Contemporary Design

Landscaping to protect and conserve Austin's water

Demonstration garden located at: City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin Texas
What better place for a Hill Country garden than Austin’s City Hall? The sunny western exposure allows for the most drought tolerant native and adapted plants. Limestone planters sitting on top of the underground parking garage create a green roof.

**Plant Key**

**Trees**
- Live oak
- Mountain laurel

**Shrubs**
- Dwarf yaupon holly
- Cenizo

**Perennials**
- Big muhly
- Mexican feathergrass
- Wooly stemodia
- Homestead verbena
- White autumn sage
- Pink skullcap
- Fall aster
- Damianita

**Cacti & Succulents**
- Nolina texana
- Twistle foot yucca
- Agave
- Wheeler’s sotol
- Spineless prickly pear cactus
- Texas betony
- Weeping muhly
- Trailing lantana
- Gregg dalea
- Silver ponyfoot
- Red yucca
- Four nerve daisy
- Mountain pea
- Frog fruit
Landscape design by:
McKinney/Kelley Joint Venture
Eleanor McKinney, landscape architect and Carolyn Kelley, landscape architect

CONTEMPORARY DESIGN
**Light:**
Full Sun

**Soil Needs:**
- In a home landscape, amend existing soil with 2-3" of compost and ½" of granite or other coarse sand
- 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 a reduced amount of water. If there is no rainfall and plants look wilted, however, water every 3-4 weeks with low flow and extended duration to provide deep irrigation.

**Irrigation:**
Hand-watering is recommended
If you must use an irrigation system... choose one with bubblers or drip irrigation

**Turf:**
If you’d like to add turf to a sunny yard, Zoysia is recommended. While the style and texture of Buffalo grass is very compatible with this design, it can be prone to weeds.

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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; decomposed granite or hardwood mulch are good alternatives for the many native plants in this design
- 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

**Earth-Wise Gardening Tips:**
Be sure to tour the entire City Hall block if visiting the building. Because of the location on top of the parking garage, designers, Carolyn Kelley and Eleanor McKinney, used a specially engineered soil mix that is lighter weight than most. They simulated the varying Austin soil types and used plants that do well in the more shallow limestone soil of west Austin and the Hill Country for the western side of the building and plants that like the richer Blackland Prairie soil for the eastern side of the building.

**For a driving or biking map to this and other demonstration gardens or for more earth-wise gardening tips, visit** [www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org)

**For water conserving tips and rebates, visit** [www.waterwiseaustin.org](http://www.waterwiseaustin.org)

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