



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Finance :: Information Technology :: Purchasing :: Water Conservation

TO: Tom Burdett, Wendell Rigby, David Hales, Tim Peters, Tom Steele, Gary Luebbers, *Julie Hess*
CC:
FROM: Stephen Glain
SUBJECT: Utah Rivers Council park strip information packets
DATE: April 24, 2006

In their efforts to promote landscape water conservation, the Utah Rivers Council has been providing information packets to residents throughout Salt Lake Valley with suggestions for planting native/water wise plants in park strip areas (between sidewalks and roadways). Rick Lewis and I have met with Mark Danenhauer, the local Rivers Council representative, and have discussed a similar info packet specifically for West Jordan residents. This version (attached) clearly reminds residents of the need to follow City ordinances and summarizes the City's municipal code requirements for park strips.

This info packet will not be mass-distributed, but the Rivers Council will only mail them to residents who respond to their radio and newspaper ads and specifically request a packet.

The Planning Department has reviewed the packet for consistency with current City codes. Please review this packet, especially the second page (West Jordan Specific Instructions) and let me know this week if possible whether you would have any concerns if a number of residents choose to retrofit their park strips using these guidelines. Thanks for your help.



Utah Rivers Council

Dear Rip Your Strip Pledger,

Congratulations! By taking the "Rip Your Strip Pledge" you've taken the first step towards saving thousands of gallons of water in your own yard and being an example of conservation in your neighborhood. You are also on the way to saving money on your water bills.

This packet is designed to give you the instruction, examples, incentives, and confidence that you'll need to convert your traditional parking strip into an exciting and beautiful example of what low water-use landscaping can be.

By following the steps outlined in this packet, you can rip your strip and start saving water—but you don't have to stop there. Once you are familiar with low water-use landscaping and have a successful parking strip project under your belt, we hope you continue to apply these principles to a larger part of your yard.

Thanks for supporting the Utah Rivers Council's Rip Your Strip campaign. We hope you find this information useful, and follow through on your pledge to rip your strip.

Remember every drop you save helps protect our rivers!

Most important of all - Have fun!

Best of luck,

Mark Danenhauer
River Solutions Coordinator
Utah Rivers Council

rip your strip



Utah Rivers Council

West Jordan Specific Instructions

This sheet of information and instructions has been provided to residents of the City of West Jordan to provide more useful information and guidance to Rip Your Strip. Please follow the below steps prior to completing the steps in the packet.

1. The main points of the City Ordinance relating to parking strips for the City of West Jordan have been summarized and are on the BACK. When designing and planting your parking strip ensure that your parking strip is compliant with the city ordinance. If you have any questions about the city ordinance call City Planning Department at the phone number below.
2. Trees cannot be planted or removed from parking strip without permission from the Urban Forester. Call (801)569-5100 for help regarding approved tree species for the park strip, or see the website information below. Permission is not needed to replace other plant material (grass, etc) with water-wise plants as long as the new design meets City codes.

List of Useful Phone Numbers:

City Planner	569-5060
Urban Forestry (For tree removal or planting)	569-5100 569-5703
General information line -	569-5000
Water Conservation Technician	569-5156

List of Local Nurseries & Landscaping Rock Stores

Glover Nursery	562-5496
State Stone	262-9323

rip your strip

Introduction

You've probably heard the word "xeriscaping," but what does that really mean? Put simply, Xeriscaping is landscaping that uses less water. Xeriscaping uses drought-tolerant plants, practical lawn areas, efficient watering systems, mulches, and proper maintenance to obtain impressive water savings.

Notice the spelling: xeriscaping. So many times we hear the word and think it's zero-scaping. We may have images of desolate fields of rock or scraggly cacti. While those kinds of landscapes do indeed use less water and may be appropriate in some situations, xeriscaping is not zero-plant, zero-color *zero-scaping*. When done right it is lush, colorful, and full of interesting smells and textures.

The difference between a beautiful xeriscape and a desolate zero-scape lies in the planning process. For that reason, we've compiled this workbook with all the information you'll need to plan the perfect parking strip.

Just start from the beginning of this step-by-step workbook and fill in your own information as you go. There are **9 STEPS** in this workbook. Each step will have a brief objective, followed by a summary of that step's objective and ACTION ITEM(S). The overviews are to be read, while the ACTION ITEM(S) require you to actually do something, as the name implies.

In addition, a "bonus section" of the Rip Your Strip website is mentioned in several sections. To keep mailing costs down, we've put some information online. In those cases, we give you the web address of these bonus sections. Just type them in your browser and you'll be able to view this extra material. If you don't have access to the internet, call Mark at (801) 486-4776 to have hard copies mailed to you.

Parking strips offer a unique opportunity to get your feet wet in the world of xeriscaping—you can try different methods, see what you like, and prepare to retrofit bigger parts of your yard. Later you can move on to larger parts of your yard to realize more savings, and you'll already be familiar with the techniques and styles that you like.

rip your strip

STEP 2

Make your wish list & prioritize

STEP 2 OBJECTIVE:

Decide what characteristics you want your parking strip to have, and prioritize that list.

OVERVIEW:

If you don't know what you want out of this project, then you won't be satisfied with the outcome. We're not trying to provide a one-size-fits-all parking strip solution to everyone. Your own design will be as unique as you. Some people want lots of color. Others may want extreme low-maintenance. And some may want a parking strip that would never have to be watered once it was established. Knowing what you want before you start planning makes future decisions a snap and helps you feel satisfied when it's all done.

ACTION ITEMS

2.1: List your broad goals for your parking strip

2.2: Prioritize a list of desired parking strip characteristics

ACTION ITEM 2.1

Use this space to put some of your overall goals for your parking strip in writing. The following questions should get you thinking:

- What do you like *most* about your current parking strip?
- What do you like *least* about your current parking strip?
- If you could change one thing about your parking strip, what would it be?
- What characteristics does a "good" parking strip have?
- Who has a parking strip you like? What is it that makes you like it so much? What would you change about it?
- If you had your ideal parking strip, how would someone walking by describe it?

ACTION ITEM 2.2

Using the answers from Action Item 2.1 as background, prioritize a list of characteristics you'd like your new parking strip to have. For a sample list of characteristics, see the bonus section of the Rip Your Strip website at www.ripyourstrip.com/step2

rip your strip

Salt Lake City has a very specific parking strip ordinance, which states that parking strips must have at least 33% of the area covered in vegetation, measured after three years of plant growth. It also limits groundcovers and continuous plantings to 18", and accent plants to 36" tall in order to preserve sight lines from a driveway. Barbed and thorned plants are prohibited, as is concrete or mortar on parking strips with trees or those wider than 24 inches. If you live in Salt Lake City, please read the entire ordinance at a Rip Your Strip website bonus section www.ripyourstrip.com/slcorinance

If you live outside of Salt Lake City, please contact your local city or township government to verify their ordinance. We've compiled a list of contact information for a few cities in Utah. Access it at www.ripyourstrip.com/cities

ACTION ITEM 3.2

The following pages contain sample parking strip designs done by local landscape designers who are very familiar with xeriscaping principles and Utah's semi-arid climate. Each one is 20' long by 4' wide. Many parking strips are wider, some narrower. These designs can be adapted to fit your needs. If your parking strip is 40' x 4', just repeat the design twice. If it's 20' x 6', just stretch the design and add a few more plants. Feel free to experiment a bit, or make your very own design from scratch.

- Design 1- Full sun, mostly plants, extremely drought tolerant
Waterwise Design & Landscapes, L.C. (801) 274-6580 | waterwise-utah.com
- Design 2- Full sun, plant/non-plant mix, moderately drought tolerant
Sage's Way Landscape & Design (801) 573-8934 | sagesway.net
- Design 3- Full sun, mostly plants, moderately drought tolerant
Hortica Design, (801) 558-0875 | hortica.imagedancer.com
- Design 4- Shade, existing trees, moderately drought tolerant
Hortica Design, (801) 558-0875 | hortica.imagedancer.com
- Design 5- Full sun, mostly plants, moderately drought tolerant
Hortica Design, (801) 558-0875 | hortica.imagedancer.com

Design 2



SAGE'S WAY

LANDSCAPE & DESIGN

428 J St Salt Lake City, Utah 801-573-8934

www.sagesway.net

Description:

A meandering swale of small and medium size rocks (fist size) with mulched and slightly raised beds on either side. Two flagstone pathways on level with the side walk.

Total area = 80 sq ft.

1" = 2 ft

Flagstone = 12 sq ft x 2 in. deep = 240 lbs.

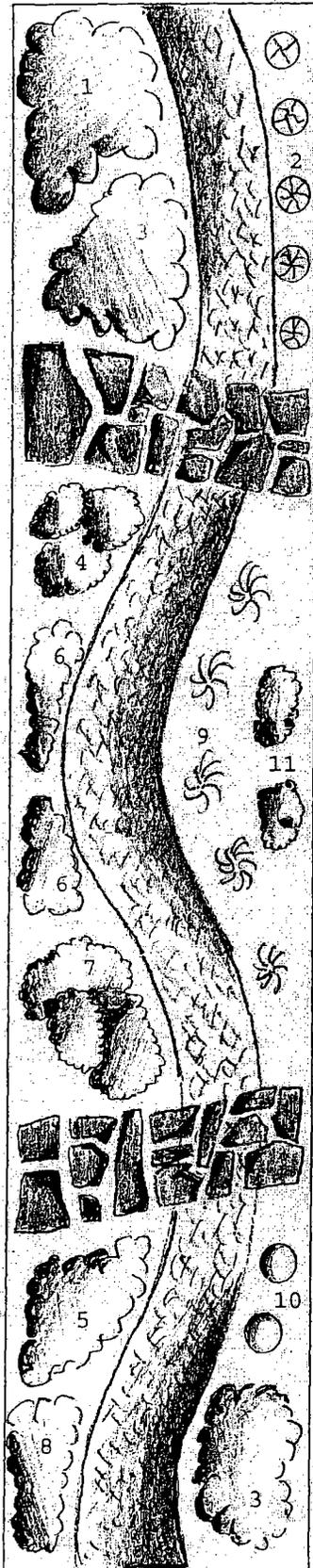
Sand = 12 sq ft x 2 in. deep = 240 lbs.

Gravel = 45 sq ft x 2 in. deep = 500 lbs.

Mulch = 30 sq ft x 2 in. deep = .25 cubic yards

Plant Lists

1. common thyme
2. blue fescue
3. Lambs ear
4. Woolly yarrow
5. Sedum – dragons blood,
6. Nepeta – catnip
7. Alyssum- basket of gold
8. Artemisia – powis castle
9. Little bluestems
10. Utah ladyfinger
11. Sulfurflower buckwheat



Rip-Your-Strip Parking Strip (partial-shade planting 1)

SOIL PREPARATION

While gardens take shape in a variety of ways, soil preparation is a must. Comprehensive soil preparation serves as the underpinnings in horticulture. Development of suitable soil conditions allows effective management of soil moisture. Like wise, soil fertility can be controlled to suit specific plant requirements.

A general approach for creating favorable soil begins by deeply tilling the soil when it is somewhat moist, not gooeey wet. Add and mix in 30% to 40% coarse organic soil amendment. Material called Forest Mulch, Soil Pep, or sometimes Soil Aids (all the same partially composted, ground tree bark) makes an excellent all-purpose organic amendment.

Thorough soil preparation is analogous to building a solid foundation. Attention to detail and diligence in tilling, amending, blending, and grading will result in creating a fertile garden bed.

Stepping Stones

The stepping stones and patio paver stones should all be of solid, dense stone, 3-4 inches thick and 12-30 inches across. The thickness and size of the stones contributes substantially to how stable the stones will be after installation.

Stone paths and open-stone patio/paved areas, are intended to have Dwarf Mondo Grass planted between the stones as a low-growing, evergreen accent. The stone patio/paved areas should be set on a bed of 1-3 inches of sand. After installation, soil should be used to top-dress the area and mixed into the sand and sub-soil where the Mondo Grass is planted. This will enhance the success of the groundcover.

Use of an open-stone path will also buffer soil compaction over existing tree roots for better air and water infiltration into the root zone.

Organic Bark Mulch

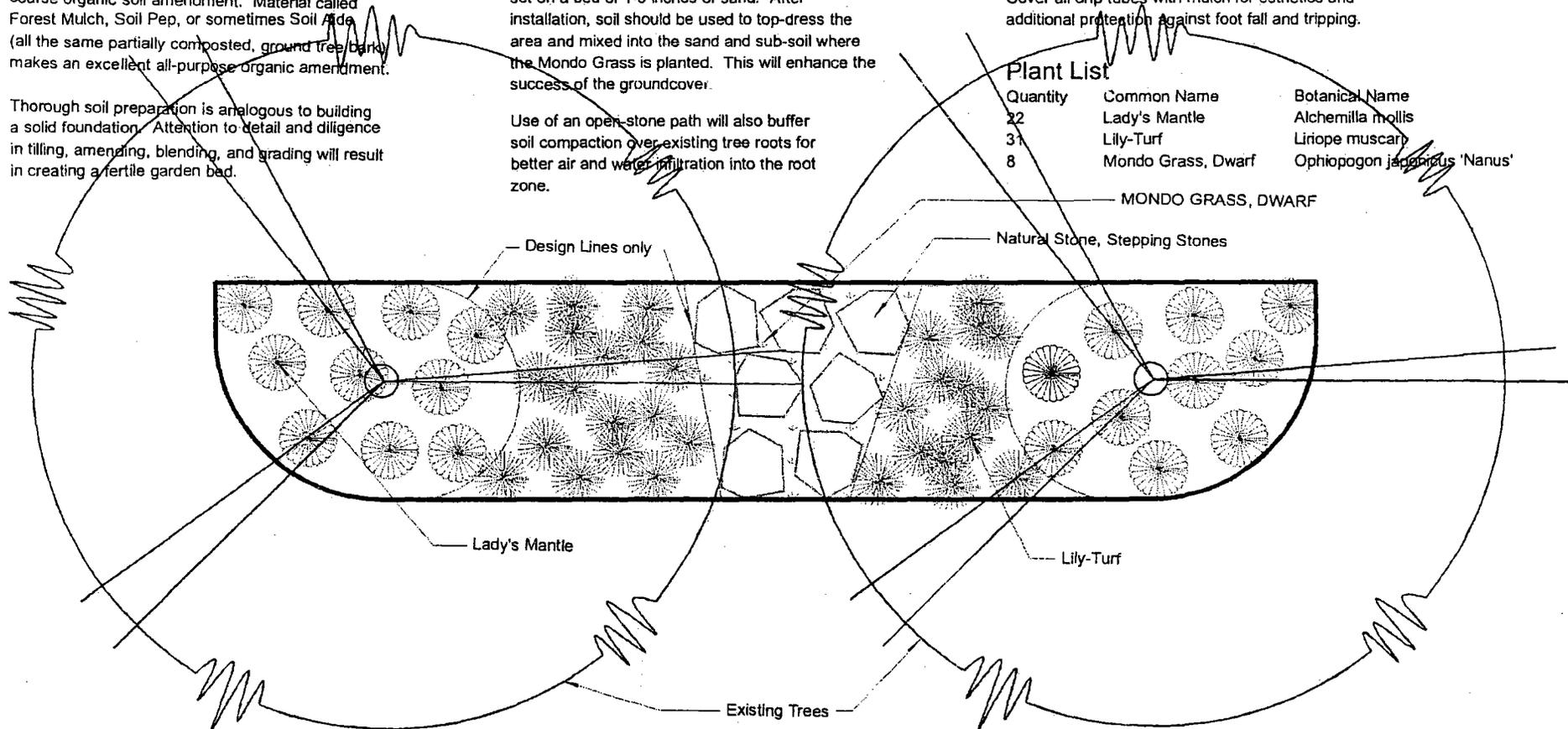
Bark mulch should be spread evenly around plants to a depth of 3-4 inches, taking care not to bury small plants. Medium-size mulch usually stays in place well and achieves a pleasing aesthetic look.

Mulch should be placed around all trees, shrubs perennials and against all bed edges where there is no groundcover. Take care not to bury groundcover if a thin layer of mulch is applied.

Cover all drip tubes with mulch for esthetics and additional protection against foot fall and tripping.

Plant List

Quantity	Common Name	Botanical Name
22	Lady's Mantle	Alchemilla mollis
37	Lily-Turf	Liriope muscari
8	Mondo Grass, Dwarf	Ophiopogon japonicus 'Nanus'



Hortica Design

3631 South Carolyn
 Salt Lake City, UT 84106
 Phone: 801-558-0875
 Email: hortica@imagedancer.com
 WEB: http://hortica.imagedancer.com

Services:
 Creative Garden Photography • Innovative Garden & Landscape Design
 Xeric, Native & Specialty Gardens • Water Features • Garden Lighting

Prepared For: Utah Rivers Council
 Prepared: May 5, 2005
 Designed By: Marv Paulson

Drawing Title: Parking Strip w/existing mature trees
 (partial-shade planting 1) - 4 ft. X 20 ft.
Rip Your Strip Program

ACTION ITEM 3.3

Time to plan! If you're using one of the plans provided, then you're probably close to done with Step 3. Feel free to make adaptations for parking strip size or plant substitutions if you wish.

If you're making your own plan, here are some considerations:

Plants- Drought tolerant plants are mostly *perennials*, or plants that live through the winter and rebloom every year. *Annuals*, or plants that die at the end of autumn, never get really well-established roots and typically have higher water requirements.

For a great database of waterwise plants for Utah, see waterwiseplants.utah.gov. Click on "Search" to search by plant size, flower color, sun exposure, drought rating, bloom season, etc. The State of Utah has done a nice job on this website.

Choose plants that work for your needs. If your strip bakes in the sun, choose full sun plants. If you get a lot of snow (with salt) piled on it the winter, choose tough, salt-tolerant plants. Use varying heights as allowed by your ordinance. Look into the maintenance requirements of each plant. If you're after hummingbirds or butterflies, plan accordingly. Call nurseries to see if they carry the plant you're after. Most should be locally available; more and more drought tolerant varieties are becoming available each year. Don't be afraid to ask a nursery professional about plants, or research it online.

Non-Plants- Why not use stone or decorative rock? They're pretty cheap, but if you don't want to haul them around, don't put them in your plan. Large rocks should be used as accents, not as the bulk of the design.

Maintenance- This should be a major factor in your plans. Look at the characteristics of plants you select. Do they require much maintenance? Will you constantly be hacking them back from the sidewalk?

Colors- What colors look good with your home and current yard? Try fixing in on one or two accent colors, with a third background color. Don't forget that leaves also provide color, not just blooms. Some beautiful colors never flower.

Seasons- Bulbs are great for spring, but plan for color all year round. Coordinate so that as one plant fades from bloom, another is just beginning.

Nature vs. Soldiers- Nature grows plants in clumps and wavy lines, not in straight lines like a soldier. If you like a more natural look, avoid rows. If you like a formal look, then straight lines help accomplish that.

It's time! Get out a piece of paper, and draw your current parking strip dimensions. Graph paper makes creating a scale model easier. Look at your list of characteristics, the plants you like, and your ordinances...and make your plan!

rip your strip

list of member utilities notified for your proposed excavation site. Blue Stakes also encourages contractors to notify nonmember facility owners."

Source: <http://www.bluestakes.org/pdfs/ExcavatorGuide.pdf>

For more information about utility service location services or to schedule service, see www.bluestakes.org or call 1-800-662-4111.

ACTION ITEM 4.3

Get ripping! If you have large amounts of grass, plants, weeds or trees you are removing you may want to contact your local city government. Many municipalities have dumpster programs, where you pay a nominal fee for a dumpster rental, and they will deliver and pick up the dumpster for you. Most parking strips probably don't generate enough waste themselves to make getting dumpster (from the city or other private dumpster service) worthwhile, but paired with other neighbors or other projects in your own yard, it could be a good option.

If a dumpster is too much, regular garbage will do. Better yet, why not compost? All that great material would make an excellent addition to any compost pile (weeds excluded).

If you are removing grass:

OPTION A

The best and most direct way is with a shovel and some hard work. Depending on the root depth of the grass, digging out your lawn can be tiresome, but it does ensure that the grass is really gone.

Start by cutting a line across the grass, with a shovel. Cut deep enough that you can wedge the shovel in the line and underneath the grass, to lift the lip of the grass up. Now grab the lip of the grass and pull back and away from the ground at about 45° angle. With some effort, the grass should "peel" back off of the ground like pulling a sticker away from its backing.

If you can't "peel" the grass away, you may just have to cut out small sections at a time. Using a shovel, cut out small portions of grass and lift them out. In all cases, make sure you shake the pieces of grass thoroughly to put as much soil back in the parking strip as possible.

There are also sod cutting machines that do this very thing available for rental, however they are sometimes difficult to operate and may be impractical in such a small area as your parking strip. If you have a extremely large parking strip, or are removing the lawn in a larger part of your yard at the same time as you're doing your parking strip, renting one of these machines may be advantageous. Most major equipment rental outlets have them available.

OPTION B

If the direct removal of grass doesn't appeal to you, perhaps you can let mother nature do the work for you. Remember when you were a kid and you would leave your "kiddy pool" out on the lawn in the summer? After a few days, you go and move it, and the grass underneath is a different color. If left long enough, that grass would die completely.

rip your strip

STEP 5: Set Up Sprinklers

STEP 5 OBJECTIVE: Set up your sprinkling system (if you have one) to water your new parking strip appropriately.

OVERVIEW: If you have a sprinkling system, you may have to make some changes. Decide whether you can modify a current sprinkling system and how, or how else you might water your new parking strip. See “Watering” under “STEP 9- Maintain” for more details.

ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Decide how you will water your parking strip and make necessary changes

ACTION ITEM 5.1

Question 4 in Action Item 1.2 asked you to see how your parking strip was currently being watered. If you haven't yet made that determination, do so now.

If You Don't Have a Sprinkling System

If your parking strip doesn't currently have a sprinkling system, then you have the easiest transition. Once your new plants are established (after the first year), you'll still have to water your parking strip by hand, but only once or twice a month. Those who have selected the extremely high drought-tolerant option (Plan 1) won't have to water at all once the plants are established.

If You Have a Sprinkling System that DOES Water the Parking Strip Exclusively as its Own Station

You have three options:

Most sprinkler clocks are not sophisticated enough to water one station on a “once or twice a month” basis, and the rest of the stations once or twice weekly. If yours is capable of this, your first and best option is to adjust the clock to accommodate the new strip's low water requirements.

Your second option is to replace your old sprinkler timer box with one that can run two different kinds of programs. Orbit Irrigation (a Utah-based company) makes several different models with this capability—you set a Program A (the rest of the yard) and a Program B (your parking strip). These programs are independent of each other, and are flexible enough to water just once every 28 days. The Orbit Professional Dial Star is one example. For more, see www.orbitirrigation.com.

Your third option is to just leave the sprinklers in place and manually run the parking strip station only when it's needed. You can either leave the same kind of sprinklers in place, or you can retrofit the sprinklers in you parking strip with drip irrigation. In either case, you'll end up

rip your strip

STEP 6: Prepare Soil

STEP 6 OBJECTIVE: Get the soil ready for planting.

OVERVIEW: Drought-tolerant plants have different soil preferences than traditional plants. Before you plant, you have to know what kind of soil you have, and what kind of soil you'll need.

The ideal soil is loose enough to breathe and drain well. It's a mixture of sand, silt and clay—three different kinds of soil. Drought tolerant and Utah native plants may not require “high quality” soil, but good draining soil helps ensure that more water gets into the ground and less runs off the parking strip into the gutter.

ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 Determine what kind of soil you have.
- 6.2 Determine what kind of soil you will need.
- 6.3 Treat, amend, or otherwise adjust the soil as needed.

ACTION ITEM 6.1

The best way to determine your soil type is to have it tested. Home test kits are notoriously inaccurate, so we recommend sending away for the test. Utah State University does an excellent and affordable test that gives a great baseline for soil type as well as some chemical composition. Just fill out their form, send it with a soil sample, and within a few weeks you'll have your results.

USU Analytical Laboratories

www.usual.usu.edu

(435) 797-2217

USU Soil Test Form

<http://www.usual.usu.edu/forms/soilform.2003.pdf>

**Make sure that on-line 5 of “Crops to be Grown” under “Lawn · Garden · Orchard” you write in “Xeriscaping.”

**You probably want the “Routine” test for \$14.00.

If you don't want to pop for the soil analysis, there are some basic tests you can do to check your soil. To test for drainage, dig a hole about a foot deep and fill it with water. If there's still water in the hole 12 hours later, your soil needs some help to enhance drainage. See Action Item 6.3 for ways to help the soil.

For a more detailed do-it-yourself soil analysis, see Palmdale (CA) Water District's Xeriscape website at:

<http://www.palmdalewater.org/YW/XS/step2b.html>

rip your strip

STEP 7: Plant & Install

STEP 7 OBJECTIVE: Install your new parking strip right to ensure success!

OVERVIEW:

It's been said that you should dig a \$20 dollar hole for a \$2 plant. That's good advice. This section will help define a \$20 hole, and help you install a parking strip that will last.

ACTION ITEM

- 7.1 Purchase plants
- 7.2 Add non-plant materials
- 7.3 Properly plant plants!

ACTION ITEM 7.1

It's time! You've planned, prepped, and ripped. Time to head to the nursery for your plants.

You should have a list of each plant that you need, and how many of each you'll need. Bring it with you to the nursery—or it's game over. Once you're in a nursery, you can become like a kid in a candy store, picking randomly "one of those" and "two of these."

Plant Size:

Buying bigger plants means you have to wait less time to see your parking strip really fill in. It also means more money. Here's a simple equation: size=money. If you don't mind waiting a few years for things to fill in, go with the smallest size available. Smaller plants need more attention at first, as their roots are small and can't survive long without proper watering, but they'll save you a bundle.

You may also want larger plants if you're worried about foot traffic. Someone might trample right over a small plant, but step around it if it's got some girth.

You may want to review your local ordinances before heading to the nursery. Besides prohibited plants and restrictions on plant quantity and characteristics (discussed in Step 3), some ordinances may require a certain size of plant or caliper of tree/bush be planted.

Plant Quality:

If you find a plant that you think is questionable, it's probably best not to buy it. It may be inexpensive and you may be tempted to "nurse it back to health," but more often than not it's already on an irreversible course to the garbage bin.

For a guide on how to buy healthy plants, see a bonus section of the Rip Your Strip website at www.ripyourstrip.com/buyplants

rip your strip

STEP 8: Mulch

STEP 8 OBJECTIVE: Choose and distribute mulch to applicable parking strip area.

OVERVIEW: Mulch is an important part of any water-wise landscape. Choosing the right mulch is largely personal preference, but using it right means your new parking strip will be extra water-wise.

For a GREAT reference sheet on mulches, see USU's "Using Mulches in Utah Landscapes and Gardens" at: <http://extension.usu.edu/files/gardpubs/compos04.pdf>

ACTION ITEM

8.1 Choose what kind of mulch you'll use.

8.2 Apply mulch.

ACTION ITEM 8.1

Put simply, "mulch" is any material that is put on the surface of soil and not worked into the soil. Often used examples are chipped or shredded bark, peat moss, lawn clippings, gravel, or decorative stone. Synthetic materials are also used as mulch. Plastic weed barriers or weed fabric could be defined as mulch as well.

Mulch has many purposes. First, it helps retain moisture in the soil. When water gets to the top of the soil, mulch is a protective layers that keeps it from evaporating as quickly, which keeps the soil a bit damp. This helps prolong the time between waterings.

Mulch also helps water percolate into the soil. Imagine walking across the same stretch of soil over and over again. Pretty soon, you'd have a near bullet-proof soil crust that actually couldn't absorb much water. Using loose mulch you can protect the soil crust from hardening, thus maintaining its capacity to absorb water. The exception to this use is sheets of plastic which don't allow percolation.

In addition, mulch encourages plants to root nearer to the surface which makes them healthier, protects the base of plants, suppresses weeds, and moderates soil surface temperatures; it's an important component of any landscape. As always, check your local parking strip landscaping ordinance for possible restricted mulch materials.

For a GREAT reference sheet on mulches that will help you decide which kind is right for your parking strip, see USU's "Using Mulches in Utah Landscapes and Gardens" at: <http://extension.usu.edu/files/gardpubs/compos04.pdf>

rip your strip

STEP 9

Maintain

STEP 9 OBJECTIVE: Identify maintenance needs for your new parking strip, and form maintenance plan.

OVERVIEW:

Maintaining a xeriscaped yard and maintaining a traditional yard are two very different tasks. Your new parking strip will have very different maintenance needs than your old one; its own needs will be different this first year than in subsequent ones. Making a plan will help keep your parking strip beautiful.

ACTION ITEM

9.1 Make watering plan.

9.2 Make general maintenance plan.

ACTION ITEM 9.1

All plants, even the most drought tolerant, require frequent watering when they're new. Their roots have been stressed in transport and in transplant, so they need time to get established in their new home. For the first few weeks, you should pay close attention to your plants. The smaller ones may need water every day; the larger ones every couple of days. After that, try to extend the time period between waterings, until you've eventually reached the target of once a week or month—or even never. This may not happen in the first season, but after their first winter, your plants should be well-established.

It may sound corny, but you should actually create a schedule for the times you'll water and check up on your strip. Perhaps every day when you come home from work, or each morning when you go out to get the paper. Just give it a quick once-over. As your plants change and mature, so should your plan.

Watch your plants for signs of distress—especially wilting or yellowing. If you see them wimping out, water a bit more often. Caught early, water stress can be reversed, but once leaves and stems become crispy, the plant just shuts down. Keeping an eye on your new plants will help ensure that they become strong and independent later on.

ACTION ITEM 9.2

Xeriscaping is a whole new ball game when it comes to maintenance. Gone are the days of Saturday morning mowing and trimming (at least in your parking strip). Your maintenance will depend largely on the kinds of plants you installed, how much non-plant material you used, and other factors you considered while planning. While xeriscaped yards may actually be more labor-intensive to maintain, most are usually not. Typically, you'll have a big spring cleanup and another in the fall. Your summers will be relatively low-maintenance, leaving you free to go out and enjoy Utah's renowned rivers!

rip your strip

Watering Trees in Your Low Water Use Landscape

Trees can make a wonderful addition to any landscape—they provide shade, shape, and a sense of age and prestige to a landscape.

Their water needs are very different from the rest of the yard. As we shift to water-wise landscaping, trees can suffer without adequate water. This sheet should provide a basic outline of how to efficiently water trees while still conserving water.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I WATER?

Generally speaking, you should water a tree so that the soil gets wet to a depth of about 18 inches. In practice, you'll need to become familiar with your situation (soil type, tree requirements, etc.) in order to apply water to that depth.

WHERE SHOULD I WATER?

Remember the saying, "trees aren't carrots." Tree roots don't grow straight down, they can spread 2-3 times the height of the tree. Its absorbing roots are usually in and around the dripline—the area around a tree where water falling off its leaves would land. In general, the dripline and the areas surrounding it are the best places to focus your watering.

HOW SHOULD I WATER?

Drip irrigation works well on trees less than 4" in diameter, but loses effectiveness on larger trees. If your sprinkling system is built to water tree areas exclusively, use it to apply water. Otherwise, a hose-end sprinkler will do the trick.

HOW LONG SHOULD I WATER?

This depends largely on what type of soil you have. Remember the rule of 18" deep. If you have sandy soil, you may be able to get water that deep in one application. If your soil is more clay, you may have to water for 10 minutes (or until the water starts to run off the soil surface), let the water soak in for half an hour, water for

10 minutes, let it soak in, etc. The best way to check if you've watered long enough is to probe the soil down to 18" and see if it's moist.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I WATER?

Most trees require this deep watering once or twice a month, depending on the type of tree and the weather conditions. Watch your trees for signs of stress. Is it wilting, yellowing, browning, dropping needles or leaves out of season? Does it have leaf scorch, darkened veins, or smaller than normal leaves? While this isn't an exhaustive list of symptoms, nor are they exclusive to water issues, if these signs show up in your trees it may be a signal that they're being under-watered. Careful, though. Overwatering can produce some of the same symptoms.

WHEN SHOULD I WATER?

In Utah, the semi-arid climate and dry summers make watering trees more important. Typically the winter rains and snows provide enough moisture for trees. However, during especially dry winters you may need to water your trees once or twice.

WHAT KIND OF TREES SHOULD I PLANT?

Planting the right tree to begin with can help prevent problems before they begin. The list on the back of this sheet shows the approved and non-approved trees for park strips in West Jordan City.

Low water use landscapes save water and ease the pressure on our rivers, but they change the watering patterns your trees are used to. By properly watering trees you can ensure they're strong, healthy, and enjoyed for years to come. Remember, it takes 20 years to replace a 20-year-old tree!



Utah Rivers Council
1055 E. 2100 S. Suite 207
Salt Lake City, UT 84106
www.utahrivers.org

State Stone
 Corporation Inc.
 Expires 12/31/05

(801) 262-9323

4640 S. 300 W. Murray
 www.statestone.com

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for your Rip Your Strip project

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Always check your local parking strip ordinance for materials compliance Expires 12/31/05

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 7095 S. HWY 89 | Willard, UT
www.willardbaygardens.com

We are located 45 minutes North of Salt Lake City on Highway 89.
 Take I-15 exit 354, go off the ramp to the right/East which will put you on Highway 89, go left/North toward Brigham City for 2 miles and we are on the right/East side of the Highway.

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Congratulations!

This coupon is redeemable for a
20% discount
 on your next purchase of great waterwise garden plants.

Plants are available daily April through October at Emigration Market (at the corner of 1300 South and 1700 East in Salt Lake City).

(801) 718-7715
www.blueskyperennials.com