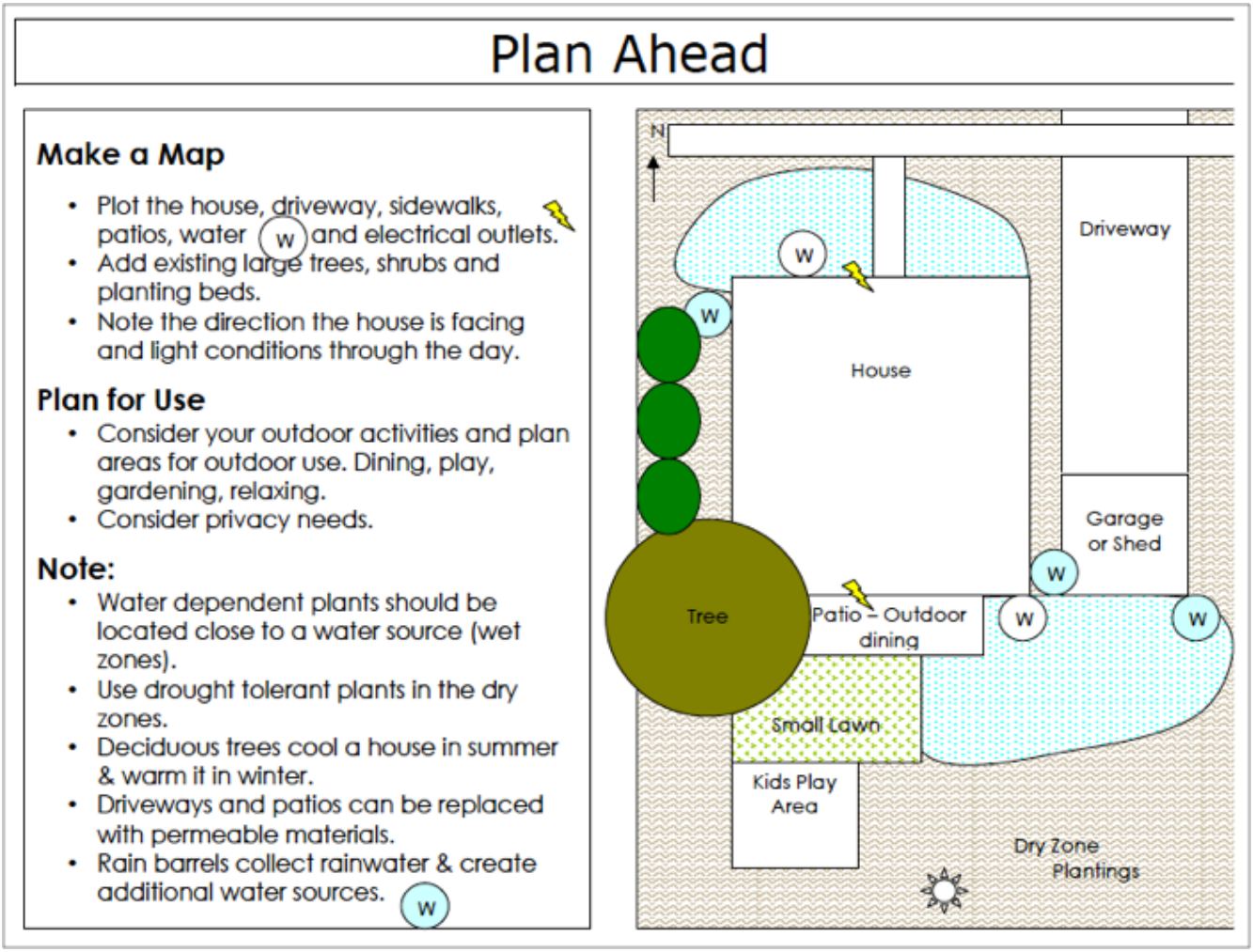

Xeriscaping

Xeriscaping is landscaping and gardening that reduces or eliminates the need for supplemental water from irrigation. Xeriscaping is different from natural landscaping, because the emphasis in xeriscaping is on selection of plants for water conservation, not necessarily selecting native plants.

Advantages of Xeriscaping

- Lowers consumption of water
- Less time and work needed for maintenance effort (no lawns to cut)
- Xeriscape plants in appropriate planting design, and soil grading and mulching, take full advantage of rainfall retention.
- When water restrictions are implemented by municipality or water costs, xeriscape plants will tend to survive and thrive, while more ornamental plants may be unable to adapt.
- Can be visually more interesting than lawns
- Can save money

Principles of Xeric Gardening

• Plan ahead – How will you use the space? Plan for pathways, plantings, seating & play areas.

• Choose native & drought tolerant plants to cut down on watering needs.

• Hydro-zone – site plants with higher water needs (veggies, roses) together and closer to the water source.

• Proper planting – prepare a wide space around the base of a plant to allow for roots to spread out horizontally & blend compost/organic matter into soil when needed.

• Mulch – adding a permeable layer on the surface of the soil keeps roots cooler in summer & warmer in winter. It also reduces weeds & evaporation.

• Water efficiently – use soaker hoses & drip systems whenever possible.

• Limit lawn – a smaller lawn means less mowing, watering, fertilizing & herbicide use.

• Use permeable hard-scaping – materials that allow water to flow through let rainwater soak into the soil instead of going through the sewer system.

Cool Plants for Hot Places – Dry Zone

All plants need regular water while rooting into a new location. Once established, these plants need little to no water during summer heat.

Trees

Silk Tree – Albizia
Incense Cedar – Calocedrus decurrens
Atlas Cedar – Cedrus atlantica
Redbud - Cercis
Chitalpa - Chitalpa
Arizona Cypress – Cupressus glabra
Figs – Ficus carica
Ash – Fraxinus
Juniper – Juniperus
Crape Myrtle - Lagerstroemia
Pine - Pinus
Oak – Quercus
Sumac – Rhus
Locust – Robinia
California Laurel - Umbellularia

Shrubs

Manzanita – Arctostaphylos
Seedless Butterfly Bush – Buddleia
Blue Beard - Caryopteris
Bottle Brush – Callistemon
Rock Rose – Cistus
Smoke Bush – Cotinus
Silverberry – Elaeagnus
Hardy Hebe – Hebes hardy to Z7
Red Yucca – Hesperaloe
Crape Myrtle – Lagerstroemia
Tea Tree - Leptospermum
Oregon Grape – Mahonia
Mock Orange – Philadelphus
Pomegranate – Punica
Elderberry – Sambucus
Yucca – Yucca

Grasses
Sedge – Carex
Fescue – Festuca
Miscanthus
Switch Grass – Panicum
Fountain Grass – Pennisetum
Mexican Feather Grass – Stipa

Perennials & Herbs
Anise Hyssop – Agastache
Butterfly Weed – Asclepias
Tickseed – Coreopsis
Sea Holly – Eryngium
Blanket Flower – Gallardia
Red Hot Poker – Kniphofia
Lavender - Lavendula
Evening Primrose – Oenothera
Oregano - Oreganum
Russian Sage – Pervoskia
Cape Fuchsia – Phygelius
Rosemary – Rosmarinus
Thyme - Thymus
Mullein – Verbascum
California Fuchsia - Zauschneria

Wet Zone

These plants need regular water during dry summer months. Plant them near-by a water source to minimize work and save water.

Vegetables – Even though many vegetables love heat, they also love water. For best production, give them consistent moisture.
Annuals – Annuals are plants that bloom all spring & summer, then die in winter such as Marigolds and Petunias. They perform best when given consistent moisture.

Perennials
Columbine – Aquilegia
Bell Flower – Campanula
Canna Lily – Canna
Day Lily – Hemerocallis
Ferns
Hostas
Japanese Iris – Iris ensata
Cardinal Flower – Lobelia cardinalis
Monkey Flower - Mimulus
Bee Balm – Monarda
Spiderwort - Tradescantia
Speedwell – Veronica longifolia

Shrubs
Summersweet - Clethra
Red-twig Dogwood – Cornus alba, sanguinea & sericea
Hardy Gardenia – Gardenias ‘Kleim’s Hardy’ & ‘Frost Proof’
Hardy Bananas – Musa basjoo & Musella lasiocarpa
Indian Plum – Osmaronia
New Zealand Flax – Phormium
Ninebark – Physocarpus
Flowering Currant – Ribes sanguineum
Roses – Rosa
Willow – Salix
Spirea – Spiraea
Huckleberry – Vaccinium ovatum & V. parvifolium

Grasses
Sweet Flag – Acorus
Sedge – Carex morrowii
Rush - Juncus

Trees – Generally, trees are drought tolerant once established. Healthy trees are planted with other plants that have the same water needs as the tree. Therefore, most trees should be under-planted with drought tolerant plants.

The following is a list of trees that are more tolerant of consistently moist soils. Be cautious though. Many grow to be very large and could interfere with foundations and water lines if planted to close to the house.

Vine Maple – Acer circinatum
Red Maple – Acer rubrum
Red Alder – Alnus rubra
Birch – Betula
American Ash – Fraxinus americana
SweetBay – Magnolia virginiana
Crabapple – Malus
Dawn Redwood – Metasequoia
Willow – Salix
Bald Cypress – Taxodium