

# XERISCAPE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

## Program Steps and Requirements

### 🌱 Complete XIP Basics Training 🌱

XIP Basics Training is required to participate in the program. Similar classes offered elsewhere are NOT approved for participation in the program. Trainings are held in the spring and fall. Dates can be found at [fcgov.com/xip](http://fcgov.com/xip).

### 🟠 Confirm Eligibility 🟠

- To participate in the Xeriscape Incentive Program (XIP) and receive a rebate:
  - ✓ Projects must be installed at a [Fort Collins Utilities residential water service address](#).
  - ✓ Project area and plan must be approved by program administrators prior to installation. There will be no retroactive rebates on projects completed outside of the program.
- Areas eligible for renovating include well-established, high-water use areas, like traditional grass **OR** new construction yet to be landscaped and built within 18 months of design submittal (will be verified by submitted before photos). Existing properties must have verifiable outdoor water use, subject to a water history check by Utilities.
- Renovation area must measure 300 square feet or greater.
- Rebate amount is based on total area formally considered “high-water use” converted to low-water use area, up to 1,000 square feet.
- A sprinkler system is not required for participation.
- For renovations in the front yard, total front yard must have a minimum of 50% plant coverage at plant maturity.
- Examples of common eligible landscape elements and areas that replace high-water use landscape include but are not limited to:
  - ✓ Permeable patios, walkways and paths
  - ✓ Shrub and perennial beds
  - ✓ Berms
  - ✓ Rain gardens
  - ✓ Native or other low-water turf types
- The following materials will not be considered eligible square footage for the rebate:
  - × Vegetable and other annual plantings
  - × Raised and/or container beds
  - × Impermeable concrete
  - × Water features/fountains
  - × Trees
  - × Artificial turf

### 🔹 Enroll in the Program 🔹

- An enrollment link will be emailed directly to XIP Basics Training attendees following confirmed attendance. Enrollment requires:
  - ✓ Utilities account number
  - ✓ Two “before” photos of renovation area
  - ✓ Estimated area in square feet
- Before photos must be taken within the last 12 months during active growth season. They may not be from sources such as the MLS or Google Maps/Earth. They must be in color and include a wide view of the property and area(s) proposed for renovation.

### 🌱 Submit Design Package 🌱

- Complete Design Packages must be submitted to [xeriscape@fcgov.com](mailto:xeriscape@fcgov.com) by session deadlines listed on the XIP website. A complete design package includes:
  1. [Design Proposal form](#) (link located on XIP website)
  2. Landscape Plan
  3. Plant List
  4. Irrigation Plan
- Prior to submitting a Design Package, participants may choose to schedule 30-minute virtual meetings with staff for help with irrigation design, landscape design and native plant selection. Participants must bring in-progress irrigation and landscape designs. Meetings must be scheduled through the [XIP website](#).

## 🌱 Native Bonus 🌱

- Projects with 80% or more plants native to Colorado are eligible for additional \$0.25/square foot for a total of \$1 per square foot up to 1,000 square feet (\$1,000 maximum rebate).
- Native bonus eligibility is determined at design package review and approval. Eligible native bonus renovation areas must have a minimum of 50% plant coverage at maturity, regardless of front vs. backyard.

## 🌳 Install Landscape 🌳

- Plan your participation based on the seasonal timelines outlined on the [XIP website](#).
- Design Package must be approved by Utilities before installation.
- Participants may choose to phase project installation over several years. The participant may be eligible for a rebate each year for each new area of installation. Each installation phase must occur within the rebate year.
- Have utility lines located for free prior to starting a project. Request line locates at [Co811.org](#)
- By City ordinance, [soil amendments are required](#) for areas that are disturbed or cleared and planned to hold plants or grass.
- Participants unable to complete installations in the current program year can request a maximum of one 1-year extension per participant per address. Email [xeriscape@fcgov.com](mailto:xeriscape@fcgov.com) to request an extension.

## 📅 Schedule an Inspection 📅

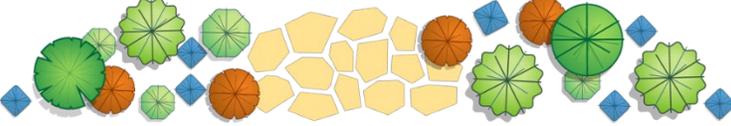
- After the approved design is installed, participants must sign up for an inspection with Utilities staff. Inspection times are available May through Oct. of each program year. Schedule an inspection via the [XIP website](#) or find the link in your plan approval email.
- Work must be complete prior to the inspection and participants must be present.
- Inspections are approximately 30 minutes and consist of landscape and plant material inspection, irrigation inspection, final measurements and “after” pictures. A final rebate is based on the measurement of total area of converted landscape. Final measurement is determined at time of inspection.

## 🌱 Submit Complete Rebate Application and Receive Rebate 🌱

- The rebate rate is \$0.75 per square foot of eligible area, up to 1,000 square feet per year, per address (\$750 maximum). Projects approved for the Native Bonus will receive additional \$0.25/square foot for a total of \$1 per square foot (\$1,000 maximum rebate). Rebate will be applied as a utility bill credit.
- A complete rebate application, which includes the [application form](#), [W9 form](#), [notarized soil certificate](#) and all project receipts, must be turned in within 30 days of inspection.
- Soil amendments and a notarized soil certificate are required **UNLESS** a Soil Test Report shows soil does not need amendment. A Soil Test Report is not otherwise required.
- A rebate cannot exceed project costs.
- Utilities reserves the right to deny a rebate if inspection reveals the landscape has not been installed properly or does not match the approved design package.
- In conjunction with the XIP Rebate, participants may also apply for Sprinkler Equipment Rebates if eligible equipment is installed. Receipts are required.

## Questions?

Visit [fcgov.com/xip](http://fcgov.com/xip) for more information.  
Contact Xeriscape Program Manager Katie Collins  
970-413-3775 • [xeriscape@fcgov.com](mailto:xeriscape@fcgov.com)



# XERISCAPE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

## Design Package Guidelines

### Design Package Requirements

- Email complete packages to [xeriscape@fcgov.com](mailto:xeriscape@fcgov.com) by your session deadline.
- A complete design package includes:
  1. Design Proposal form
  2. Landscape Plan
  3. Plant List
  4. Irrigation Plan (if applicable)
- Include description of phasing (if applicable)
- Only complete Design Packages will be reviewed
- Staff review takes approximately 1 week

#### 1. Design Proposal Form

- Find online form at: <https://form.jotform.us/70716305629154>
- Must have your Utilities account number
- Fill it out when design is nearly complete

#### 2. Landscape Plan (See Figure 1)

Required elements:

- ✓ Must be to scale
- ✓ Name, address date, north arrow
- ✓ Legend that includes plants
- ✓ Location of new and old landscape material
  - Plants, drawn to mature size
  - Edging, type
  - Mulch, type

Reminder:

- Hydrozone: Group plants with similar water requirements
- Edging is required between grass and other areas

#### 3. Plant List (See Figure 2)

Required elements:

- ✓ Plant quantity
- ✓ Symbol on the plan
- ✓ Scientific/botanical name
- ✓ Common name
- ✓ Hydrozone (VL, L, M)
- ✓ Mature Spread
- ✓ Mature Height
- ✓ Exposure (Sun, Part Sun, Shade)

Reminder:

- Use “Participant Plant List” in [XIP Plant List Spreadsheet](#) as a template.
- [City Recommended Plant List](#) is a great resource to choose plants

#### 4. Irrigation Plan (See Figure 3)

Required elements:

- ✓ Name, address, date, north arrow, legend
- ✓ Existing equipment including:
  - Irrigation controller
  - Backflow device
  - Existing sprinkler equipment type and layout
  - Proposed sprinkler equipment type and layout
- ✓ Method and/or location of retrofit(s)

Reminder:

- Irrigation must be appropriately fitted to new landscape
- No overhead sprays in shrub beds
- Water new and mature trees
- Hydrozone: Group plants with similar water requirements
- NO mixed equipment

### Questions?

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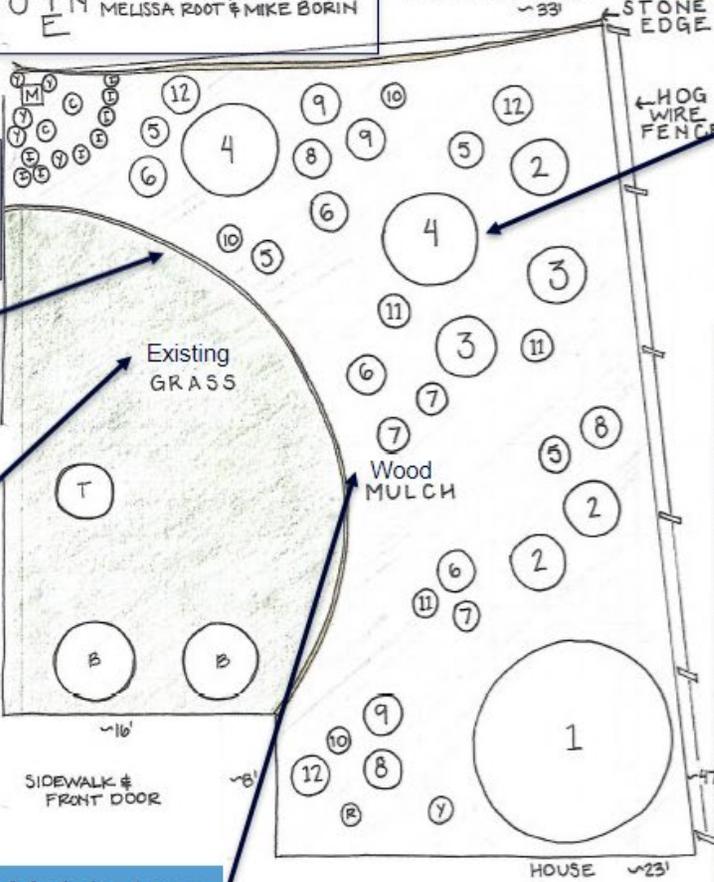
Name, Address, north arrow

1234 Address Dr  
 S W N  
 FORT COLLINS, CO 80526  
 MELISSA ROOT & MIKE BORIN

Scale



Edging, type



Mature size of plants drawn to scale

Legend

- 1 - *Ribes aureum* - Golden Currant
  - 2 - *Yucca glauca* - Great Plains Yucca
  - 3 - *Schizachyrium scoparium* - Little Blue Stem Grass
  - 4 - *Prunus besseyi* - Pawnee Butte Sandy Cherry
  - 5 - *Gaillardia aristata* - Blanket Flower
  - 6 - *Penstemon secundiflorus* - Pike's Peak Purple - Pike's Peak Purple Penstemon
  - 7 - *Liatris punctata* - Dotted Gayfeather
  - 8 - *Ratibida columnifera pulcherrima* - Mexican Hats
  - 9 - *Artemisia frigida* - Fringed Sage
  - 10 - *Sphaeralcea coccinea* - Prairie Mallow
  - 11 - *Delphinium geyeri* - Geyer Larkspur
  - 12 - *Sedum acre* - Goldmoss
- Existing Plants
- T - Tree: Crab Apple Tree
  - B - Bush: Honeysuckle??
  - I - Iris
  - C - Candytuft
  - R - Rose
  - Y - Yucca (not sure which variety- not *Yucca glauca* though)
  - M - Mail Box

Existing materials to remain

Mulch, type

Figure 1 - Landscape Plan Example

Required Plant Information								Optional Information				
Total quantity in plan	Identifying symbol on plan	Botanical Name	Common Name	Hydrozone	Mature spread	Mature height	Exposure	Bloom time/season	Bloom color	Plant Select	Notes	Website
1	O	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> 'PWY01S'	Cheyenne Mockorange	L	6'	6'	FS	early summer	white	yes		
3	Ch	<i>Prunus besseyi</i> Pawnee Buttes	Pawnee Buttes Sand Cherry	L	5	1.5	FS/PS	late spring	white	yes		
3	M	<i>Pinus mugo</i> (dwarf var.)	Dwarf Mugo Pine	L	varies		FS/PS	insignificant				
4	K	<i>Calamagrostis brachytricha</i>	Korean Feather Reed Grass	L	2	3	FS/PS	yes				
6	B	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> 'Blonde Ambition'	Blonde Ambition	VL	2	2	FS/PS	yes				
3	F	<i>Festuca</i> (spp. ovina, glauca & var.)	Blue Fescue	L	1	1	FS					
8	S	<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-In-Summer	L	1.5	1	FS	spring to summer	white			
2	H	<i>Zauschneria garrettii</i>	Orange Carpet California Fuchsia	L	2	<1	FS	late summer to fall	orange	yes		
9	V	<i>Verbena bipinnatifida</i>	Native Verbena	L	1.5	<1	FS	summer	purple	yes		
9	D	<i>Anthemis marschalliana</i>	Filligree daisy	L	1	1	FS/PS	summer	yellow	yes		
6	A	<i>Osteospermum</i> 'Avalanche'	Avalanche White Sun Daisy	L	2	1	FS/PS	spring to fall	white	yes		
7	T	<i>Nepeta x</i> Little Trudy	Little Trudy Catmint	L	2	1	FS	summer	lavender	Yes		
17	P	<i>Penstemon x mexicali</i> Pikes Peak Purple	Pike's Peak Purple Penstemon	L	1	1	FS/PS	spring to summer	purple	yes		
4	E	<i>Engelmannia peristenia</i>	Engelmann's daisy	L	2	2	FS	spring to summer	yellow	yes		
12	C	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> & var.	Coneflower	L-M	1.5	2	FS	summer	varies: purple, pink, white, orange, red			
8	L	<i>Papaver orientale</i>	Oriental Poppy	L	2	varies	FS	late spring to early summer	varies: red, orange, pink, white			

Figure 2 - Plant List Example

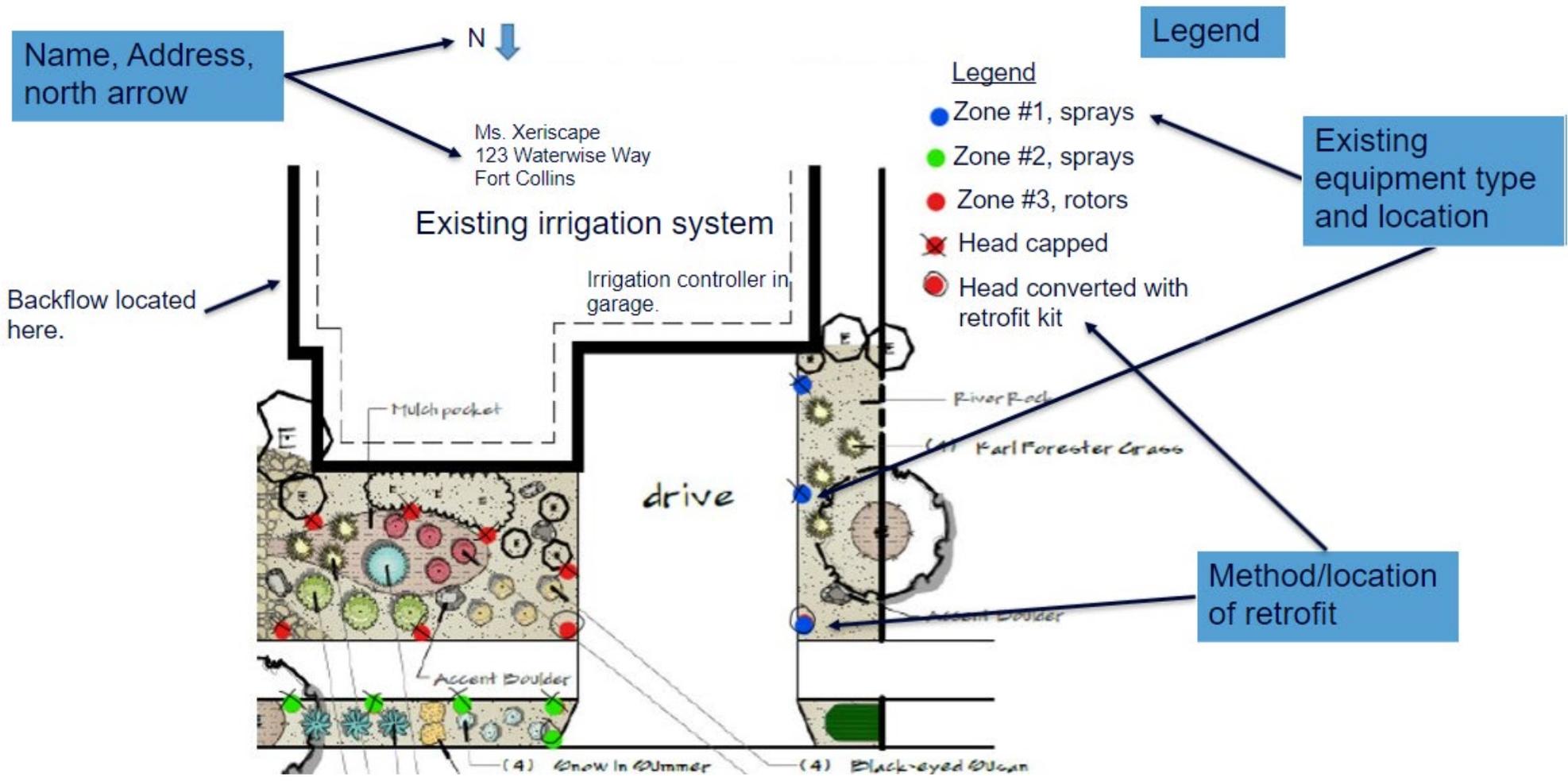


Figure 3 - Irrigation Plan Example