University of Utah

Best Practices for a Water-Wise Landscape



SET CLEAR GOALS U of U GOALS:

- 1. Create beautiful and functional landscapes.
- 2. Protect the campus arboretum.
- 3. Place sod only where it will be used and enhance the student experience.
- 4. Carefully monitor water use to assure resource preservation.
- 5. Use efficient maintenance practices.



GATHER AND EVALUATE DATA U of U EVALUATION:

<u>Audit Landscape</u> <u>Materials and Systems:</u>

- Determine where sod to be replaced with alternative plant material
- Audit the irrigation system to better understanding its inefficiencies
- Locate hydrozoning opportunities (see below for details)

<u>Support Student-Run</u> <u>Research Opportunities:</u>

- Study temperature gradients across different exterior materials to understand heat-island effect on campus
- Identify performance-measures for surface parking lots to determine appropriate locations for bioswales

Verify Via Field Observations:

- Less Water at Sage Point Meadow by letting Grass Grow Long and Amending Soil
- Less Water on Shrubs Compared to Grass at Mario Capecchi Sidewalk
- 75% Less Water on Shrubs Compared to Grass at Stadium South





FUND DATA AND VISION BASED PROJECTS U of U PROJECTS:

Hydrozoning - Group like-plantings such as trees, plant beds and turf, based on the plant's water needs and solar aspect on the same irrigation valve.

Sod Replacement/Removal - Where appropriate, replace sod with drought tolerant turf-grass species in areas other than sports fields, and remove any sod that is underutilized for passive recreation by the campus community.

<u>Irrigation System Improvements</u> - Replace dated irrigation infrastructure with efficient systems such as smart controllers, which optimize existing installations.



COMMUNICATE RESULTS

U of U COMMUNICATION CHANNELS:

@theU Newsletter

Temporary Signs in Landscape

Campus Planning Website

