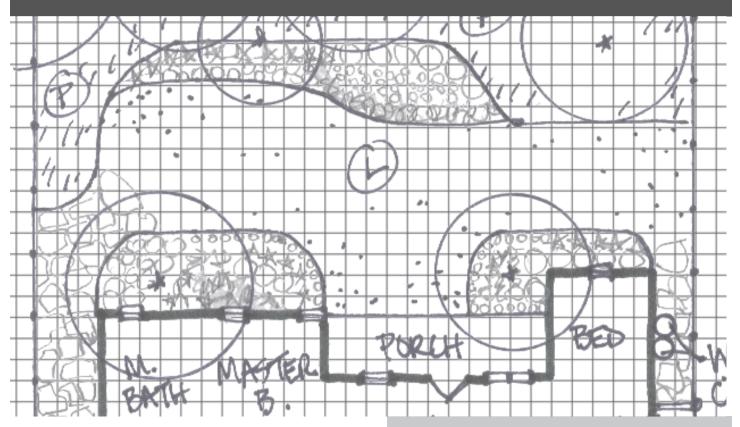
Water Saving Design Ideas for Oklahoma Landscapes





The City of OKLAHOMA CITY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources **Oklahoma State University**

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L-438 **Outdoor Water** Conservation

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources **Oklahoma State University**

About this guide:

The City of Oklahoma City Utilities Department has partnered with the Oklahoma State University Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service to promote outdoor water conservation through proper outdoor watering and drought-tolerant landscaping. The designs in this guide provide several concepts incorporating the different elements and principles of design. These designs are intended to provide inspiration and ideas for a typical residential application. The plants listed in this guide are suitable for Oklahoma and were chosen for their heat and drought tolerance.

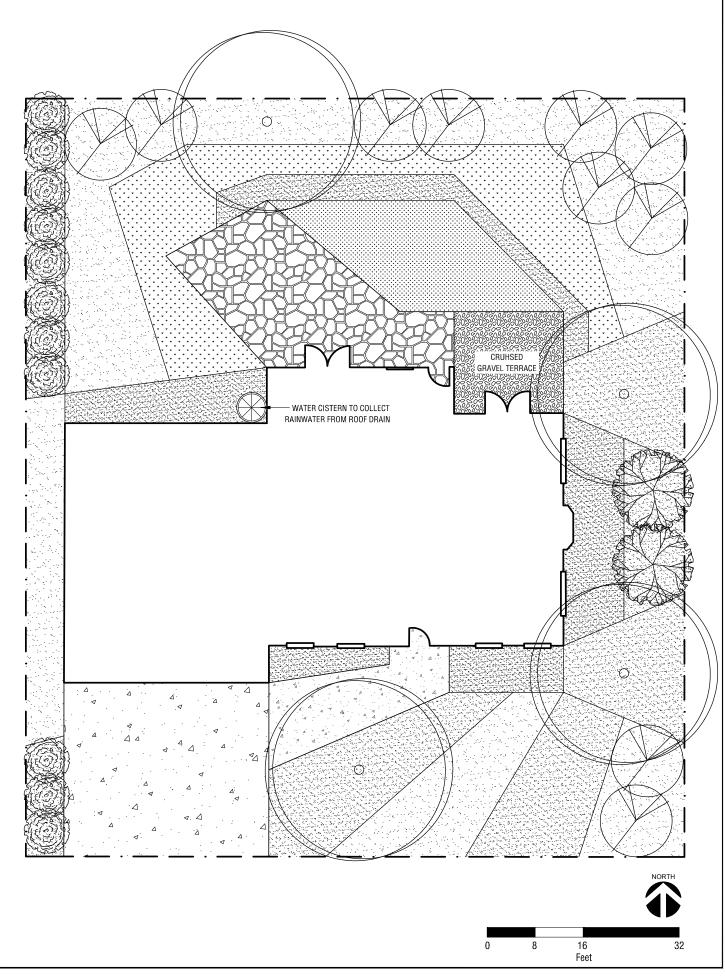
How to use this guide:

This booklet provides six different landscape designs all differing in general concept and in array of plant selection and planting strategy. Each design is accompanied by a narrative explaining the basic elements and principles to each concept and how plants can be used to compliment the forms created by bed arrangements, lawns, and hardscape areas.

The designs provided are intended to serve as inspiration and generate ideas for specific application to residential properties. Various factors such as lot size, architectural features, and environmental conditions affect decisions made in landscape design. Additional plants well-suited for Oklahoma water conservation can be found in the *Plant Selections for Oklahoma* booklet. The plants listed are not all inclusive and many other plants not listed in this booklet may be appropriate for the landscape.

Authors:

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CANOPY SHADE TREES

KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE - Gymnocladus dioica THORNLESS HONEY LOCUST - Gleditsia triacanthos CHINESE PISTACHE - Pistacia chinensis

MODERATE/LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL TREES

CRAB APPLE - Malus 'Prairie Fire' SHANTUNG MAPLE - Acer truncatum

LOW/VERY LOW WATER USAGE **ORNAMENTAL TREES**

MEXICAN PLUM - Prunus mexicana OKLAHOMA REDBUD - Cercis canadensis ssp texensis

EVERGREEN SCREEN TREE

ARIZONA CYPRESS - Cupressus arizonica PINYON PINE - Pinus edulis

VERY LOW WATER USAGE **ORNAMENTAL PLANTS**

SHRUBS

FRAGRANT SUMAC - Rhus aromatica 'Grow Low' CUTLEAF STAGHORN SUMAC - Rhus typhina 'Laciniata' **RED YUCCA - Hesperaloe parviflora**

GRASSES

LITTLE BLUESTEM - Schizachyrium scoparium PRAIRIE DROPSEED - Sporobolus heterolepsis PURPLE THREE AWN - Aristida purpurea

PERENNIALS

COMMON YARROW - Achillea millefolium BUTTERFLY WEED - Asclepias tuberosa CARDINAL PENSTEMON - Penstemon cardinalis



LOW WATER USAGE **ORNAMENTAL PLANTS** SHRUBS

FLAME HONEYSUCKLE- Lonicera x heckrotti MEXICAN FIRE - Anisacanthus quadrifidus GRASSES

SIDEOATS GRAMA - Bouteloua curtipendula INDIAN GRASS - Sorghastrum nutans BLUE OAT GRASS - Helictotrichon sempervirens

PERENNIALS

PURPLE CONEFLOWER - Echinacea purpurea PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR - Liatris pycnostachya EVENING PRIMROSE - *Oenothera macrocarpa*

MODERATE WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS SHRUBS

DECIDUOUS HOLLY - Ilex decidua SMOKE TREE - Cotinus coggygria

GRASSES

NORTHERN SEA OATS - Chasmanthium latifolium FEATHER REED GRASS - Calamagrostis 'Karl Foerster' BLUE FESCUE - *Festuca glauca*

PERENNIALS

INDIAN BLANKETFLOWER - Gaillardia x grandiflora BLACK EYED SUSAN - Rudbeckia hirta VERBENA ON-A-STICK - Verbena bonariensis

LOW WATER USAGE **TURF/LAWN AREA**

BUFFALO GRASS - Bouteloua dactyloides

MODERATE WATER USAGE TURF/LAWN AREA

BERMUDA GRASS - Cynodon dactylon

MODERN PRAIRIE DESIGN CONCEPT

This landscape design concept combines the idea of an American Prairie plant palette with principles of a modern, irregular use of lines for hardscapes and planting boundaries. This combination achieves a contrasting scheme of very naturalistic plant materials with very constructed arrangement, with strong relationship to architecture. A strong emphasis on native plants is used in this type of design, but similar to the rectilinear design, are planted in regimented fashion using soldier or triangular spacing. Areas further away from the home near property edges can be planted in a more natural arrangement including wildflower mixes to maintain the natural ecosystem qualities of the plant selections.

SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR CREATING A WATER CONSERVING LANDSCAPE

1. GOOD LANDSCAPE PLANNING AND DESIGN

-Consider aspects of your property such as building footprint, utilizing hardscape areas, slope and drainage, areas for turf as needed, and attractive looking plants that require limited water use.

2. LOW WATER USE PLANTS

-Many attractive native plant cultivars that are well-suited for the natural environmental conditions are available at local nurserys and garden centers. Other drought tolerant non-native species may be appropriate if tolerant of temperature extremes and other conditions such as soil type, sun requirements, and disease resistance. Use moderate water using plants near the home and heavily trafficked areas and transition to very low water use plants near property perimeter and in less visible areas.

3. APPROPRIATE TURF AREAS

-Turf has its purpose in the landscape, but should be used efficiently and effectively. Consider how the turf area will be used when selecting a turf species. Bermuda grass can be maintained at a lower height, making it ideal for high traffic areas that will be used for play areas and recreation. Buffalo Grass, Blue Grama Grass or a similar native mix is a better water conserving alternative for turf areas that will not be as intensely used.

4. EFFICIENT IRRIGATION

- Plants should be grouped into water use zones to maximize efficient irrigation and prevent over watering. Irrigate turf areas separate from other areas. Drip irrigation in other planting areas will prevent water being wasted by runoff. Rain sensors can be installed on controllers to prevent unneeded irrigation when the soil has adequate moisture for plant health. Water cisterns can be tied into roof drain systems, collecting stormwater that can be used for supplemental watering in garden areas for vegetables and herbs.

5. SOIL IMPROVEMENTS

- Addition of organic matter and other soil amendments will provide a healthy growing medium for plants, keeping plants from becoming overstressed during extreme environmental conditions.

6. USE OF MULCHES

- Mulch acts as a buffer retaining soil moisture, preventing weed growth, and can help control soil erosion caused by stormwater runoff.

7. APPROPRIATE MAINTENANCE

-Careful attention to routine maintenance is important in a landscape's aesthetic and functional quality. Pruning, weeding and using an organic fertilizer at regular intervals will help the landscape continue to grow and achieve the initial intended design.

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LANDSCAPE PLANTING OPTIONS

CANOPY SHADE TREES

SHUMARD OAK - Quercus shumardii CADDO SUGAR MAPLE - Acer saccharum var Caddo CHINESE PISTACHE - Pistacia chinensis

MODERATE/LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL TREES

CRAB APPLE - Malus 'Prairie Fire' OKLAHOMA REDBUD - Cercis canadensis ssp texensis

LOW/VERY LOW WATER USAGE **ORNAMENTAL TREES**

MEXICAN PLUM - Prunus mexicana WESTERN SOAPBERRY - Sapindus drummondii

EVERGREEN SCREEN TREE

CHINESE JUNIPER - Juniperus chinensis ROCKY MOUNTATIN JUNIPER - Juniperus scopulorum

VERY LOW WATER USAGE **ORNAMENTAL PLANTS**

SHRUBS

FRAGRANT SUMAC - Rhus aromatica 'Grow Low' CUTLEAF STAGHORN SUMAC - Rhus typhina 'Laciniata' RED YUCCA - Hesperaloe parviflora

GRASSES

BIG BLUESTEM - Andropogon gerardii PRAIRIE DROPSEED - Sporobolus heterolepsis MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS - Nassella tenuissima

PERENNIALS

COMMON YARROW - Achillea millefolium MYRTLE EUPHORBIA - Euphorbia myrsinites RUSSIAN SAGE - Perovskia atriplicifolia



LOW WATER USAGE **ORNAMENTAL PLANTS**

SHRUBS

COMMON JUNIPER - Juniperus communis MEXICAN FIRE - Anisacanthus quadrifidus PRIVET - *Ligustrum* spp.

GRASSES

MAIDEN GRASS - *Miscanthus sinensis* SWITCH GRASS - Panicum virgatum BLUE OAT GRASS - Helictotrichon sempervirens

PERENNIALS

PURPLE CONEFLOWER - Echinacea purpurea GIANT CONEFLOWER - Rudbeckia maxima MUGWORT - Artemisia 'Powis Castle'

MODERATE WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

SHRUBS

SHRUB ROSES 'KNOCKOUT' - Rosa spp. KOREAN SPICE VIBURNUM - Viburnum carlesii

GRASSES

BLUE LYME GRASS - Leymus arenarius FEATHER REED GRASS - Calamagrostis 'Karl Foerster' BLUE FESCUE - Festuca glauca

PERENNIALS

DAYLILY - Hemerocallis spp. IRIS - Iris spp. BLUE MIST - Caryopteris x clandonensis

LOW WATER USAGE



TURF/LAWN AREA

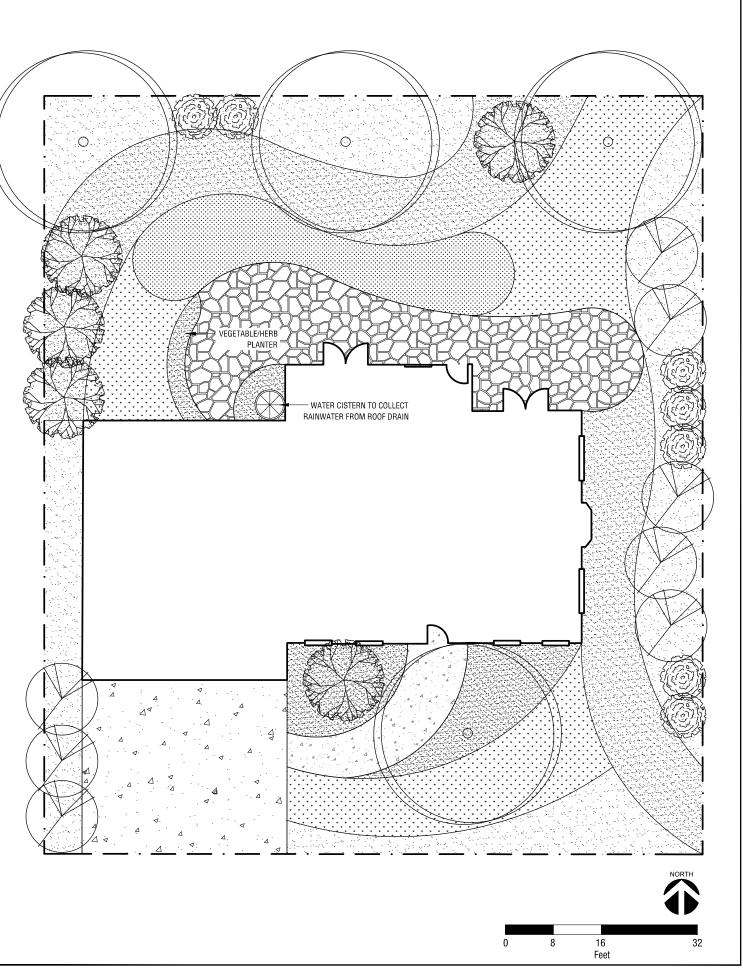
BUFFALO GRASS - Bouteloua dactyloides

MODERATE WATER USAGE TURF/LAWN AREA

ZOYSIA GRASS - Zoysia spp.

RECTILINEAR DESIGN CONCEPT

This landscape design concept emphasizes architectural features of the home by aligning trees and planting beds with elements such as exterior walls, windows and doors. Plants are placed and organized in a very formal, or grid-like, fashion. Selected plants should be very uniform and neat in nature. Smaller ornamental plants should be arranged in single species masses, utilizing either triangular or soldier type spacing. This type of design compliments the architectural aspects of a property and provides a very orderly landscape for easy maintenance.



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CANOPY SHADE TREES

SHUMARD OAK - *Quercus shumardii* CADDO SUGAR MAPLE - *Acer saccharum* var *Caddo* LACEBARK ELM - *Ulmus parviflora*

MODERATE/LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL TREES

JAPANESE RED PINE - *Pinus densiflora* OKLAHOMA REDBUD - *Cercis canadensis* ssp texensis

LOW/VERY LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL TREES

MEXICAN PLUM - *Prunus mexicana* WESTERN SOAPBERRY - *Sapindus drummondii*

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EVERGREEN SCREEN TREE CHINESE JUNIPER - Juniperus chinensis

CHINESE JUNIPER - Juniperus chinensis ROCKY MOUNTATIN JUNIPER - Juniperus scopulorum

VERY LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

SHRUBS

FRAGRANT SUMAC - *Rhus aromatica* 'Grow Low' CUTLEAF STAGHORN SUMAC - *Rhus typhina* 'Laciniata' NINEBARK - *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Monlo'

GRASSES

BIG BLUESTEM - Andropogon gerardii PRAIRIE DROPSEED - Sporobolus heterolepsis MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS - Nassella tenuissima

PERENNIALS

STONECROP - *Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy' MYRTLE EUPHORBIA - *Euphorbia myrsinites* RUSSIAN SAGE - *Perovskia atriplicifolia*



LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

SHRUBS

WINTER JASMINE- Jasminum nudiflorum FLAME HONEYSUCKLE- Lonicera x heckrotti **GRASSES**

MAIDEN GRASS - *Miscanthus sinensis* INDIAN GRASS - *Sorghastrum nutans* RAVENNA GRASS - *Erianthus ravennae*

PERENNIALS

PURPLE CONEFLOWER - *Echinacea purpurea* GIANT CONEFLOWER - *Rudbeckia maxima* VERBENA - *Verbena canadensis*

MODERATE WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

SHRUBS

DECIDUOUS HOLLY - *Ilex decidua* KOREAN SPICE VIBURNUM - *Viburnum carlesii*

GRASSES

BLUE LYME GRASS - *Leymus arenarius* FEATHER REED GRASS - *Calamagrostis* 'Karl Foerster' BLUE FESCUE - *Festuca glauca*

PERENNIALS

INDIAN BLANKETFLOWER - *Gaillardia x grandiflora* JAPANESE PAINTED FERN - *Athyrium nipponicum* GAURA - *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Siskiyou Pink'

LOW WATER USAGE



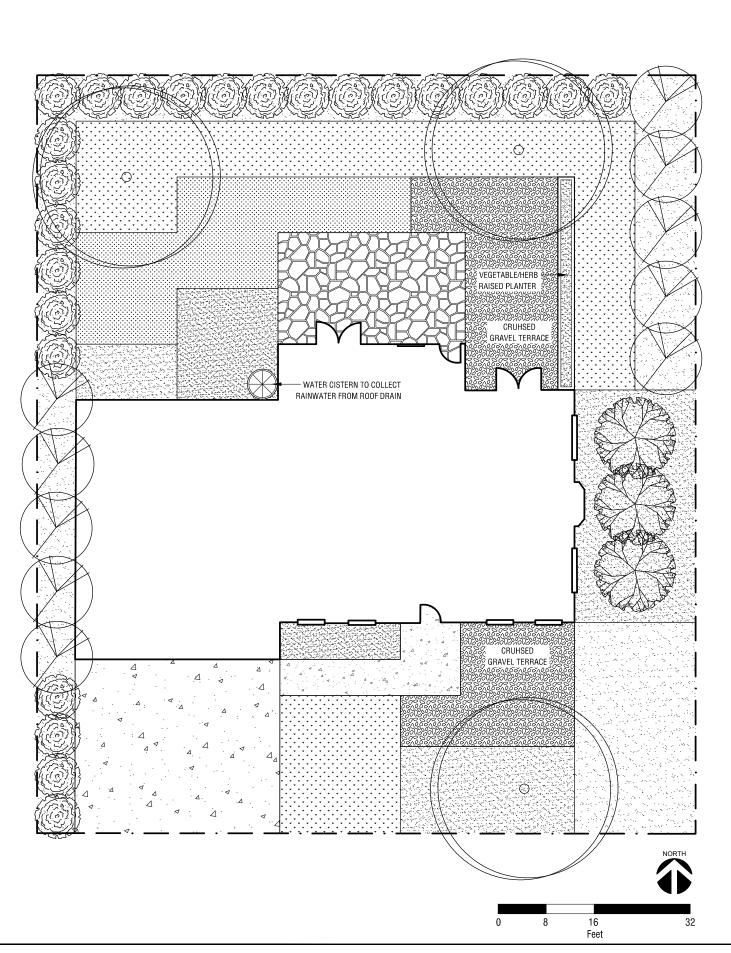
BUFFALO GRASS - Bouteloua dactyloides

MODERATE WATER USAGE

ZOYSIA GRASS - Zoysia spp.

ORGANIC DESIGN CONCEPT

This landscape design concept utilizes forms similar to the curvilinear concept but truly emphasizes focal forms that are generally created by closed curves and lack sharp angles. Perpendicular and slightly acute angles can be used in other areas of the landscape to focus visual attention to the most important areas of the outdoor space. In this case, the large back patio area and recreational lawn area. In order to maintain the organic design in the secondary planting areas that include sharper angles, use the same concept by using larger closed organic forms of plant masses and compliment the smaller negative spaces left over with accent planting that receive less attention.



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CANOPY SHADE TREES SHUMARD OAK - Quercus shumardii 0

BALD CYPRESS - Taxodium distichum CHINESE PISTACHE - Pistacia chinensis

MODERATE/LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL TREES

OKLAHOMA REDBUD - Cercis canadensis ssp texensis JAPANESE TREE LILAC - Syringa reticulata

LOW/VERY LOW WATER USAGE

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ORNAMENTAL TREES

MEXICAN PLUM - Prunus mexicana DESERT WILLOW - Chilopsis linearis

EVERGREEN SCREEN TREE

CHINESE JUNIPER - Juniperus chinensis **ROCKY MOUNTATIN JUNIPER - Juniperus scopulorum**

VERY LOW WATER USAGE **ORNAMENTAL PLANTS**

SHRUBS

FRAGRANT SUMAC - Rhus aromatica 'Grow Low' CUTLEAF STAGHORN SUMAC - Rhus typhina 'Laciniata' NINEBARK - Physocarpus opulifolius 'Monlo'

GRASSES

BIG BLUESTEM - Andropogon gerardii MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS - Nassella tenuissima PURPLE THREE AWN - Aristida purpurea

PERENNIALS

EVENING PRIMROSE - Oenothera macrocarpa CATMINT - Euphorbia myrsinites AUTUMN SAGE - Salvia greggii



LOW WATER USAGE **ORNAMENTAL PLANTS** SHRUBS

WINTER JASMINE- Jasminum nudiflorum MEXICAN FIRE - Anisacanthus quadrifidus FLAME HONEYSUCKLE- Lonicera x heckrotti

GRASSES

MAIDEN GRASS - Miscanthus sinensis INDIAN GRASS - Sorghastrum nutans BLUE OAT GRASS - Helictotrichon sempervirens

PERENNIALS

COREOPSIS - Coreopsis ssp. PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR - Liatris pycnostachya MUGWORT - Artemisia 'Powis Castle'

MODERATE WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

SHRUBS

CHASTE TREE - Vitex agnus-castus SMOKE TREE - Cotinus coggygria DECIDUOUS HOLLY - Ilex decidua

GRASSES

BLUE LYME GRASS - Levmus arenarius NORTHERN SEA OATS - Chasmanthium latifolium BLUE FESCUE - Festuca glauca

PERENNIALS

GAURA - Gaura lindheimeri 'Siskiyou Pink' JAPANESE PAINTED FERN - Athyrium nipponicum ARKANSAS BLUESTAR - Amsonia hubrichtii

LOW WATER USAGE **TURF/LAWN AREA**

BUFFALO GRASS - Bouteloua dactyloides



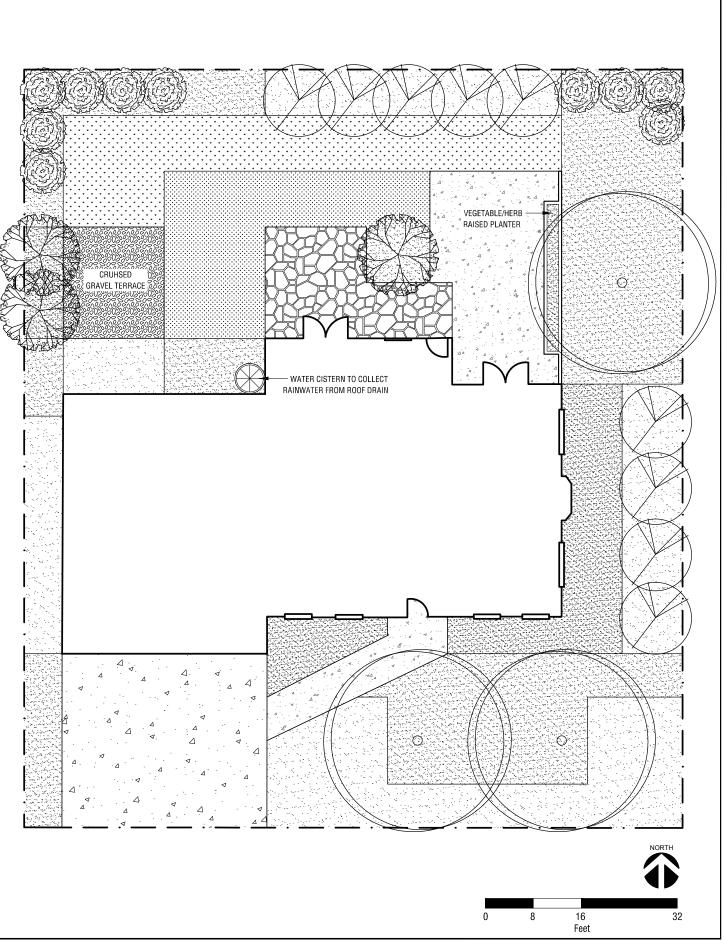




BERMUDA GRASS - Cynodon dactylon

CURVILINEAR DESIGN CONCEPT

This landscape design concept uses swooping gestures and large tangent arcing forms to mimic a more naturalistic looking landscape. The forms created by this design strategy suggests movement that should be reflected in plant selection. Large masses of airy perennials and shrubs can be grouped in a swooping contour to bed edges, with intermittent structural plantings to provide contrast and anchor ends of planting beds. Try and avoid creating tight, acute angles at bed intersections and near hardscape areas. These sharp angles can present maintenance challenges, making it difficult to plant, mow, and water effectively.



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CANOPY SHADE TREES

SHUMARD OAK - *Quercus shumardii* CADDO SUGAR MAPLE - *Acer saccharum* var *Caddo* BALD CYPRESS - *Taxodium distichum*

MODERATE/LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL TREES

CRAB APPLE - *Malus* 'Prairie Fire' JAPANESE TREE LILAC - *Syringa reticulata*

LOW/VERY LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL TREES

DESERT WILLOW - *Chilopsis linearis* OKLAHOMA REDBUD - *Cercis canadensis* ssp *texensis*

EVERGREEN SCREEN TREE

CHINESE JUNIPER - Juniperus chinensis ARIZONA CYPRESS - Cupressus arizonica

VERY LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

SHRUBS

FRAGRANT SUMAC - *Rhus aromatica 'Grow Low'* CUTLEAF STAGHORN SUMAC - *Rhus typhina* 'Laciniata' RED YUCCA - *Hesperaloe parviflora*

GRASSES

LITTLE BLUESTEM - *Schizachyrium scoparium* PRAIRIE DROPSEED - *Sporobolus heterolepsis* MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS - *Nassella tenuissima*

PERENNIALS

STONECROP - *Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy' AUTUMN SAGE - *Salvia greggii* EVENING PRIMROSE - *Oenothera macrocarpa*



LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

SHRUBS

COMMON JUNIPER - *Juniperus communis* FLAME HONEYSUCKLE- *Lonicera* x *heckrotti* PRIVET - *Ligustrum* spp.

GRASSES

MAIDEN GRASS - *Miscanthus sinensis* SWITCH GRASS - *Panicum virgatum* SIDEOATS GRAMA - *Bouteloua curtipendula*

PERENNIALS

PURPLE CONEFLOWER - *Echinacea purpurea* COREOPSIS - *Coreopsis* spp. MUGWORT - *Artemisia* 'Powis Castle'

MODERATE WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

SHRUBS

SHRUB ROSES 'KNOCKOUT' - *Rosa* spp. KOREAN SPICE VIBURNUM - *Viburnum carlesii*

GRASSES

BLUE LYME GRASS - *Leymus arenarius* FEATHER REED GRASS - *Calamagrostis* 'Karl Foerster' BLUE FESCUE - *Festuca glauca*

PERENNIALS

BLACK EYED SUSAN - *Rudbeckia hirta* ARKANSAS BLUESTAR - *Amsonia hubrichtii* BLUE MIST - *Caryopteris* x *clandonensis*

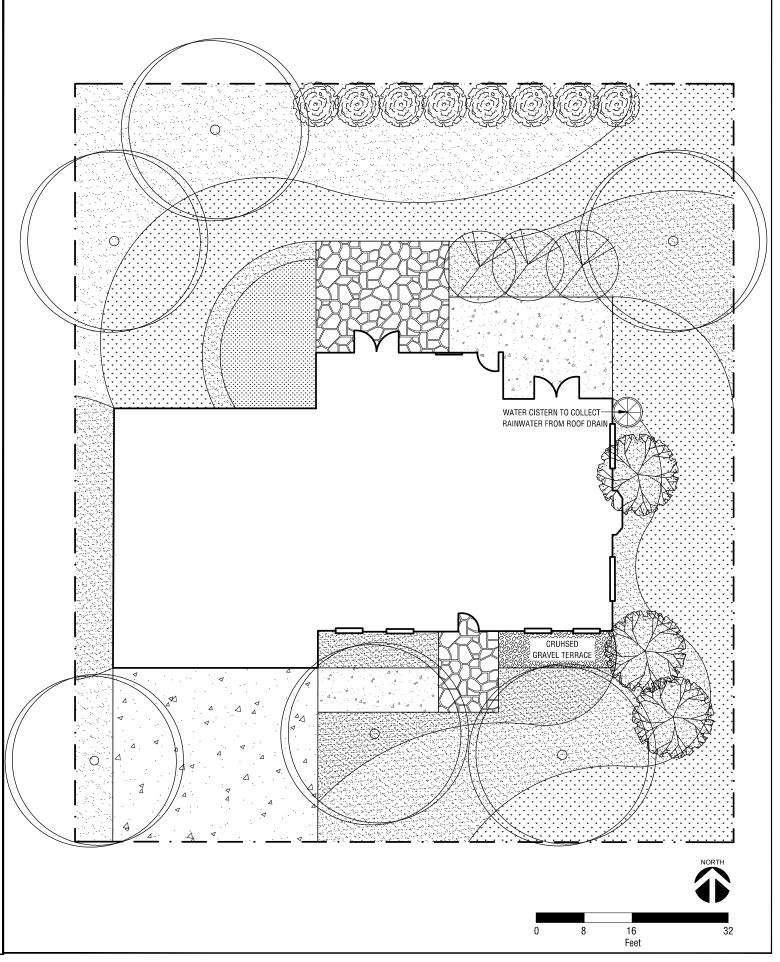
LOW WATER USAGE

TURF/LAWN AREA BUFFALO GRASS - *Bouteloua dactyloides*

MODERATE WATER USAGE TURF/LAWN AREA ZOYSIA GRASS - *Zoysia* spp.

GEOMETRIC DESIGN CONCEPT

This landscape design concept is similar to the rectilinear concept in terms of forms perpendicular to architectural features. It differs in its use of repeating patterns that are similar and proportionate to one another or abstractions that mimic other forms in the landscape. Plant selections should reflect the same similarities in respect to these proportions. Arrange plants in groupings within beds that mimic the forms created by hardscape features, lawn areas, and the different bed shapes. Using this repetition of patterns in different proportions creates a unified landscape with interesting variety in scale and proportion.



RADIAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN

CANOPY SHADE TREES

KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE - *Gymnocladus dioica* THORNLESS HONEY LOCUST - *Gleditsia triacanthos* GOLDEN RAIN TREE - *Koelreuteria paniculata*

MODERATE/LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL TREES

CRAB APPLE - *Malus* 'Prairie Fire' SHANTUNG MAPLE - *Acer truncatum*

LOW/VERY LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL TREES

MEXICAN PLUM - *Prunus mexicana* OKLAHOMA REDBUD - *Cercis canadensis* ssp *texensis*

EVERGREEN SCREEN TREE

EASTERN ARBORVITAE - *Thuja occidentalis* ROCKY MOUNTATIN JUNIPER - *Juniperus scopulorum*

VERY LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

SHRUBS

FRAGRANT SUMAC - *Rhus aromatica* 'Grow Low' CUTLEAF STAGHORN SUMAC - *Rhus typhina* 'Laciniata' NINEBARK - *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Monlo'

GRASSES

BIG BLUESTEM - Andropogon gerardii PURPLE THREE AWN - Aristida purpurea MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS - Nassella tenuissima

PERENNIALS

COMMON YARROW - Achillea millefolium BUTTERFLY WEED - Asclepias tuberosa RUSSIAN SAGE - Perovskia atriplicifolia

LOW WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS SHRUBS

FLAME HONEYSUCKLE- Lonicera × heckrotti MEXICAN FIRE - Anisacanthus quadrifidus **GRASSES**

MAIDEN GRASS - *Miscanthus sinensis* SWITCH GRASS - *Panicum virgatum* SIDEOATS GRAMA - *Bouteloua curtipendula*

PERENNIALS

PURPLE CONEFLOWER - Echinacea purpurea COREOPSIS - Coreopsis spp. VERBENA - Verbena canadensis

MODERATE WATER USAGE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

SHRUBS

SHRUB ROSES 'KNOCKOUT' - *Rosa* spp. DECIDUOUS HOLLY - *llex decidua*

GRASSES

BLUE LYME GRASS - *Leymus arenarius* NORTHERN SEA OATS - *Chasmanthium latifolium* BLUE FESCUE - *Festuca glauca*

PERENNIALS

INDIAN BLANKETFLOWER - *Gaillardia* x grandiflora BLACK EYED SUSAN - *Rudbeckia hirta* BLUE MIST - *Caryopteris* x *clandonensis*

LOW WATER USAGE



TURF/LAWN AREA BUFFALO GRASS - *Bouteloua dactyloides*

MODERATE WATER USAGE TURF/LAWN AREA

BERMUDA GRASS - Cynodon dactylon

RADIAL DESIGN CONCEPT

This landscape design concept utilizes several circular center points strategically placed, based off architectural elements, and radiating arcs to create a combination of hardscape forms, planting beds, and lawn areas. Layer plantings in this configuration is important to create picturesque views from seating areas. Consider plant height, color and foliage texture when using this layer technique. Use taller plants near edges of the property and the home. Transition to shorter plants when nearing hardscape areas. Use differing plant textures when layering to provide contrast in foliage and movement. Also consider plants' color and time of bloom to provide year-round interest.

