



MAKING THE MOST
OF YOUR PARK STRIP

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN:

- Park strip Problems
- The 5 steps to reclaim your park strip
- Park strip Maintenance
- Plant ideas
- Park strip Examples



PARK STRIP PROBLEMS: WATER WASTE

- Sprinklers are not designed to water areas less than 8' wide.
- Average lawn park strips use 7,000–10,000 gallons per season.



PARK STRIP PROBLEMS: TREE ROOTS

- Trees that get too big for park strips end up breaking and upheaving sidewalks
- This can cause problems like tripping hazards and replacing the sidewalks will be difficult.



PARK STRIP PROBLEMS: EXTREME CLIMATE

- Park strips are usually between a sidewalk and the road.
- These adjacent surfaces bake your park strip in the hotter months. Lawn does not tolerate extreme heats well.



PARK STRIP PROBLEMS: ROAD AND SIDEWALK SALT

- Salt applied in winter can be damaging to plants in your parkstrip.
- Lawn does not tolerate salt well.
- The busier your road is, the more salt will be applied.



WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO FLIPPING YOUR STRIP?



Lawn
Park Strip (July)

Flipped
Park Strips

Lawn
Park Strip (July)



*Real results from past class participant

ORDINANCES & BEST PRACTICES

- Park strips are owned by the city but maintained by you.
- Check your local regulations and codes.
- Call 811 before you dig!

Know what's below.  **811**

 **Call 811** before you dig.

BLUE STAKES OF UTAH
UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER, INC.

www.bluestakes.org
1-800-662-4111



STEPS TO RECLAIMING YOUR PARKSTIRP

1 Plan & Design



2 Remove Lawn



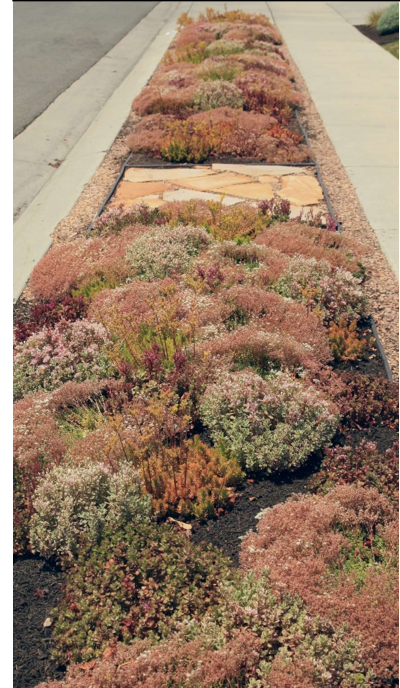
3 Install Drip



4 Add Hardscape



5 Plant & Mulch



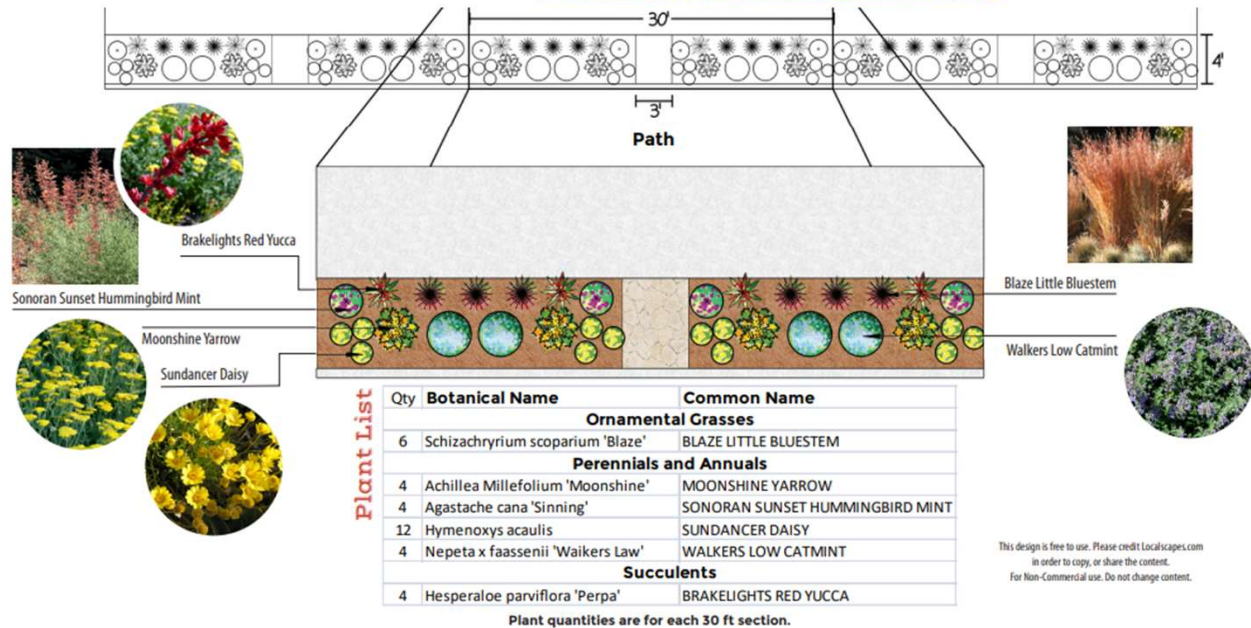
1 PLAN & DESIGN

- Paths, plants, and drip irrigation
- Proper plant selection is important
- Plants should be waterwise, salt tolerant, and tough.
- Download Free park strip plans from: localscapes.com



Lush with Less
High Density Perennial Design

[Localscapes.com](http://localscapes.com)



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2

REMOVE EXISTING LAWN

- Lawn needs to be killed down to the root before being removed
- You can remove the lawn with a sod cutter or tilled into the soil.
- Enough soil needs to be removed to be 3-4" below the sidewalk to make room for mulch.
- Make sure to mark existing sprinkler heads so you don't accidentally damage them!
- Be careful when removing lawn around existing trees.

PLASTIC SHEETS



SOD CUTTER



HERBICIDES



TILLER



3 INSTALL DRIP

- Your park strip should be on its own zone and using only 1 type of drip.
- Drip minimizes water waste by supplying the water directly to the roots.
- Micro-sprays and bubblers are not recommended.

INLINE



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POINT
SOURCE



BEST PRACTICES

- Drip must have a pressure reducer and filter
- Retrofit your heads for drip
 - Cap all other heads that aren't retrofitted
- Make sure your existing trees get enough water!

FILTER AND PRESSURE REDUCER



DRIP IRRIGATION VALVE



WATERING TREES



RETROFITTING HEADS



4 ADD HARDSCAPE

- Create walkways through your park strip.
- Make sure to make the pathway wide enough.
- Keep hardscape materials at least 3' away from existing or new trees.
- Make sure your hardscape materials are permeable to water and air.



5 PLANTS & MULCH

- Plants chosen should be compact, tough, and waterwise. We also recommend salt tolerant.
- Don't remove your existing trees!
- Be aware of your plant height. Plants shouldn't block sight lines from the driveway or road.



5 PLANTS & MULCH

- Use 3-4" of mulch
- This helps retain soil moisture and reduces weeds.
- Use a material that is right for you.
- Some cities don't want material that can get into drains.

GRAVEL OR
RIVER ROCK



BARK OR
COMPOST



CHAT OR DG



PARK STRIP MAINTENANCE

- Tips and techniques to keeping your park strip low maintenance and beautiful throughout the year!



ESTABLISHED WATERING

- New plants can't handle long periods without water
- Water every other day for the first two weeks
- After the first two weeks you can scale back the watering to 2-3 times per week or as needed.
- Waterwise park strips should be watered deeply and infrequently.
- Once plants are established, they should be watered once per week for about an hour



MAINTENANCE MISTAKES

- Watering park strips plants the same as lawn: This cultivates weeds
- Not using mulch or only putting a thin layer of mulch: Adding mulch 3-4" deep shades out weeds and preserves soil moisture.
- Using weed barrier with plants and bark mulch:
 - Only works temporarily
 - Decreases plant health
 - Should only be used under hardscape



LOCALSCAPES WEED CONTROL RECIPE

1. Water with drip irrigation
2. Apply 3-4" of mulch
3. Avoid soil compaction
4. Minimize soil disruption
5. Use herbicides only AFTER trying the first four steps



*Real results from past class participant

WATERWISE PLANTS:
FULL SUN FAVORITES



SOUL DANCER DAISY

Hymenoxys acaulis

- Super blooming Utah native (April- November)
- 15-16" tall x 12-15" wide
- Tidy mat of green foliage



CHOCOLATE FLOWER

Berlandiera lyrata

- Smells like chocolate
- Blooms off and on all season
- 1' tall x 2' wide



PENSTEMON SPECIES

Penstemon spp.

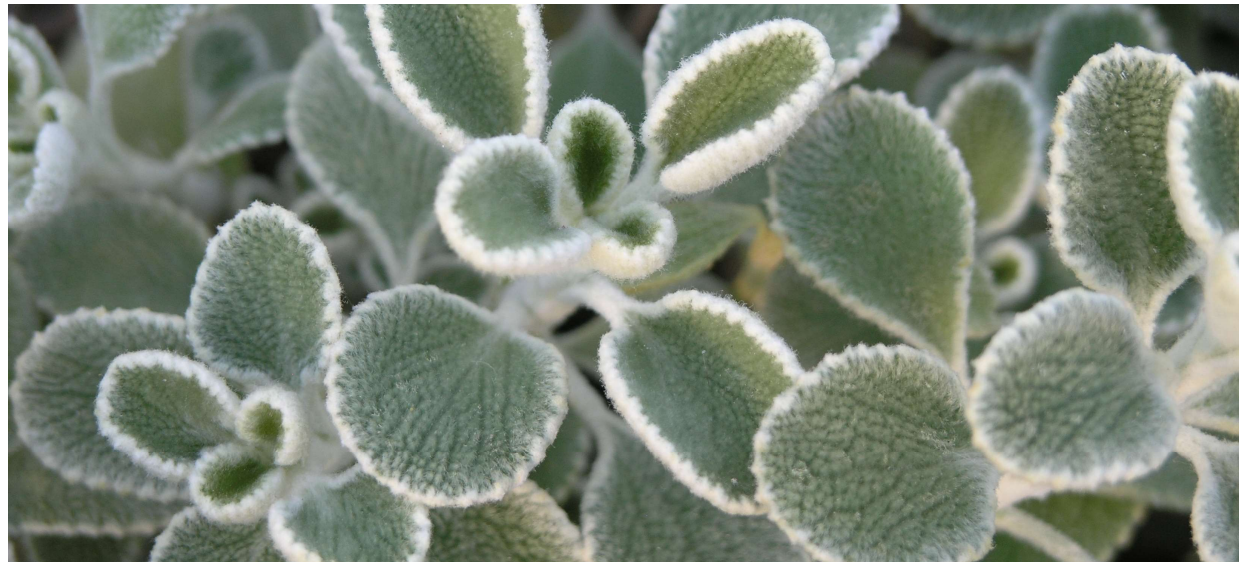
- Utah native
- Many varieties
- Many colors available



SILVER EDGED HOREHOUND

Marrubium rotundifolium

- Low growing evergreen
- 10" tall x 18" wide



BLONDE AMBITION BLUE GRAMA GRASS

Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'

- Requires little care yet offers great interest
- 8-24" tall x 8-18" wide
- Chartreuse seed heads



FIRE CHALICE

Zauschneria californica

- Low, spreading groundcover
- 1' tall x 2' wide
- Summer-fall bloom



HUMMINGBIRD MINT

Agastache spp.

- New low-growing cultivars for park strips
- 2' tall x 2' wide
- Summer-fall bloom in many colors



CATMINT

Nepeta spp.

- Low, spreading groundcover
- 1' tall x 2' wide
- Spring bloom, repeats



BLUE OAT GRASS

Helictotrichon sempervirens

- Multi-season interest
- 2' tall x 2' wide
- Blue-green blades



WATERWISE PLANTS:
PART SHADE



SEDGE

Carex spp.

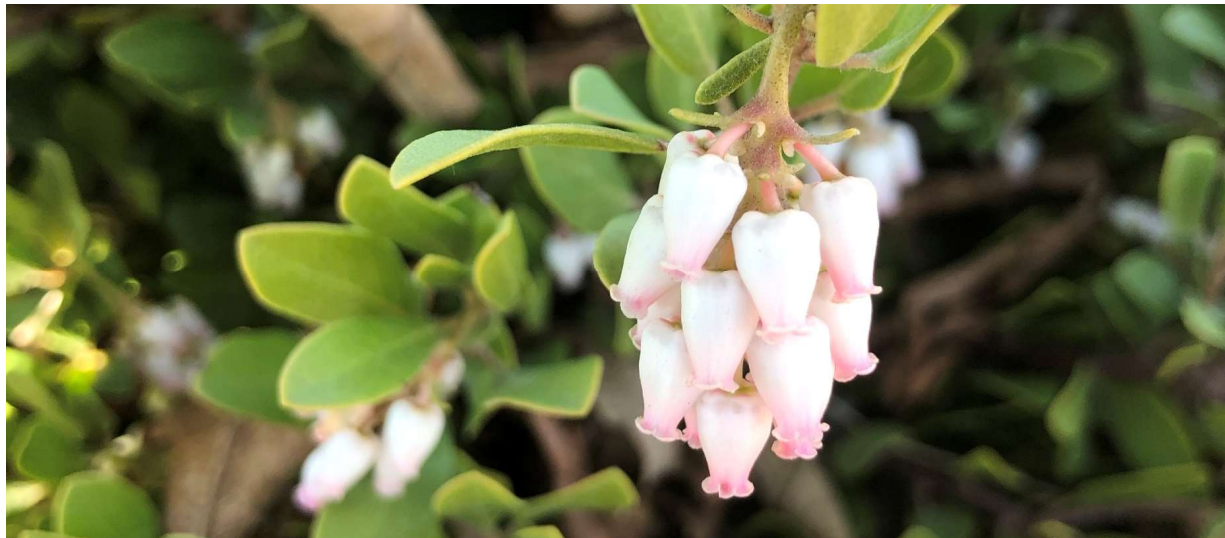
- Ornamental grass for dry shade
- 1' tall x 1' wide
- Multiple foliage colors



KINNIKINNIK

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

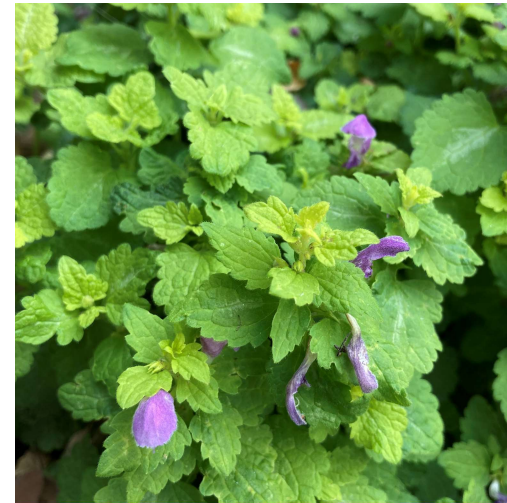
- Evergreen groundcover shrub
- 8" tall x 2" wide
- Tiny flowers in spring, berries in fall



DEAD NETTLE

Lamium spp.

- Fantastic foliage option
- 8" tall x 2' wide
- Pink, purple or white flowers



HARDY GERANIUM

Geranium spp.

- Fantastic foliage and flower options
- 1' tall x 2' wide
- Pink, purple or blue flowers



PLUMBAGO

Ceratostigma plumbaginoides

- Cobalt blue flowers
- 1' tall x 2' wide
- Vivid red fall color



WATERWISE PLANTS:
TREES



GOLDEN CANDLE GOLDEN RAIN TREE

Koelreuteria paniculata

- Interesting yellow flowers and pods
- Salt tolerant
- 20' tall x 4' wide



CITY SPRITE® ZELKOVA

Zelkova serrata CITY SPRITE

- Very little tree "litter"
- 25' tall x 20' wide
- Smaller tree to use under utility lines



IVORY SILK LILAC

Syringa reticulata

- Ivory lilac flowers late spring—after other flowering trees have bloomed
- 25' tall x 20' wide
- Smaller tree to use under utility lines



SPRING SNOW CRABAPPLE

Malus x 'Spring Snow'

- Fruitless, lightly scented blooms
- 25' tall x 20' wide
- Smaller tree to use under utility lines



PARK STRIP INSPIRATION





FALL
2016

SUMMER
2017



*Real results from past class participant



SPRING



JULY



LATE FALL







*Real results from past class participant





*Real results from past class participant

NEWLY PLANTED



1-2 YEARS LATER







*Real results from past class participant



*Real results from past class participant









*Real results from past class participant

NOT RECOMMENDED









