Sensible Landscaping for Central Texas
• Organic Document: Changes are Anticipated
• Preserving Existing Vegetation is Cost Effective
• Limit Underutilized Turf
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

Sustainability
- Conserving Water
- Longevity of Resources
- Engage Community

Construction Benefits
- Payback as Selling Point
- More Resources to Continue
- Less Haul Off Costs

Home Owner
- Less Life Cycle Costs
- Easier Maintenance
**TRADITIONAL VS. SENSIBLE LANDSCAPE**

- Up to 50% Turf (max 7000sqft)
- Low water use turf
- Landscaping that reduces the need for irrigation
- Site Specific
COST OVERVIEW

6250 SF LOT

TRADITIONAL LANDSCAPE

• 80% Turf
• 20% Beds/Undisturbed

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: $10,000
IRRIGATION USE 6604 GAL/JULY

SENSIBLE LANDSCAPE

• 50% Turf
• 50% Beds/Undisturbed

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: $12,500
IRRIGATION USE 3663 GAL/JULY
SAVINGS EQUAL TO FILLING LAKE AUSTIN 1.5 TIMES/YR
CALL TO ACTION

• Turf Alternatives
• Builder Cost (soil)
• Plant Availability
• Refine Guidelines
• Organic Document: Changes are Anticipated
• Preserving Existing Vegetation is Cost Effective
• Limit Underutilized Turf
SOIL OVERVIEW

Depth
• Beds tilled to a depth of 6"
• The deeper the soil, the longer the turf can go between waterings

Source
• Amended on site soils
• Imported Soil
• Combination
• Undisturbed Areas
Drip Irrigation

- Should be used in all landscape plant bed areas, except where annuals are planted
- Required by the state to be used in narrow landscape areas < 48”, 6” setback adjacent to hardscape surfaces

Spray and Rotor Irrigation

- Typically used in turf areas
- Multi stream rotors
### HOMEOWNER CHECKLIST

#### Irrigation System

- **Controller Brand**
  - ![ ] Controller Instructions
  - ![ ] Controller Backed Up By Battery __Y__N
  - ![ ] Number of Zones ____
  - ![ ] Irrigation Design Plan
  - ![ ] Zone Boundaries And Irrigation Type
  - ![ ] Location of Valve Boxes
  - ![ ] Location of Water Meter
  - ![ ] Community Irrigation Regulations
  - ![ ] Irrigation Brochure
  - ![ ] Watering Schedule

#### Plants Identified

- **Trees**

- **Shrubs**

- **Turf**

  - ![ ] Plant information and water requirements

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(completed by Builder and given during final walk-through)

Sensible Landscaping for Central Texas
## Builders Checklist

### Soil
- Soil test performed
- Native Soil being preserved
- Topsoil brought from off site
- 6 inches of topsoil
- 1 inch quality compost
- All trees barricaded at dripline
- Construction equipment precluded from landscape area

### Plants Identified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shrubs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turf</td>
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</tbody>
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- Plants properly spaced
- Trees: mature spacing coordinated
- Herbaceous: mature spacing coordinated

(Completed by Builder and given during final walk-through)
### Irrigation System

- Rain sensor installed
- Backflow device installed
- 6-inch heads installed
- Drip irrigation is installed the proper depth below the top of soil (and mulch).
- Heads installed proper distance from hard surfaces
- Design corrected to account for slope
- Landscape Hydrozoned
- No broken or misaligned heads
- No leaking components, valves

- Pressure adjusted to prevent misting at every head
- Irrigation plan and water budget available
- As-built plan and water schedule left with homeowner

### Mulch

- Depth 3-4 inches
- Irrigation heads visible

(completed by Builder and given during final walk-through)
The complete Sensible Landscaping for Central Texas Document can be found at

www.hbaaustin.com

For additional information please visit:

- http://www.lcra.org/water