# Classic Design Landscaping to protect and conserve Austin's water

Demonstration garden located at: Howson Library, 2500 Exposition Boulevard, Austin, Texas

In 2004 the Howson Library landscape featured St. Augustine turf and just a few plants. The redesigned "green" landscape shows that a yard can be attractive and water conserving while still maintaining the feel of a traditional garden. The rainwater harvesting system which was added in 2009 is expected to provide an even greater reduction in water use.



### Light:

South side: Sun (left or south side) North side: Shade (right or north side)

#### Soil Needs:

- · Amend existing soil with 2-3" of compost
- · Be sure that your total soil base is 6-8" deep
- If additional soil is needed, use a good quality soil mix (approximately 25% compost, 65% loam and 10% sand)

## Water Needs:

Once established:

- Zoysia Grass and Roses: Water thoroughly every 2-3 weeks if no rainfall
- Remaining Plants: Water thoroughly every 3-4
  weeks if no rainfall

#### Irrigation:

- · Hand-watering is recommended
- If you must use an irrigation system.. Choose one with bubblers and/or drip irrigation
- Putting irrigation in the median between the curb and sidewalk is not recommended in a home landscape. It is best to choose mulch or non-plant material to prevent irrigation over-spray

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# Earth-Wise Gardening Tips:

- Plant the right plant in the right place based on sunlight required
- Mulch all beds to retain water and reduce weeds
- Use St. Augustine grass only in shaded areas
- Reduce turf to meet your aesthetic or family needs because grass generally requires more

water and chemicals to maintain

- Use pervious pavement that allows water to soak into the ground and/or the surrounding landscape, such as stone without mortar, mulch or pervious concrete
- Use rainbarrels to capture and reuse rainwater

# Howson Redesign Fast Facts:

Pre-2004 Landscape Redesign: Water Usage: 37,000 gallons/month Post-2004 Landscape Redesign: Water Usage: 13,400 gallons/month

For a driving or biking map to this and other demonstration gardens or for more earth-wise gardening tips, visit **www.growgreen.org** 

For water conserving tips and rebates, visit www.waterwiseaustin.org







