

The TRWD demonstration landscaping project showcases techniques to create and maintain beautiful residential landscaping that conserves water and protects water quality.

Landscape designs and materials used in the project include native and adapted plants, natural materials and efficient irrigation system components that are affordable and accessible to the North Central Texas homeowner.

The project is a venue to provide information and outreach opportunities to customer entities, developers, civic groups, and others to advance their knowledge and use of earth-friendly practices in residential landscapes.

For more information About the project, contact TRWD or for ideas and concepts used, visit: dallas.tamu.edu or savetarrantwater.com



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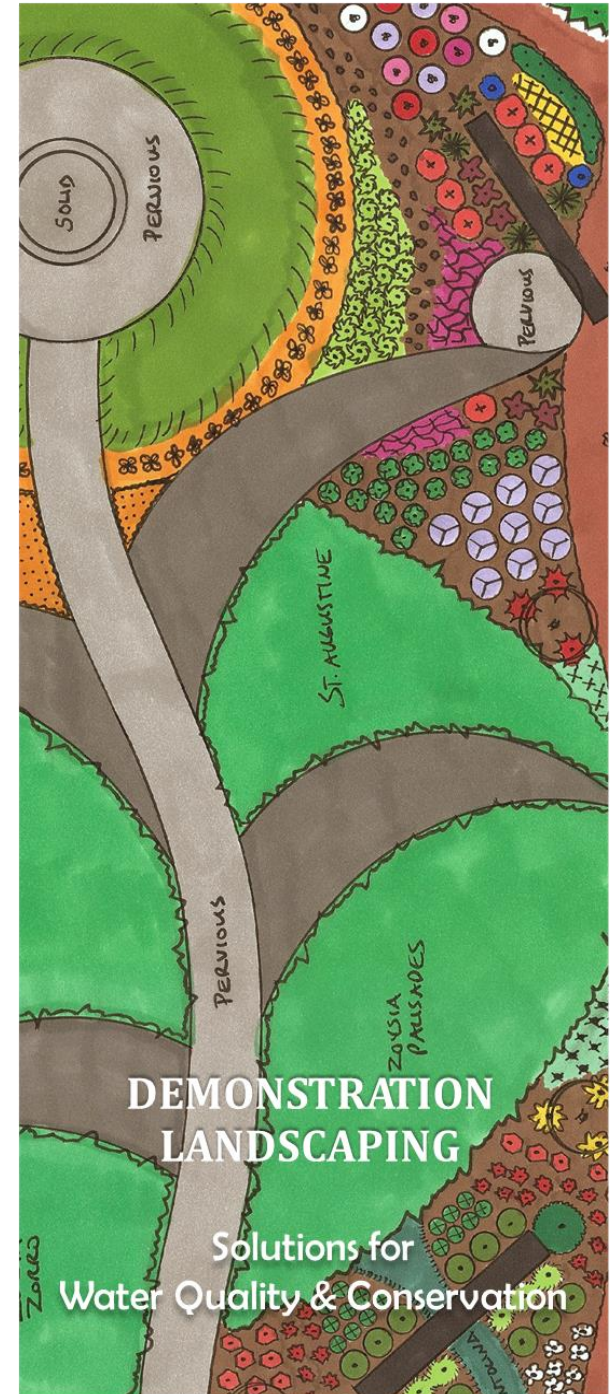
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Benefits

The TRWD Demonstration Landscape illustrates designs and practices that benefit the environment.

- Reduced water, pesticide, and fertilizer usage results in savings to homeowners and conserves our most precious resource.
- Water-efficient designs increase stormwater infiltration, protect water quality, and reduce the need for irrigation.
- Diversity in plant selection and arrangement provides food and habitat for wildlife.

Water Conservation

Outdoor water use is one of our largest uses of water in north central Texas. Unfortunately, much of that water is wasted due to over watering lawns and plants. The Demonstration Landscape irrigation system has been designed with some of the most efficient components available. The Weathermatic controller and Smartlink app allow the homeowner to see water usage in real time and make adjustments when necessary.

Low volume multi-stream emitters produce even water across the turf, reducing dry spots and increasing uniformity. Subsurface drip irrigation is hidden beneath the mulch, gently watering the plants at their roots – right where they can use it.

Native and Adapted Plants

Native and adapted plants require less water, pesticides, and fertilizer to thrive, which means more savings on household water bills and less maintenance.

Plants that are native or have been adapted over time to our climate perform well despite dramatic shifts in weather and long hot, dry, or cold spells. Many of these plants are not only beautiful to look at, but provide food, habitat, and nesting areas for much of our unique wildlife.

Water Quality Protection

All these features work together to protect the quality of our water resources. Landscapes that minimize the need for pesticides and fertilizers also reduce the risk of those pollutants entering our waterways. Controlling stormwater through infiltration keeps nutrients on the landscape and reduces erosion of soil to lakes and rivers. In addition, using less water outdoors means more water is available during drier seasons.



48-hour infiltration of stormwater after a rain event.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater is conserved and managed by capturing and infiltrating rainwater into the soil.

Dry streambed: The Annex West stormwater control area captures the water in the trenched river rock channel. The small boulders and dry streambed help dissipate the energy from the storm water. Softer materials, like mulch and turf, will further dissipate the storm water movement. The water will slowly dissipate underground and over grassed area. The water that is left over is conveyed to the rain garden, located in the main demonstration area.

Rain garden: Near the lecture circle is a rain garden. It collects stormwater from Annex West and the parking lot, allowing the water to slowly seep into the ground.

Pervious surfaces: The main demonstration area has a pervious concrete path and lecture circle. In the middle of the lecture circle is a smaller circle of impervious concrete. The two types of concrete are used to show the difference between impervious and pervious surfaces. Water infiltrates through the pervious concrete but collects on the impervious concrete. Gravel pathways lead from the sidewalks to pocket gardens. Mulched beds help slow and infiltrate rainfall and regulate soil temperature.