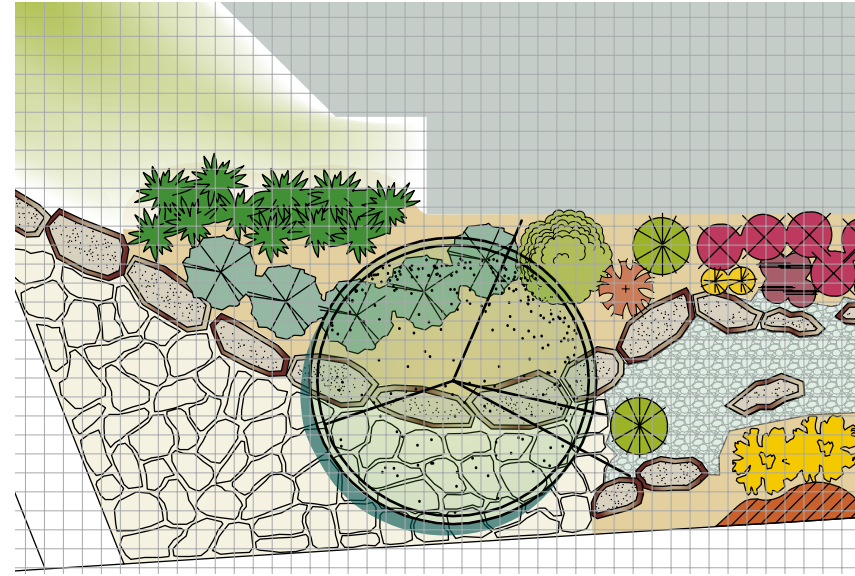


# Drainage Solutions

*Landscaping to protect and conserve Austin's water*















Demonstration garden located at: **One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Drive, Austin, Texas** (northeast side)

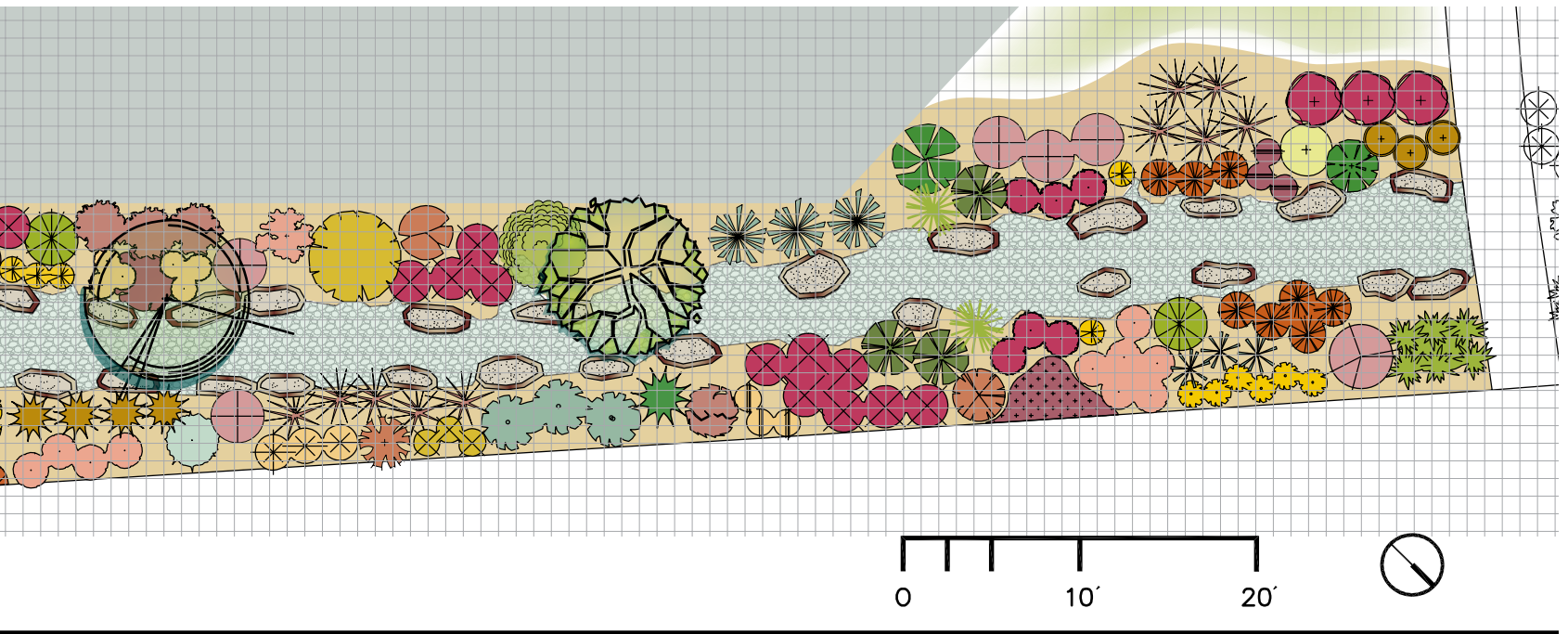







































## DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS






Do you have drainage problems in your yard? Perhaps flooding is a concern or you simply want to better manage the runoff that flows through your property. An effective and attractive solution is to add a swale or "dry creekbed" in the area. By excavating a small channel, you can direct the excess flow to a lower spot where the water can better infiltrate the soil. Low areas of your landscape that encourage runoff to soak into the ground are called rain gardens. Rain gardens can either be filled with plants that can handle both wet and dry conditions or they can be filled with stone. Both are good alternatives and will enhance the look and functionality of the design.

	<u>trees</u>	<u>shrubs</u>	<u>perennials</u>
plant key	 possumhaw holly	 agarita	 texas betony
	 anacacho orchid tree	 knockout rose	 plumbago
	 mountain laurel	 trailing rosemary	 cast iron plant
	 redbud	 bush germander	 'new gold' lantana
		 mexican honeysuckle	 mexican feathergrass



- |   |   |  |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
|  autumn sage             |  pink skullcap       |  indigo spires      |  black and blue sage |  black dalea            |  zexmenia         |  nolina texana    |
|  winecup                 |  gaura               |  rock rose          |  lily                |  rock penstemon         |  gregg dalea      |  twistleaf yucca  |
|  damianita             |  lamb's ear        |  yellow bells     |  russian sage      |  bulbine              |  society garlic |  squid agave    |
|  butterfly iris        |  calyophus         |  gulf coast muhly |  texas lantana     |  hymenoxys            |  red verbena    |  limestone rock |
|  mexican mint marigold |  mexican bush sage |  dwarf coreopsis  |  blackfoot daisy   |  dwarf fountain grass |  moss verbena   |  river rock     |

**cacti & succulents**

- |  |
|--|
|  nolina texana    |
|  twistleaf yucca  |
|  squid agave    |
|  limestone rock |
|  river rock     |

## *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 20% compost, 50% loam and 30% sand)

## *Water Needs:*

Once established, these plants require little to no water. If plants look wilted, however, water thoroughly every 3-4 weeks if there is no rainfall

## *Irrigation:*

- Hand-watering is recommended
- If you must use an irrigation system...  
Use bubblers for the beds. For turf, use spray heads or rotors

## *Turf:*

If you'd like to add turf to a sunny yard, Zoysia is recommended. Bermuda is also drought tolerant, but can invade your plant beds

[www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org)

## *Earth-Wise Gardening Tips:*

- To install a dry creekbed or a rain garden, first excavate and grade the soil to drain water as desired
- If your primary intention is to channel water through an area then you may want to use only rock in the dry creekbed with no plants. In this situation place weed barrier fabric on the soil to minimize future weed encroachment
- If you want the water to soak in the ground (as in a rain garden) avoid the use of weed barrier fabric and plant directly into the ground. Place rock and/or gravel as a mulch around the plants
- Plant the right plant in the right place based on sunlight required
- If adding turf, use St. Augustine grass only in shaded areas
- If installing outdoor lights, avoid those that direct the glow upward - it can interfere with bird migration
- Mulch all beds to retain water and reduce weeds; decomposed granite is a good alternative mulch for the many heat loving native plants in this design
- 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

*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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