

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR PARKSTRIP

Creating Waterwise Park Strips



Weber Basin's

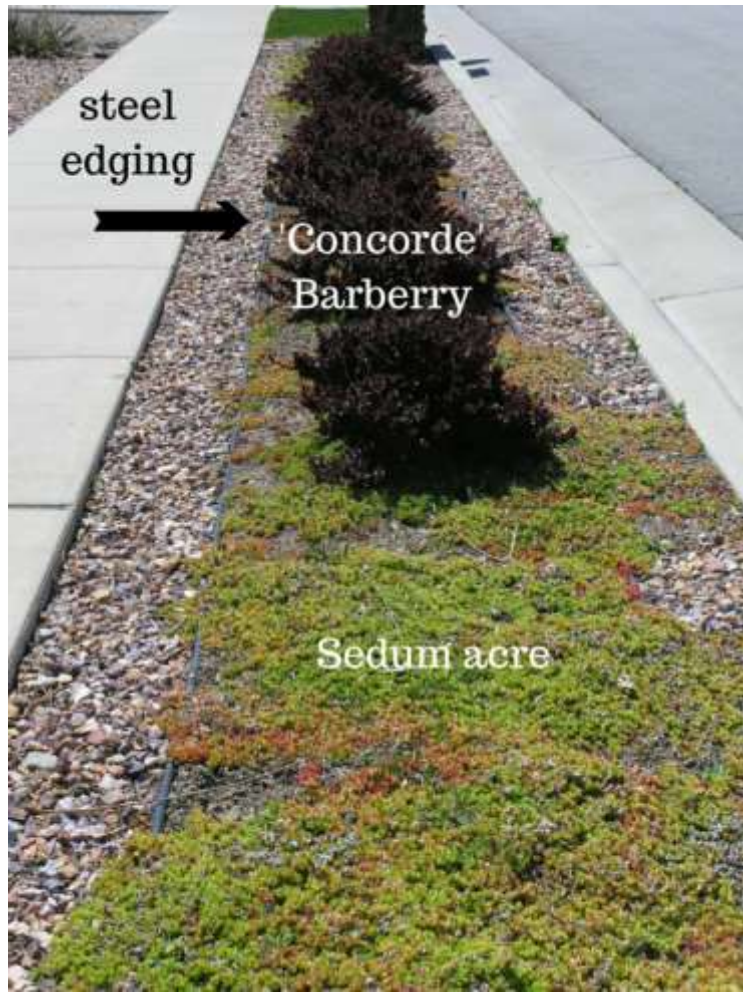
Water Conservation
Learning Garden

TYPICAL UTAH FRONT YARD



LOCALSCAPED FRONT YARD





PARK STRIP PROBLEMS

Water Waste

Sprinklers are not designed to water areas less than 8' wide.



PARK STRIP PROBLEMS

Water Waste

Average lawn
park strips use
7,000-10,000
gallons per
season.



PARK STRIP PROBLEMS

Tree Roots

Shallow roots
break concrete
sidewalks.



PARK STRIP PROBLEMS

Extreme Climate

Adjacent hot
surfaces bake
lawn.



PARK STRIP PROBLEMS

Road Salt

Salts applied
in winter can
be damaging.



FLIPPED PARK STRIP

Create Curb Appeal
(literally)

Flipped Park Strip

vs.

Lawn Park Strip



Park Strip Ownership

- Owned by the city but maintained by you.
- Check local regulations and codes.
- Homeowner's Associations may have requirements too.



FLIP YOUR STRIP

Best Practices

- 60% plant coverage at maturity.
- Groundcovers and continuous plants must be shorter than 24".
- Individual accent plants may be up to 36" tall.



ORDINANCES & BEST PRACTICES

Plants in park strips should not block sight lines from the driveway or road.



ORDINANCES & BEST PRACTICES

Park strips without plant materials are discouraged.

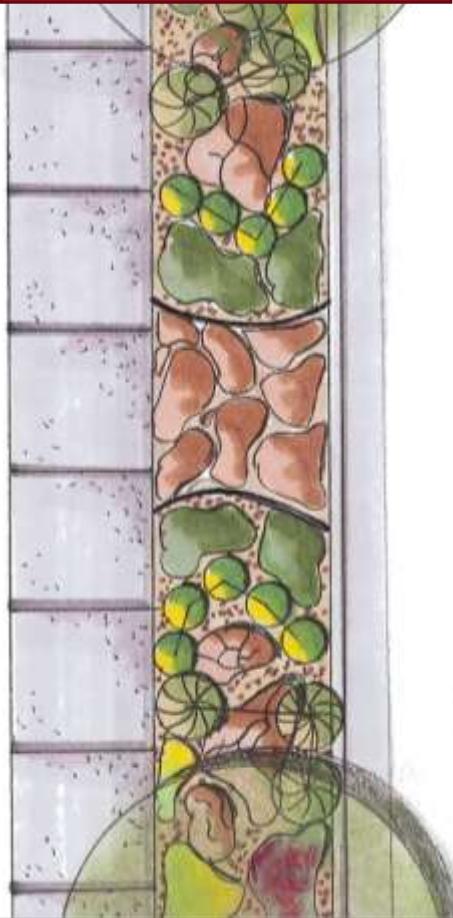
Hardscape can be used so long as the plant density requirement is met (60% at maturity).



STEPS TO RECLAIM A PARK STRIP

1

Plan &
Design



2

Remove
Lawn



3

Convert
To Drip



4

Add
Hardscape



5

Plant &
Mulch

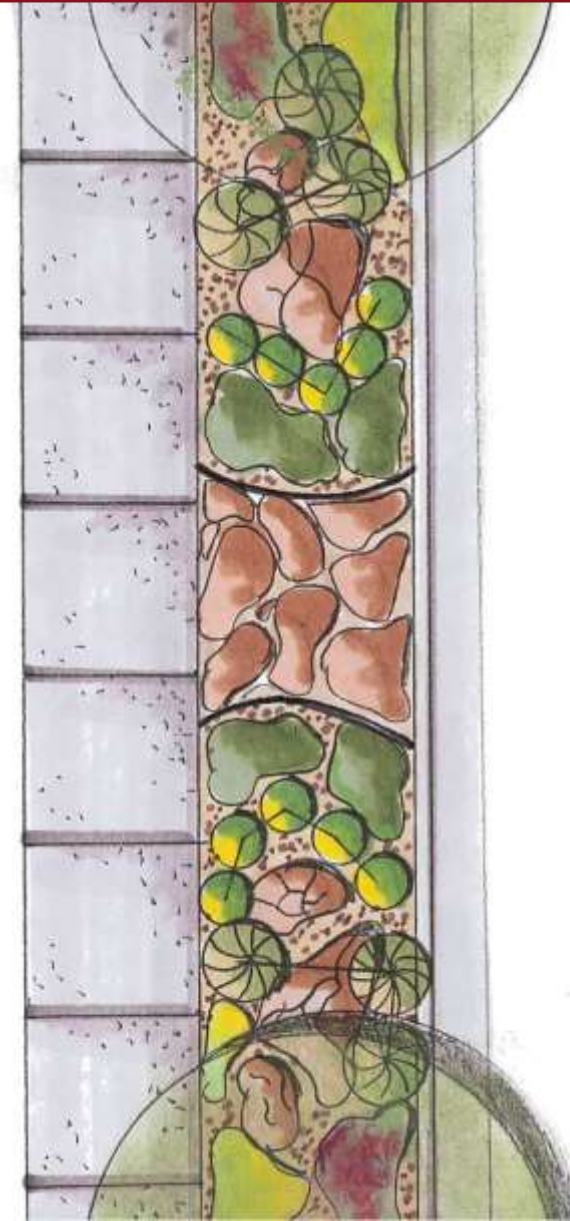


STEPS TO RECLAIM A PARK STRIP

1

Plan & Design

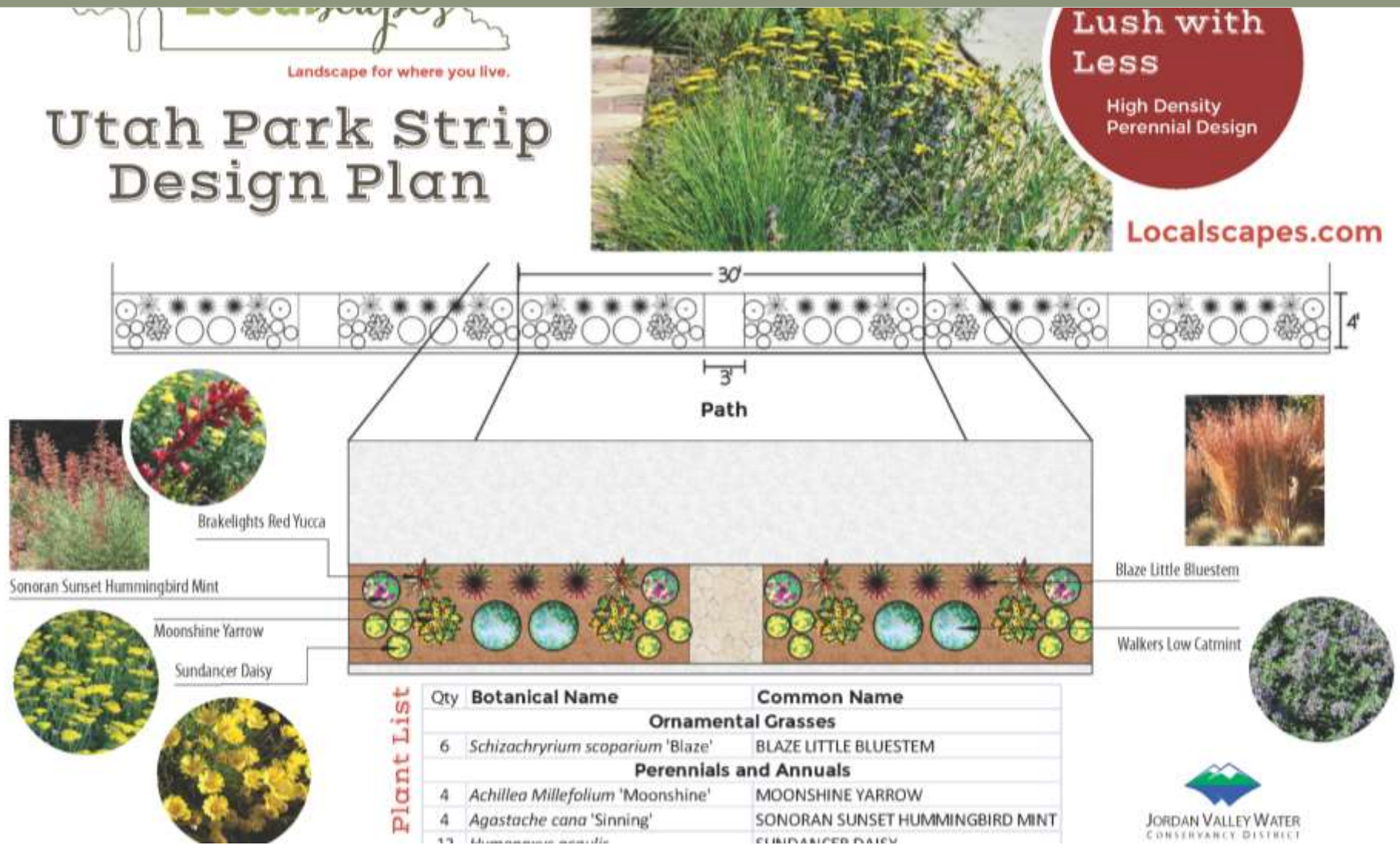
- Pathways, plants, and drip irrigation.
- Proper plant selection is important.



STEPS TO RECLAIM A PARK STRIP

Free Plans

Download from
localscapes.com



2

Remove Existing Lawn

- No need for crazy equipment
- No need to spend a lot of money
- This would be fun though



2 Remove Existing Lawn

- Lawn needs to be killed down to the roots before removal.
- This can be done with glyphosate (Roundup) or plastic sheets.

Plastic Sheets



Herbicides



2

Remove Existing Lawn

- Lawn can be removed with a sod cutter or tiller.
- Mark existing sprinkler heads with flags or sticks.
- Be careful when removing lawn around existing trees.

Sod Cutter

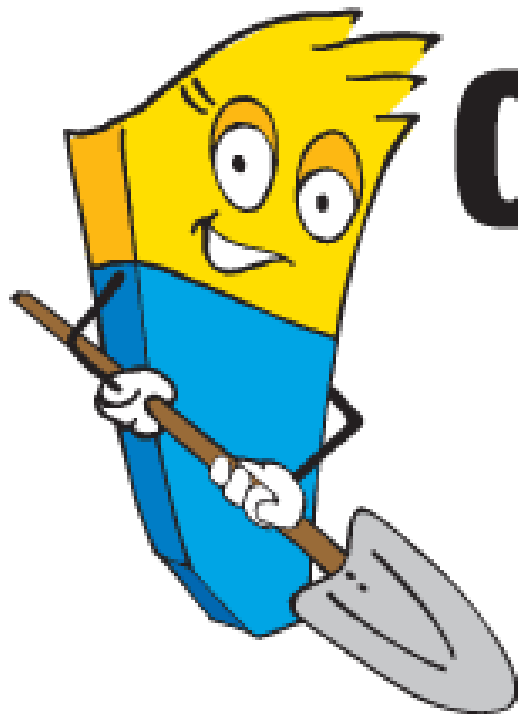


Tiller



FREE UTILITY LINE LOCATION SERVICE

Know what's below.



Call 811 before you dig.

BLUE STAKES OF UTAH

UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER, INC.

www.bluestakes.org

1-800-662-4111

STEPS TO RECLAIM A PARK STRIP

2

Remove Existing Lawn

- Lawn and soil should be removed several inches below the sidewalk.
- This will help to retain mulch in the park strip.

3-4" Below
Sidewalk



In-Line

3 Install or convert to drip

- Drip Irrigation must be used in park strips.
- Drip supplies water directly to the plants roots.
- Minimizes water waste.

Point Source



STEPS TO RECLAIM A PARK STRIP

3

In-line Drip

- It is best to run at least three rows of in-line drip in a park strip.
- This will more effectively water the plants as they grow.



PARK STRIP IRRIGATION



Sprinkler Valve:

- Used for lawn
- Spray sprinkler heads



Drip Irrigation Valve:

- Used for drip
- Includes filter and pressure reducer

PARK STRIP IRRIGATION

Filter

Pressure
Reducer



PARK STRIP IRRIGATION



= Spray Zone 1



= Spray Pattern



Overspray on road

DRIP CONVERSION

Types of Retrofit Heads



DRIP CONVERSION

● = RETROFITTED Sprinkler Head

● = CAPPED Sprinkler Head

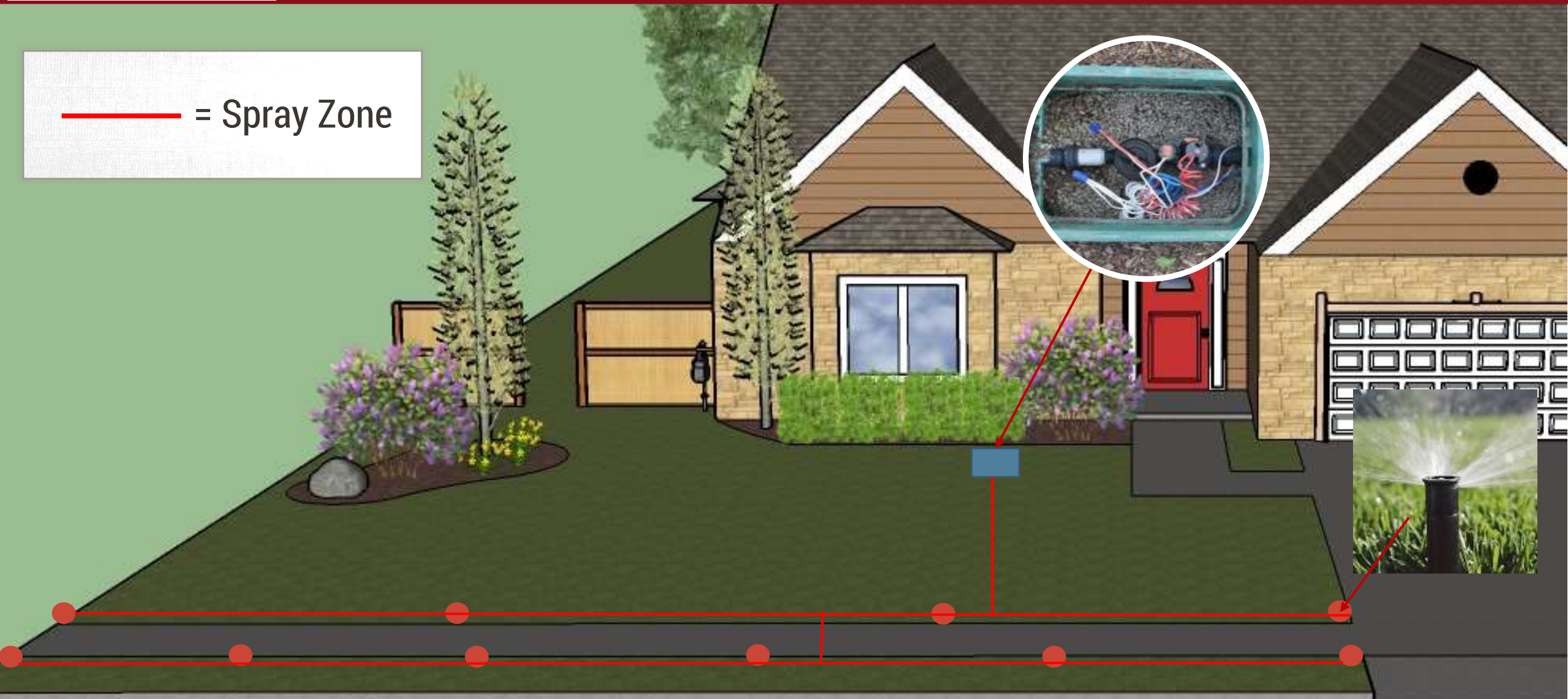
--- = Drip Irrigation Tubing



TIP: No need to dig up all old pipe, just cap off unnecessary spray heads.

HOW TO SPLIT A ZONE

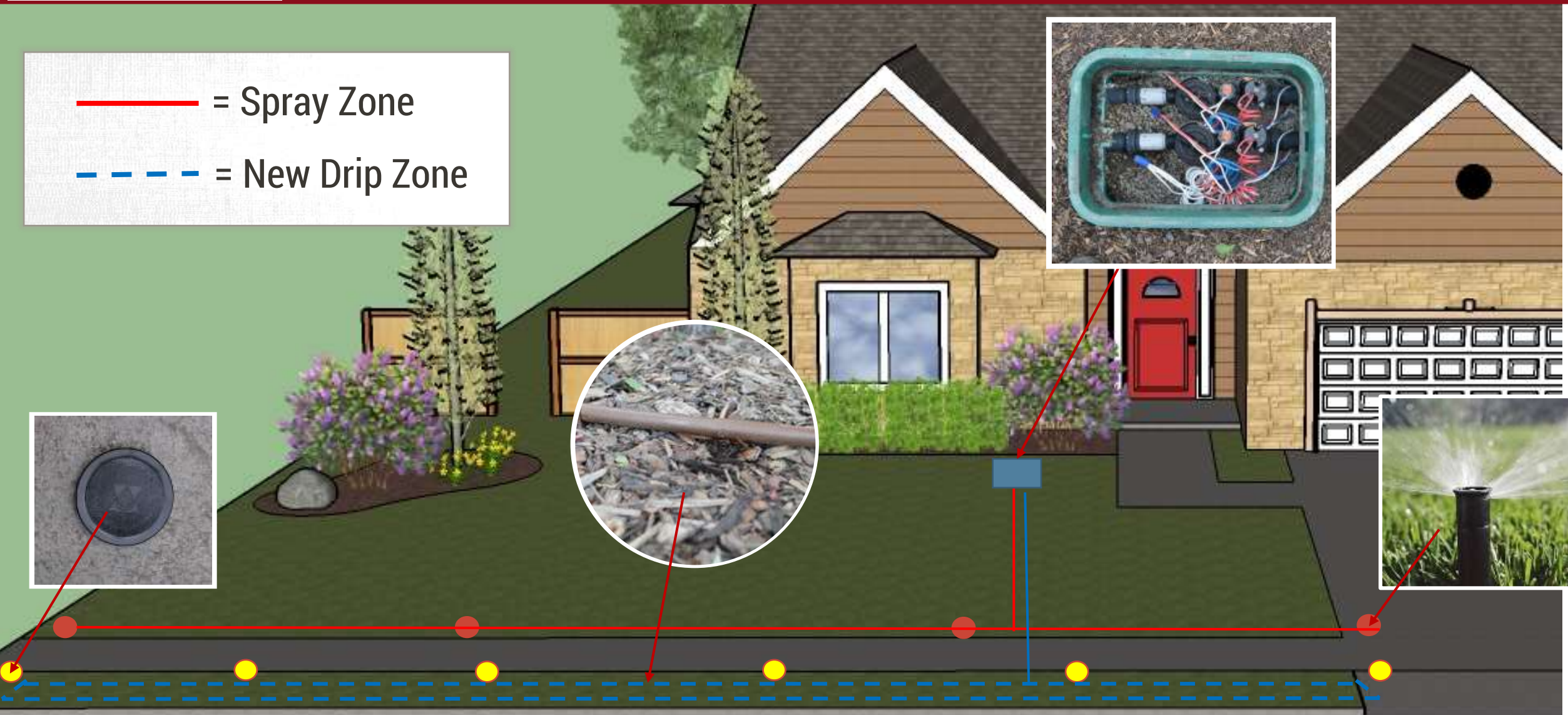
— = Spray Zone



ADD A NEW DRIP VALVE

— = Spray Zone

- - - = New Drip Zone



HOW TO WATER EXISTING TREES

TREES

Mature trees have extensive root systems that will need enough water.



HOW TO WATER EXISTING TREES

Trees

Trees will still need water under their canopy after lawn is removed.



HOW TO WATER EXISTING TREES

Trees

Install In-line drip
irrigation in this
area.



HOW TO WATER EXISTING TREES

In-Line Drip

Loop in-line drip around trees in two rings for adequate water.



4

ADD HARDSCAPE

- Create pass-through areas in the park strip.
- Make sure the path is large enough for safe passage.

Awesome



Adequate



HARDSCAPE BEST PRACTICES

Hardscape

Hardscape
should be
permeable to
water and air.



4

DRIP LINES & HARDSCAPE

- Run drip underneath paths before they are installed.
- Use blank drip tubing and run it through a conduit.



4 HARDSCAPE CONSIDERATIONS

- Hardscape materials should be kept at least 3 feet away from any existing or new trees.
- This helps maintain the health of the tree and the integrity of the hardscape.



STEPS TO RECLAIM A PARK STRIP

5

PLANTS

- Plants should be waterwise, compact, and tough.
- Salt tolerance is also recommended.
- We strongly discourage the removal of existing trees.
- Tree removal is not allowed with Flip Your Strip.



PLANT DENSITY

Low Density



Mixed Density



High Density



5

MULCH

- 2"-4" of mulch should be applied on the soil surface.
- Helps retain soil moisture and reduce weeds.
- Material is a matter of personal preference.

gravel or
river rock



bark or
compost



chat or DG



A person wearing a straw hat, a blue shirt, and tan pants is kneeling on a bed of dark brown mulch. They are wearing blue and grey work gloves and are working on a small green plant. A text box is overlaid on the image.

PARK STRIP MAINTENANCE

Establishment 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.



PARK STRIP MAINTENANCE

Watering

- Waterwise park strips should be watered deeply and infrequently.
- Once plants are established, they should be watered once per week for about 1 hour.



PARK STRIP MAINTENANCE

Maintenance Mistakes

- Watering park strip plants the same as lawn. This cultivates weeds.
- Not using mulch or putting only a thin layer of mulch in place. Add mulch 2"-4" deep to shade out weeds and preserve soil moisture.



PARK STRIP MAINTENANCE

Localscapes Weed Control Recipe

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



PARK STRIP MAINTENANCE

Maintenance Mistakes

- Weed barrier fabric kills the soil.
- Only works on weeds temporarily.
- Decreases plant health.
- Should only be used under hardscape.





THE PARK STRIP PALETTE

PARK STRIP DESIGN

Foliage- The Designer's Secret



PARK STRIP DESIGN

Repeat plants/color to create order



A photograph of a garden bed. The bed is filled with light-colored gravel and several large, reddish-brown rocks. In the foreground, there are several clumps of daylilies with long green leaves and flowers in shades of orange, yellow, and purple. A concrete curb is visible on the left side of the frame. In the background, there are green trees and a building with large windows.

FULL-SUN FAVORITES

Sundancer Daisy

Tetranneuris acaulis

- Super blooming Utah native (April-November)
- 7-9" Tall
- Tidy mat of green foliage



Chocolate Flower

Berlandiera lyrata

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



Firecracker Penstemon

Penstemon eatonii

- Utah native
- Late spring bloomer (late May-June)
- 2 feet tall x 2 feet wide



Mexican Hat

Ratibida columnifera

- Low maintenance/high impact
- 2 feet tall by 2 feet wide



Rondo Penstemon

Penstemon barbatus 'Rondo'

- Beautiful mix of colors
- 2 feet tall x 1 foot wide
- Many other penstemons will work too



Fire Chalice

Zauschneria californica

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



Hummingbird Mint

Agastache spp.

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



Catmint

Nepeta spp.

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



Blue Oat Grass

Helictotrichon sempervirens

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



A photograph of a suburban street scene. In the background, a house with a white garage door and large windows is visible. A concrete sidewalk runs along the front of the property. A large tree trunk is on the left. In the foreground, there is a concrete curb and a grassy area with several bushes of pink and purple flowers. A semi-transparent text box with a brown border is centered over the image.

SHADE FAVORITES

Sedge

Carex spp.

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



Kinnikinnik

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

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



Dead Nettle

Lamium spp.

- Fantastic foliage option
- 8 inches tall x 2 feet wide
- Pink, purple or white flowers



Hardy Geranium

Geranium spp.

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



Plumbago

Ceratostigma plumbaginoides

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





TREES FOR PARK STRIPS

Golden Rain Tree

Koelreuteria paniculata

- Interesting yellow flowers and pods
- Salt tolerant
- 20-30 feet tall and wide



Little Leaf Linden

Tilia cordata

- Thick, dense leaf cover
- Tear-drop natural shape
- 40 feet tall x 30 feet wide
- Not for use under utility lines



Common Hackberry

Celtis occidentalis

- Irregular shape
- Salt tolerant
- 50 feet tall x 30 feet wide
- Not for use under utility lines



City Sprite[®] Zelkova

Zelkova serrata CITY SPRITE

- Very little tree “litter”
- 25 feet tall x 20 feet 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 feet tall x 20 feet wide
- Smaller tree to use under utility lines



Spring Snow Crabapple

Malus x 'Spring Snow'

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





PARK STRIP INSPIRATION

DISTRICT PARK STRIP



DISTRICT PARK STRIP















AFTER ONE GROWING SEASON



Fall
2016



Summer
2017

PARK STRIP EXAMPLES

Simple design with trees & one plant type



PARK STRIP EXAMPLES

Low-density with junipers, grasses & bulbs



PARK STRIP GROUNDCOVERS

Barberry + Sedum



Mixed Sedums



Creeping Thyme



LUSHLY-PLANTED PARK STRIPS

Color-themed herbs



Foliage & accent



Herbs & perennials



THE PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE

Dramatically different user experiences



NEXT STEPS

Learn with Us!

- Free classes
- Visit the Garden for ideas:
2837 E. Highway 193
Layton, Ut.
- Visit our website or the
Localscapes website for info
and free ideas!

Weberbasin.com



Easy PARKSTRIP PAIRINGS

Low-Maintenance Parkstrip Idea

If you're looking for a simple parkstrip design that looks good even in the winter, here's a straightforward solution.

We recommend a variegated form of Yucca, like 'Bright Edge' as it adds extra color, is smaller in stature and decidedly less "pokey".

