



Landscape for where you live.

An
Introductory
Guide

to an innovative,
practical landscape
designed for Utah.



Localscapes.com

Free resources & training for Utah homeowners.



Before
Typical Utah Landscape



A Utah Localscape
After

Why Localscapes®?

Utah is different—Our weather, precipitation, climate, and even culture are unique from other parts of the country. So it only makes sense that in order to grow right, our landscapes need to be different too. That is why Localscapes® came about—a landscaping approach to help Utah homeowners “localize” their yards and create outdoor spaces that work in harmony with our diverse climates.

Throughout most of Utah, we have fierce winters, hot and dry summers, and sometimes salty secondary water. Localscapes consider each of these factors, plus other unique Utah challenges, in the way it approaches landscaping for Utah—and a Localscape is totally customizable to meet your needs.

The premise is straight-forward: following five simple steps, you can have a landscape that works for you . . . and thrives anywhere in Utah.

Because Localscapes are designed with Utah in mind, they not only improve the curb appeal of your home, but also increase the functionality of your yard, simplify your irrigation, use water efficiently, and requires less maintenance. Localscapes are **landscapes for Utah.**

- Designed for Utah
- Better functionality
- Less maintenance
- Enhanced curb appeal
- Lower water bill
- Simpler irrigation
- Phased installation



FAQS

about localizing
your landscape.

Is a Localscape expensive?

What it costs is up to you. Localscapes can be scaled to meet any budget. If you want everything a Localscape has to offer but simply can't afford it, try installing one segment at a time. An easy way to start is in the park strip or side yard.

What if I like lawn?

Hey, we like lawn too! Lawn has a place in Localscapes, and in fact, becomes center stage. Now you can enjoy every square inch of your lawn—and your Saturdays too! Less mowing and edging each week leave you with more time to enjoy your yard.

Can I eliminate all lawn?

Yes. And it will still look amazing following our guide of design principles. If you want to go without lawn, use concrete, flagstone, gravel, etc. Consider adding an activity zone or gathering area instead. Your maintenance and water use will be even less.

Is it pet friendly? Of course. Pets will love the more diverse feel of your landscape. You can even create a pet activity zone, like a dog run, so your pet can have its own space outside.

How can it be lower maintenance if there are more planting beds and gathering areas?

Surprising as it seems, grass requires more maintenance than properly-planned and installed planter beds. And gathering areas require virtually no maintenance. Localscapes are lower maintenance by design: mulch and drip irrigation deter weeds, and weekly mowing is much faster. Weeding is typically once a month or less, instead of every week—but only if you follow the prescribed Localscapes weed control recipe. Find it at Localscapes.com.

What if I need help with my Localscape? You don't have to figure out what to do by yourself! You can find sample designs, classes, and tips to get you started at Localscapes.com.

Can my existing landscape be converted to a Localscape without redoing everything?

Yep, just follow the Localscapes installation process in reverse. You can even do it a little at a time.

What if I want something different in my Localscape?

Localscapes are completely customizable. These guidelines provide a process to help you design and customize your landscape to suit your taste while still reaping all the benefits.

Localscapes can be customized to fit any yard size, shape, or location. They can also be scaled to meet any budget. Whether you're preparing to install a new landscape, renovating an existing yard, or **just focusing on one project at a time,** Localscapes makes it possible for even those without professional training to create a design that is both attractive and functional.

Localscapes is a moderate approach to landscaping that works for Utah.

Localscapes®

Lawn-Dominant



Xeriscape

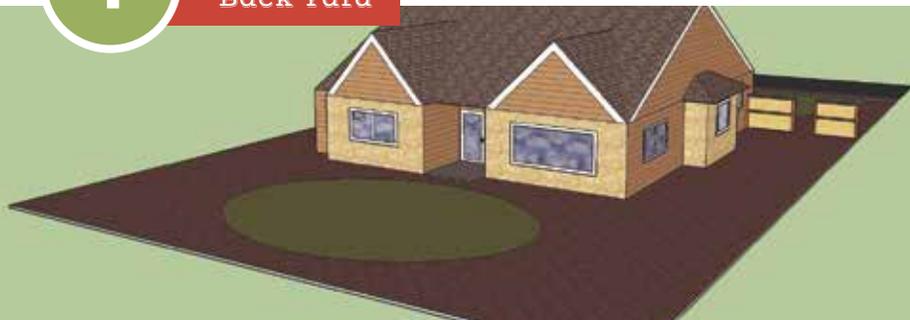


5 elements of a Localscape®

1

Central Open Shape

Back Yard



A central open shape creates a focal point that makes your landscape appear organized and well maintained. Without it, landscapes can seem chaotic or disorganized. On the flip side, if all you have in your landscape is grass or gravel, there's very little interest.

In Utah, we rely on sprinkler systems because we don't get much rain during the growing season. Keeping lawn in a central open shape allows your sprinklers to work efficiently, and doesn't force them to water oddly-shaped or positioned lawn areas. Lawn is best used on a flat surface—plant slopes with flowers and shrubs. With this design, all of your lawn is available for recreational use with only a single edge to trim and maintain. As a general rule, keep lawn out of park strips and side yards unless they are large enough to create a central open shape and are wider than 8 feet.

Your central open shape can be made of other materials like gravel, pavement, pavers, ground cover, or any low-lying, relatively flat material—especially if you want something even more water thrifty. In a lawnless landscape, gathering areas and activity zones, like a seating area or courtyard, can also function as the central open shape.

2

Gathering Areas



Gathering areas are fun spots in your landscape where you can gather with family and friends or sit by yourself for some quiet time. They can be any size or shape, and are a great reason to get out and enjoy your yard. Always wanted a fire pit? Design it in. Want a sun deck, even if there's no pool? Ok! Think gazebos, sitting areas, etc. Think they're not for you? You'll be surprised how easy it is to incorporate one or many into a Localscape, and how much aesthetic value they add to your landscape. Plus, because gathering areas have no lawn or plants, they require no water and virtually no maintenance.

3

Activity Zones



Whether you're a retiree wanting to spend more time gardening, someone who enjoys hosting get-togethers, or someone with a young family, a Localscape can accommodate your situation. Activity zones are spaces to recreate, and are as customizable as you are unique. They can range from playsets to vegetable gardens, horseshoe pits, sheds, sport courts, hot tubs, pools or trampolines—whatever your imagination and budget allow. And they all increase yard function while decreasing yard work. (No grass in activity zones, please—you'll thank us later when you don't have to mow around swings and trampolines.)

4 Paths



Think connectors. Now that you have all of these great ways to enjoy your yard, paths help you connect and explore your outdoor space. Using appropriate materials will reduce maintenance and give you plenty of options for traversing your yard.

Great options for paths include: stone, pavers, flagstone, or other textured surfaces. The one material paths should never be made of is grass. Narrow lawn strips are difficult to irrigate and require a lot of work to keep them contained. In contrast, paths can save you time and entice you and your family to enjoy yard areas you used to ignore.

5 Planting Beds



The final element of a Localscape is the planting beds. They fill in the areas after you plan your central open shape, gathering areas, activity zones, and paths. There are three important things you need to know about the plants you'll use:

1) Selection

For a Localscape, choose Utah-friendly plants. Plants that do well here tolerate temperature extremes, use minimal water, and will grow well in the plant "zone" where you live (check with your nursery for what hardiness zone you live in). Choosing the right plants means you'll save money and time because Utah-friendly plants will survive and thrive in your yard for 15, 20, 25 years!

Front Yard

Planting Beds cont'd.

2) Placement

Proper placement of plants in a Localscape provides shade, privacy, beauty, and efficiency. For example, grouping plants with similar water needs will optimize your water use. Planting trees strategically will shade your home in summer, reducing your cooling needs. Strategic plantings can also hide meter boxes, electrical boxes, or other unsightly elements in your yard. And because plants and grass areas are always separated in a Localscape, maintenance is decreased.

3) Irrigation

Irrigation in a Localscape is just as important as the plants you choose and its all about efficiency. The trick is to use drip irrigation in all planting beds, which gives each plant exactly the water it needs. Like a few thirstier plants? Group them together and water them appropriately and you'll still save significant amounts of water. Top everything off with 3 to 4 inches of mulch and you'll use less water, cultivate fewer weeds, and add a pretty "finish" to your planting beds.

1 Central Open Shape

A single open shape is created. May be lawn, groundcover or open gravel area.

Gathering Areas 2

"Hardscape" elements including: patios, seating areas, courtyards, and decks.

3 Activity Zones

These are dedicated use zones without lawn surfacing for activities, which are not as common in the front yard. The only example shown here is the shed in the side yard.

Paths 4

Connect the previous elements with pathways. Paths are never made from lawn but can be concrete, pavers, stone, compacted mulch.

5 Planting Beds

The remaining spaces become the planting beds. Always water planting beds with drip irrigation and cover with 3-4" of mulch for maximum weed reduction.



**How
do I get
started?**

Visit
Localscapes.com
for information about



Featuring hands-on classes where you'll learn how to proceed in your yard, step by step.

or to download **FREE** landscape designs and planting ideas.

Not ready for an entire makeover?

If you like the idea but aren't ready to makeover your entire yard, no problem! Localizing your yard can be accomplished in stages, as time and budget permit. Easy places to try it out are in your park strip, side yard, or by trying the "central open shape" idea with your lawn.

Flip Your Strip



Side Yard Swap



Shape the Lawn



Park Strips are a great place to start!

Check with your city and/or Homeowners Association for any codes or regulations before making changes to your park strip.

Irrigate park strips with drip systems rather than overhead spray to reduce weeds and water use.

Create pathways through the park strip to allow guests parked in front of your home to easily access the sidewalk.

Any plants in a park strip should be no more than 2-3 feet tall. Taller plants block views and impede safety, and can interfere with city maintenance.

Mulch used in park strips should be a heavy material, like gravel, so it doesn't drift into street drains.

To increase curb appeal, plant density should be at least 60 percent at maturity, not including tree canopies.

FREE pre-designed park strip plans are available for download at Localscapes.com