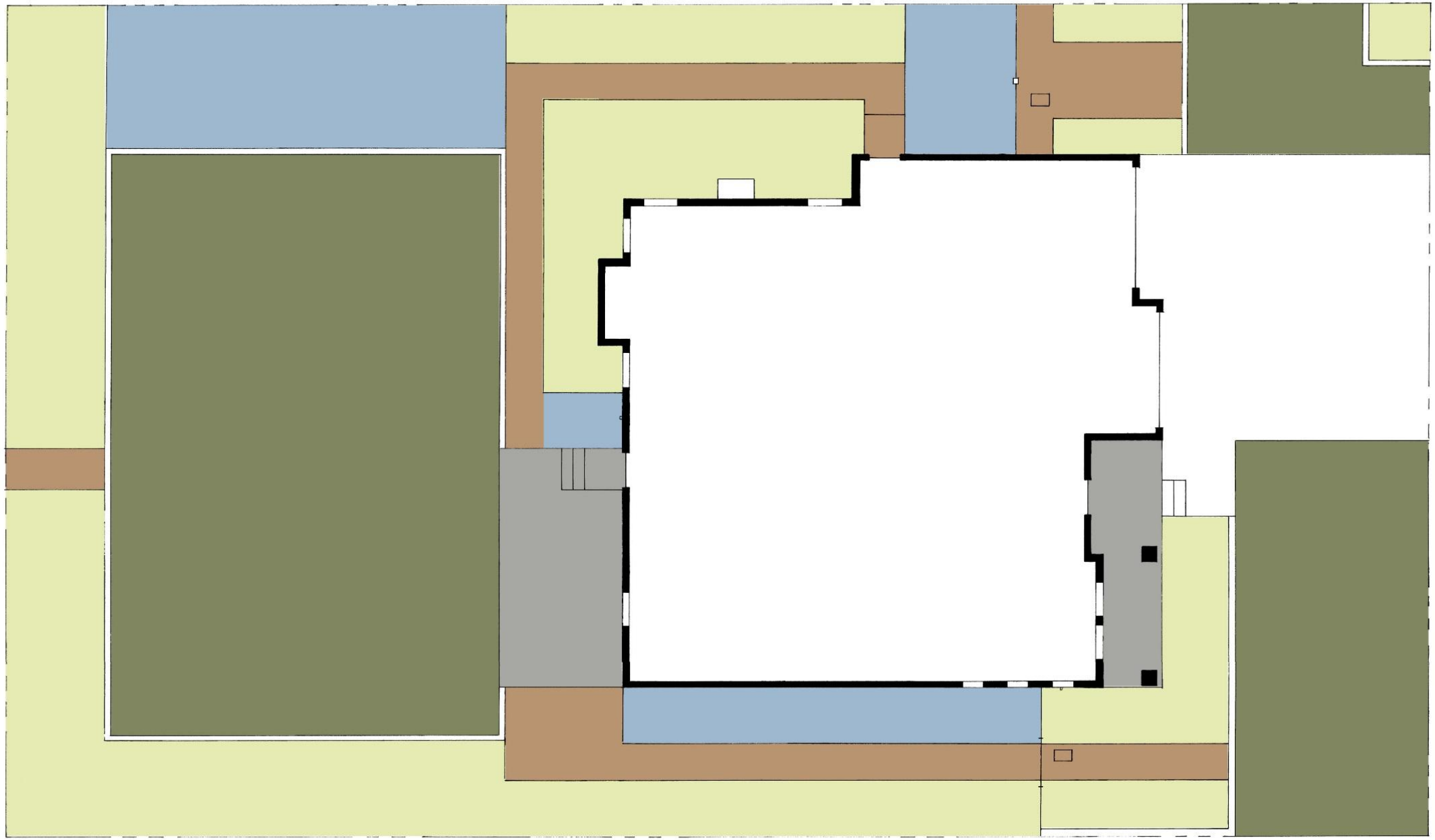
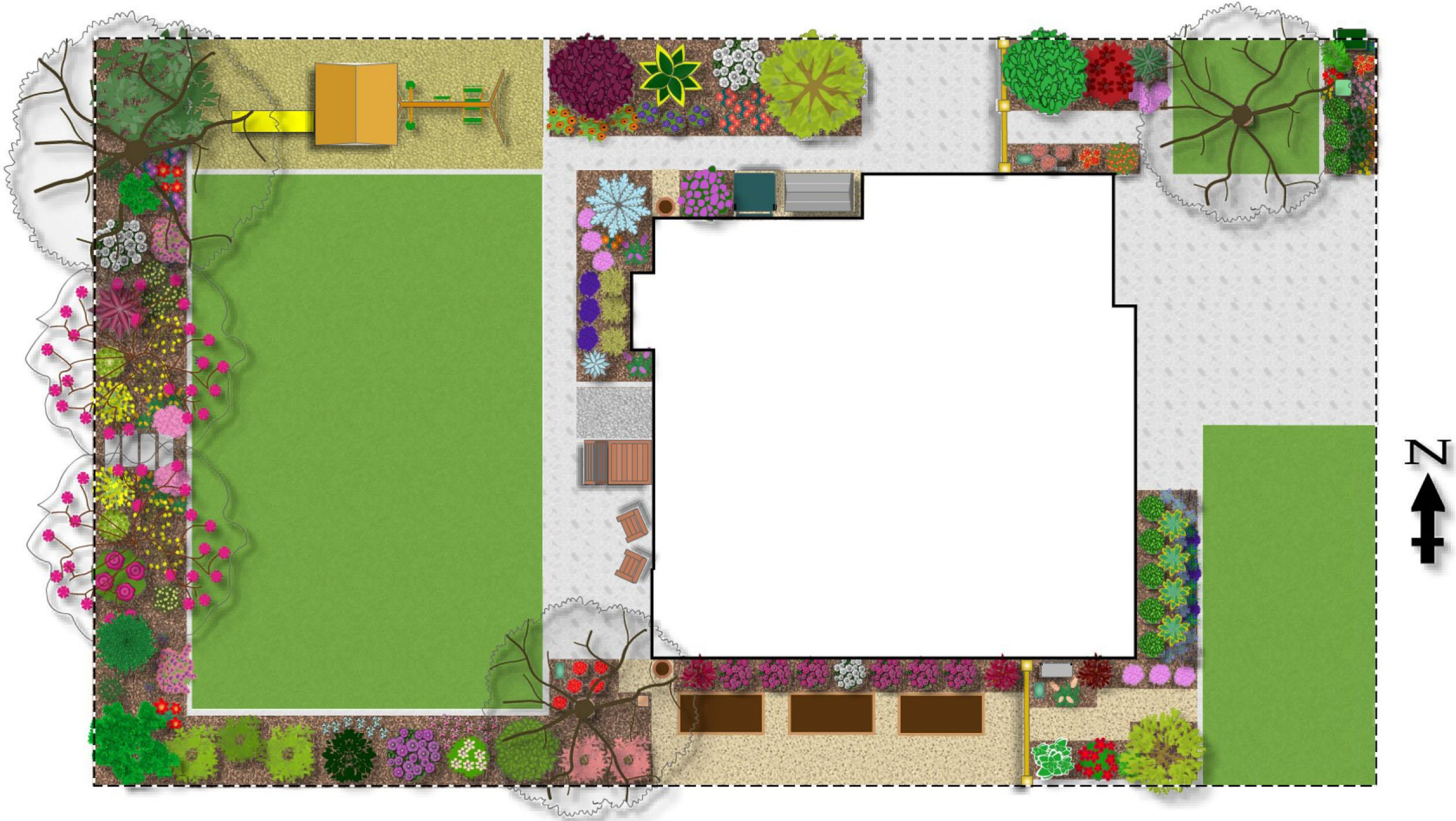
CENTRAL UTAH WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Casey Finlinson

casey@cuwcd.gov
801-226-7145

Casey’s Yard

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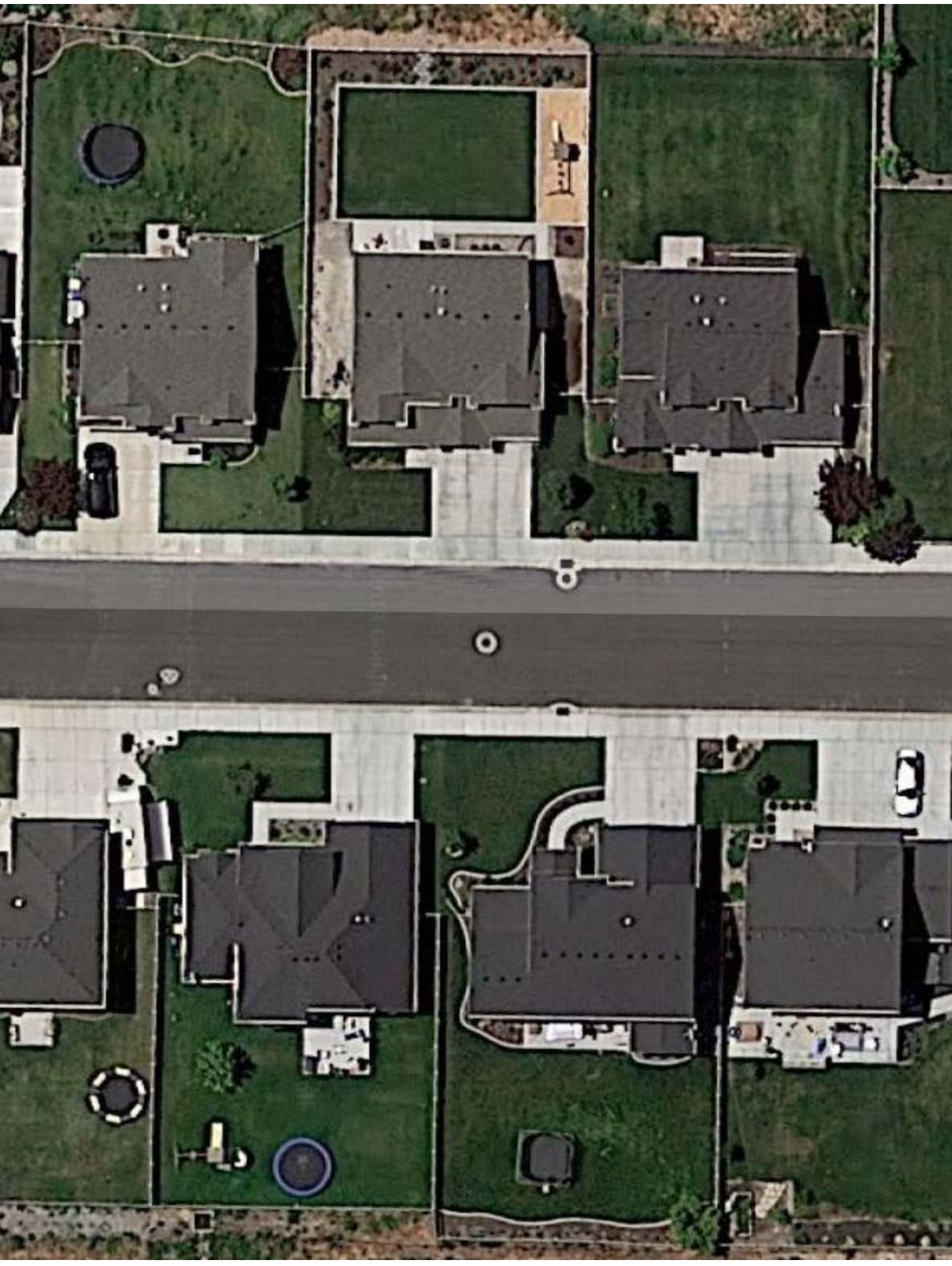

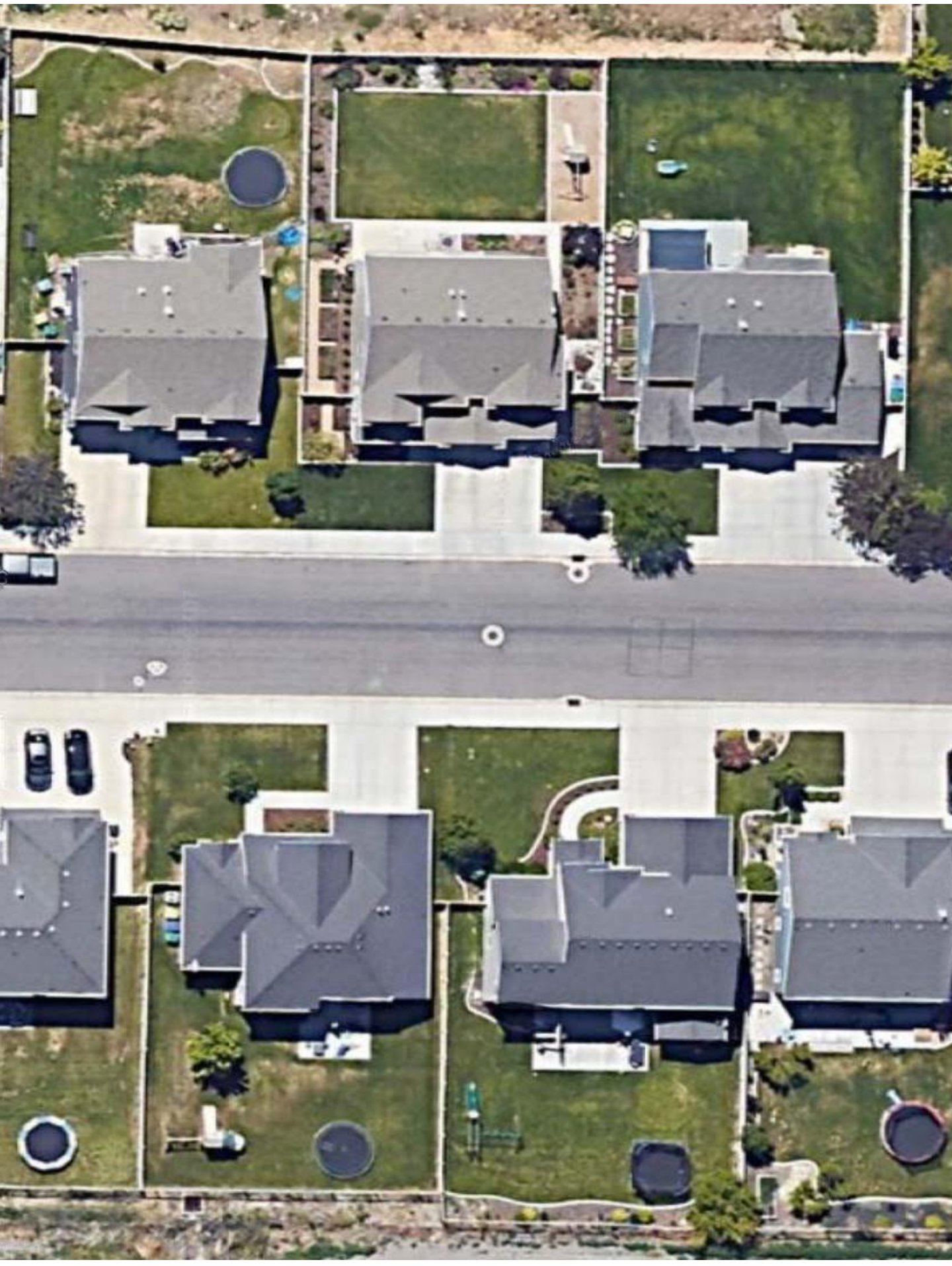

WARNING
ELECTRIC
WARNING DO NOT OPEN

ELECTRIC

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CENTRAL UTAH WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Casey Finlinson

casey@cuwcd.gov
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