

Pool Friendly Design

Landscaping to protect and conserve Austin's water





Dwarf Wax Myrtle



Texas Redbud

Though there is no demonstration garden to visit, this inviting landscape design has the feel of the tropics while still making use of Austin's drought tolerant plants to conserve water and reduce the need for chemicals. The many evergreens provide interest year round while perennials flowers add splashes of color during the pool and growing season.



Barbados Cherry



Rosemary



Inland Sea Oats



Purple Coneflower

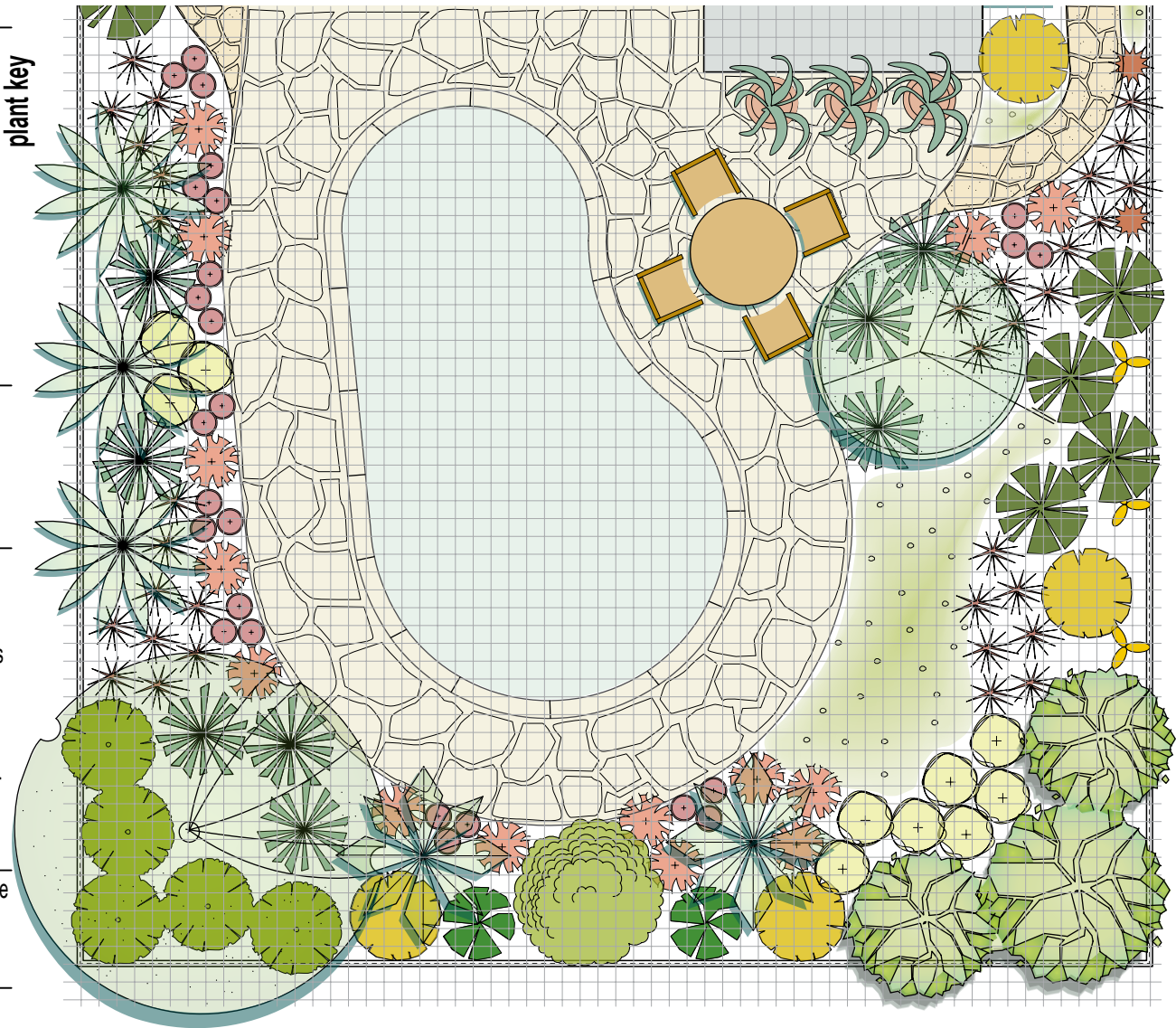


Carolina Jessamine



Pindo Palm

- trees**
- shumard oak
 - windmill palm
 - pindo palm
 - dwarf wax myrtle
 - texas redbud
- shrubs**
- pineapple guava
 - dwarf palmetto
 - barbados cherry
- perennials**
- rosemary
 - yellow bells
 - perennial hibiscus
 - inland sea oats
 - gulf muhly
 - purple coneflower
 - gaura
- vines**
- carolina jessamine
 - virginia creeper
- groundcover**
- liriope



POOL FRIENDLY

Light:

Sun/part shade

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, these plants require very little water and should only need to be watered occasionally during very dry conditions.

Irrigation:

Hand-watering is recommended

If you must use an irrigation system...
Choose one with bubblers or drip irrigation

For a driving or biking map to demonstration gardens, visit www.cityofaustin.org/growgreen/designs.htm

For more earth-wise gardening tips, visit www.growgreen.org

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

www.growgreen.org

Earth-Wise Gardening Tips:

- Choose plants that drop few leaves or flowers – not only is leaf litter unattractive, it can diminish water quality and reduce pool equipment efficiency
 - Use pervious pavement that allows water to soak into the ground and/or the surrounding landscape beds
 - Mulch your planting beds with at least 2" of mulch at establishment and add another inch yearly or as needed – this will prevent weeds and help retain moisture
 - If you add grass to the yard, avoid using St. Augustine unless your yard is shady
- salt or filter material such as diatomaceous earth or sand used in your system because:
 - Chlorine can be toxic to landscape plants, especially turf
 - Although these plants are relatively salt-tolerant, the excessively high salt content in saline pool discharge may harm or kill them
 - Diatomaceous earth filter material can dry to a cement-like consistency destroying nearby plants
 - Repeated watering in the same area can cause erosion
 - Backwash only when indicated by a change in pressure, until water in the sight glass is clear
 - If the pressure reads 8 to 10 lbs. per square inch over the "clean" pressure reading, your filter needs to be cleaned
 - Spring and fall are the best times to refill your pool
 - Use a hose rather than an auto-fill device to maintain water levels - it is easier to tell if there is a leak or the pool level changes dramatically

Pool Care Tips for Homeowners

- Never backwash a pool or spa where the runoff will enter the storm-drain. Visit http://www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/wq_brochures.htm
- Make sure your yard is large enough to handle the amount of pool discharge runoff
- Vary the pool discharge area to prevent buildup of any chemicals,

