

## Why Use Water-efficient Landscaping?

Proper landscaping techniques not only create beautiful landscapes, but also benefit the environment and save water. In addition, attractive, water-efficient, low-maintenance landscapes can increase home values. Water-efficient landscaping offers many economic and environmental benefits, including:

- Lower water bills from reduced water use.
- Conservation of natural resources and preservation of habitat for plants and wildlife such as fish and waterfowl.
- Decreased energy use (and air pollution associated with its generation) because less pumping and treatment of water is required.
- Reduced home or office heating and cooling costs through the careful placement of trees and plants.
- Reduced runoff of stormwater and irrigation water that carries top soils, fertilizers, and pesticides into lakes, rivers, and streams.
- Fewer yard trimmings to be managed or landfilled.
- Reduced landscaping labor and maintenance costs.
- Extended life for water resources infrastructure (e.g., reservoirs, treatment plants, groundwater aquifers), thus reduced taxpayer costs

*To report a storm water issue, contact:*

Mayor's Hotline  
636-282-6699

### **Please Help!**

40% of US water bodies are polluted. Storm water runoff is the primary cause. It's up to you to make a difference to keep gutters, storm drains and waterways clean.

For information on stream clean events, search for "Arnold Stream Team 211" on Facebook and "Like" them.



For More Information

**City of Arnold Public Works**  
2900 Arnold Tenbrook Rd.  
Arnold, MO 63010  
( 636 ) 282-2386

# Water- Efficient Landscaping Guide for City of Arnold Residents



Make your home  
the  
**SOLUTION**

TO STORMWATER  
**POLLUTION!**

*A homeowner's guide to healthy  
habits for water efficient landscape  
watering.*

## What is Water-efficient Landscaping?

Water, many agree, is our most precious natural resource; without it, life ceases. Yet judging by our water use and consumption practices, many of us in the United States seem to take it for granted. A typical household uses approximately 260 gallons of water per day. "Water conscious" individuals often install high-efficiency shower heads and toilets and wash only full loads of clothes and dishes to reduce consumption. But in the summer, the amount of water used outdoors by a household can exceed the amount used for all other purposes in the entire year.

This is especially true in hot, dry climates.

Gardening and lawn care account for the majority of this seasonal increase, but other outdoor activities, such as washing cars and filling swimming pools, also contribute. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, of the 26 billion gallons of water consumed daily in the United States, approximately 7.8 billion gallons, or 30 percent, is devoted to outdoor uses. The majority of this is used for landscaping. In fact, it is estimated that the typical suburban lawn consumes 10,000 gallons of water above and beyond rainwater each year.

Many mistakenly believe that stunning gardens and beautiful lawns are only possible through extensive watering, fertilization, and pesticide application. Water-efficient landscaping produces attractive landscapes because it utilizes designs and plants suited to local conditions. For specific information about how to best apply water-efficient landscaping principles to your geographical area, consult with your county extension service and local garden and nursery centers.



## Xeriscape landscaping."

Xeriscape landscaping is defined as "quality landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment." The word "Xeriscape" was coined and copyrighted by Denver Water Department in 1981 to help make water conserving landscaping an easily recognized concept. The word is a combination of the Greek word "xeros," which means "dry," and "landscape."

The seven principles upon which Xeriscape landscaping is based are:

- Proper planning and design
- Soil analysis and improvement
- Appropriate plant selection
- Practical turf areas
- Efficient irrigation
- Use of mulches
- Appropriate maintenance

The eight fundamentals of water-wise landscaping, below, illustrate the similarities in the underlying concepts and principles of Xeriscape landscaping and other water-efficient approaches.

- Group plants according to their water needs.
- Use native and low-water-use plants.
- Limit turf areas to those needed for practical uses.
- Use efficient irrigation systems.
- Schedule irrigation wisely.
- Make sure soil is healthy.
- Remember to mulch.
- Provide regular maintenance.

In short, plan and maintain your landscape with these principles of water efficiency in mind and it will continue to conserve water and be attractive.



### Appropriate plant selection:

Your landscape design should take into account your local climate as well as soil conditions. Focus on preserving as many existing trees and shrubs as possible because established plants usually require less water and maintenance. Choose plants native to your region. Native plants, once established, require very little to no additional water beyond normal rainfall. Also, because they are adapted to local soils and climatic conditions, native plants commonly do not require the addition of fertilizers and are more resistant to pests and disease.

When selecting plants, avoid those labeled "hard to establish," "susceptible to disease," or "needs frequent attention," as these types of plants frequently require large amounts of supplemental water, fertilizers, and pesticides. Be careful when selecting non-indigenous species as some of them may become invasive. An invasive plant might be a water guzzler and will surely choke out native species. Your state or county extension service or local nursery can help you select appropriate plants for your area.



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