

WHAT IS XERISCAPE GARDENING?

Simply put, XERISCAPE is a landscaping method that uses water-conserving techniques in its design such as drought-tolerant plants, mulch, and efficient irrigation. During extended droughts or water shortages, a xeriscape garden is designed to be more in balance with the natural rainfall, while continuing to flourish and hold its beauty.

XERISCAPE AT BICKHAM- RUDKIN PARK

Though the Edmond area receives on average a fair amount of annual precipitation, it doesn't always fall during the hot summer months when many plants need it. To compensate, homeowners may use as much as 50-80% of Edmond's total treated water supply during the summer months to irrigate gardens and lawns. To help educate homeowners, the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden at Bickham-Rudkin Park has been designed to highlight effective water management strategies within a residential landscape. By using xeriscape techniques and capturing rain water via two 1,200 gallon cisterns, the garden's water consumption and reliance on City water during peak usage times are reduced. Additional benefits to implementing these strategies in this setting are the reduced rate and volume of stormwater runoff and improved water quality.

PARTICIPANTS & SPONSORS

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Michael Holmes
David Hillock
John Fluitt

DONATIONS

Hunter Irrigation
Tulsa Grass and Sod Farm
John Fluitt Landscaping

VOLUNTEERS

OK County Master Gardeners

ORGANIZATION SPONSORS

City of Edmond
Edmond Water Resources Department
Edmond Drainage Utility
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma State University Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture

HELPFUL LINKS

OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE (OCES)

SOIL TESTING SERVICES

soiltesting.okstate.edu

LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE

2500 NE 63rd, OKC, OK 73111 | (405)713-1125

EPA'S WATER SENSE® PROGRAM

www3.epa.gov/watersense

KEEP OKLAHOMA BEAUTIFUL

keepoklahomabeautiful.com/native-landscaping-xeriscaping

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EDMOND'S
WATERWAYS
CLEAN**

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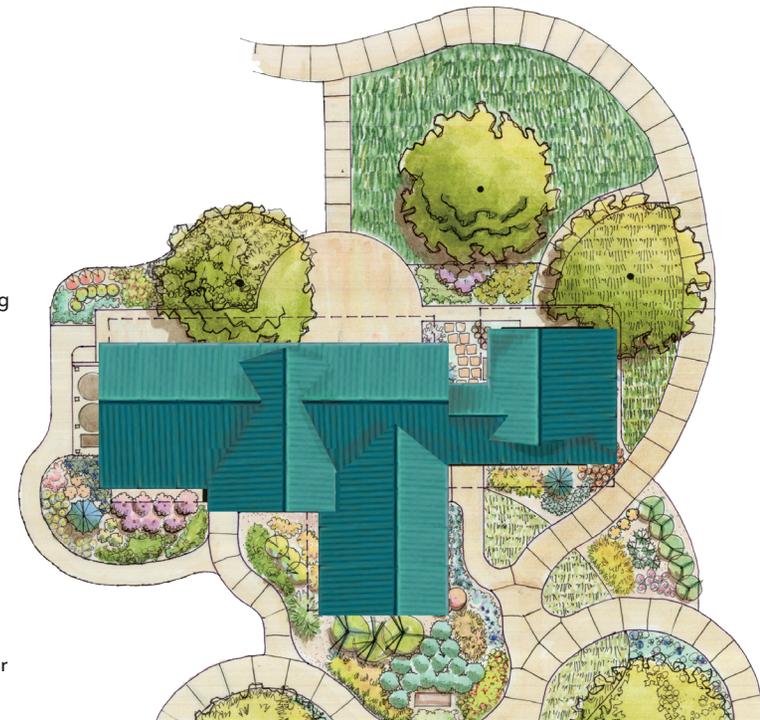
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EDMOND'S
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DRAINAGE UTILITY

405.359.4772

edmondok.com/stormwater



PRINCIPLES OF XERISCAPE GARDENING

DESIGN

Planning a xeriscape garden requires careful consideration of several factors, including water requirements, drainage patterns, budget, function, turf & plant selection, aesthetics, and maintenance.

SOIL IMPROVEMENT

Soil is the foundation of any good garden. Since topsoil is removed during home construction, adding organic matter back into these sterile soils will improve water retention and drainage. For best results, add 3 to 5 cubic yards organic material per 1,000 square feet of planting area and rototill 6" deep. To determine what nutrients are lacking in the soil, contact the Oklahoma County Extension Office to submit a soil sample for analysis.

MULCH

Xeriscapes use mulch to stabilize loose soils, retain moisture, moderate soil temperature, and limit weed growth. Organic mulches, applied 3-4" deep, are the best choice because they add nutrients back to the soil as they decompose.

IRRIGATION

To promote the strong root growth that will support new plants during a drought, water deeply and only when the plants need it. Improve watering efficiency by irrigating with consideration to the weather forecast, soil type, the season, and the plants' condition, instead of watering on a fixed schedule. Grouping plants according to similar water requirements also makes watering easier and more efficient.

MAINTENANCE

Pruning, weeding, adding new mulch annually, selecting a proper mowing height for the chosen turf, and following recommended watering guidelines will all help promote a healthy garden. All new gardens require dedicated maintenance for the first 2 years until the plants have matured and developed a strong root system.

XERISCAPE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

Bickham-Rudkin Park | 33rd & Rankin

