

HOW TO CREATE A XERISCAPE LANDSCAPE PLAN

A Simple Step-by-Step Method Using Google Earth Satellite Image

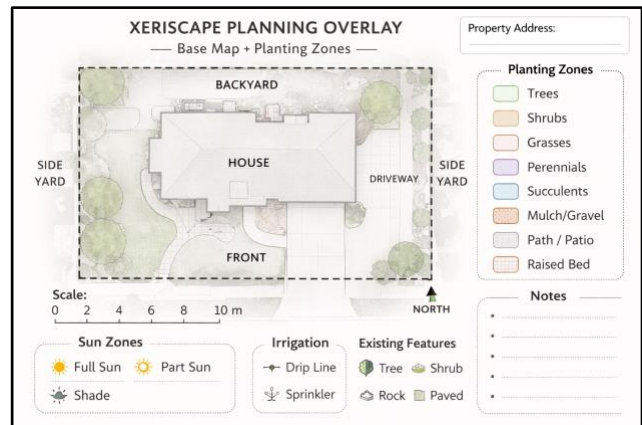
What You Need

- Printed satellite image – Print a satellite image of your yard from Google Maps or Google Earth that clearly shows your house, driveway, and property boundaries. (See pdf called ‘**How to Use Google Earth to Create a Landscape Plan base layer**’ for instructions)
- 2–3 sheets of tracing paper (for Overlays 1, 2, 3)
- Pencil and eraser
- Pencil crayons (optional)
- Ruler



STEP 1 – SITE ANALYSIS (OVERLAY #1)

- **Mark existing conditions before designing:**
 - Sun exposure (S, W, E, N arrows)
 - Deep shade areas
 - Existing trees and large shrubs
 - Slope direction (arrows downhill)
 - Drainage paths
 - Wind exposure areas
 - Irrigation lines (if known)
- Observe first. Do not design yet.



STEP 2 – HYDROZONING (OVERLAY #2)

**Hydrozoning means grouping plants together that have similar water needs.*

- **Divide the landscape into water-use zones:**
 - Zone 1 – Low Water: Native and drought-tolerant plants, mulched beds, drip irrigation.
 - Zone 2 – Moderate Water: Mixed shrubs and perennials with limited irrigation.
 - Zone 3 – Higher Water: Functional turf or edible gardens.
 - Draw soft, organic shapes. Group plants by water need and minimize turf areas.

STEP 3 – PLANT PLACEMENT (OVERLAY #3)

- **Design from largest to smallest:**
 - Trees
 - Shrubs
 - Grasses and perennials
 - Groundcover
 - Mulch and hardscape (paths, patios, rock areas)

Design for mature size and long-term maintenance.
- **Design Reminders**
 - Site assessment comes before plant selection.
 - Group plants by water need (hydrozoning).
 - Reduce turf to functional areas only.
 - Use mulch to retain soil moisture.
 - Consider FireSmart spacing and maintenance.
- **Optional Colour Coding**
 - Low Water Zone – Light Yellow
 - Moderate Water – Light Green
 - Higher Water – Light Blue
 - Mulch – Brown
 - Hardscape – Grey

Keep colour light so base map remains visible.

- **Xeriscape Symbol Legend**

- Use consistent, minimal symbols. Avoid artistic drawing — clarity matters more.

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| ○ | Deciduous Tree | //// | Mulch |
| ● | Evergreen Tree | Irregular Shapes | Rock / Gravel |
| Cloud Shape | Shrub | ≈≈≈ | Turf |
| * | Ornamental Grass | - - - - | Drip Irrigation Line |
| ••• | Perennials | ↓ | Slope Direction |
| | Groundcover | | |