

## **Texas SmartScape™**

Texas SmartScape™ is a landscape program crafted to be "smart" for Texas. Based on water-efficient landscape principles, it promotes the use of plants suited to our region's soil, climate, and precipitation that don't require much—if any—additional irrigation, pesticides, fertilizer, or herbicides to thrive. The two main goals of the program are to improve stormwater runoff quality and conserve local water supplies.

Many common landscaping practices can result in wasted water through inefficient irrigation practices. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), nearly one-third of all residential water use goes to watering landscape irrigation. Furthermore, the EPA notes that experts estimate that as much as 50 percent of water used for irrigation is wasted due to evaporation, wind, and runoff caused by inefficient irrigation methods and systems.

The Texas SmartScape website ([www.TXSmartScape.com](http://www.TXSmartScape.com)) includes:

- Information on the ecological, economic, and aesthetic benefits of the program.
- Information about landscape best management practices such as drip irrigation, mulching, and composting.
- Design tools such as steps to take in design layout and how to incorporate drainage considerations.
- A searchable plant database that includes more than 350 perennials, groundcover, turf grass, shrubs, vines, and trees that will thrive in North Central Texas.

*Information from [www.nctcog.org/envir](http://www.nctcog.org/envir).*