

### YOUR CONSTRUCTION

**DIY? - COSTS, KNOW-HOW AND TIME SHOULD FACTOR IN. AS NOTED - MOST FYI RECIPIENTS LEAVE THE PAVING WORK TO THE PROFESSIONALS AND SOME RECIPIENTS PLANT AND SEED THEIR YARDS ON THEIR OWN.**

**COST - FYI RECOMMENDS PLANNING TO SPEND AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO YOUR REIMBURSEMENT AT A MINIMUM. ESTIMATES RANGE FROM \$1,000 TO \$10,000. CONSIDER LEAVING THE CONCRETE REMOVAL AND ANY PAVING WORK TO THE PROFESSIONALS.**

**CONSTRUCTION BARRIERS - DON'T FORGET TO LOOK UP AND DOWN! NOTE ANY WATER VALVES OR SEWER LINES IN YOUR YARD AND BE AWARE OF ANY POWER LINES OVERHEAD. EACH CAN AFFECT PLANT SELECTION AND LAYOUT. CALL BEFORE YOU DIG (DIAL 8-1-1) AND LEAVE SIDEWALKS SAFE & ADA ACCESSIBLE.**

low cost \$  
mid-cost \$\$  
major project \$\$\$

can plant a shrub  
Diver  
construction experience

power  
water  
gas

### YOUR LIFESTYLE

**ACTIVITY / PRIVACY - SOME PLANTING STRATEGIES CAN PROVIDE PHYSICAL AND VISUAL BARRIERS TO YOUR PROPERTY. HOWEVER SOME OWNERS MAY WANT TO ENCOURAGE MORE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY WITH MORE OPEN SPACES FOR SEATING AND GATHERING. DESIGN TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR PREFERENCES.**

private  
social

attract wildlife  
produce food  
provide flowers

lemonade sipper  
weekend warrior  
master gardener

**FUNCTION - DO YOU WANT TO SEE POLLINATORS, A SEA OF FLOWERS, A CITRUS TREE OR A SIMPLE GREEN YARD OUT YOUR WINDOW? YOUR PLANT SELECTION WILL DETERMINE HOW YOUR YARD WILL FUNCTION.**

**MAINTENANCE - ARE YOU A GREEN THUMB WITH TIME ON YOUR HANDS, A PLANT-IT-AND-FORGET-IT TYPE, OR SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN? CONSIDER THIS WHEN SELECTING PLANTS.**

### YOUR YARD

**YARD SIZE - LARGER LOTS CAN ACCOMMODATE LARGER TREES AND SHRUBS WHILE MEDIUM AND SMALLER YARDS MAY RELY MORE ON GRASSES, GROUND COVER, AND SMALL SHRUBS.**

large  
medium  
small

sunny  
partial sun  
shady

**SUN EXPOSURE - NOTE THE DIRECTION YOUR LOT FACES AND ANY EXISTING TREES OR STRUCTURES PROVIDING SHADE. SELECT APPROPRIATE PLANTINGS FOR SUNNY, PARTIALLY SUNNY OR SHADY CONDITIONS.**

**FLOODING - DO YOU CURRENTLY HAVE A LOT OF STANDING WATER DURING AND AFTER STORMS OR A LITTLE? THIS CAN HELP YOU DECIDE ON FLOOD TOLERANT PLANTING AND THE LEVEL OF PERVIOUSNESS AND WATER STORAGE NEEDED IN ANY NEW PROJECT.**

a little water, I can still wear tennis shoes  
best put on rubber boots  
up to my ankles

Review the design considerations below then choose the levels that apply to you in each category. Then open this booklet to choose design elements that match your selections to help design your new yard. Remember - these are only meant as a guide - cost, maintenance and other considerations will vary by project.

## THE FRONT YARD INITIATIVE HOMEOWNER TOOLKIT

This toolkit will get you on your way to a greener yard and less flood-prone city. If you have questions about the information, run into difficulties, or need help finding a service provider, contact us and we will be happy to help.

The Urban Conservancy provides this toolkit for informational purposes only and property owners should engage in due diligence before entering into a contractual relationship with vendors or service providers. Before you complete the application for the Front Yard Initiative program, read, understand, and accept the Front Yard Initiative's Terms and Conditions, the Process Guidelines and the Design Requirements.



**FRONT YARD INITIATIVE**

# HOMEOWNER TOOLKIT

A GUIDE TO HELP YOU GO FROM GRAY TO GREEN

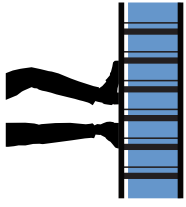
[www.urbanconservancy.org](http://www.urbanconservancy.org)

# TOOL KIT

After reviewing the design considerations, use the design features below as a starting point to design your new yard.

## STORMWATER RETENTION

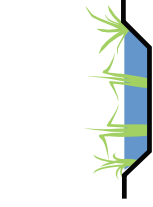
IF YOU HAVE ISSUES WITH FLOODING IN YOUR YARD OR STREET, THESE SOLUTIONS HELP TO REDUCE THE LOAD ON BOTH YOUR PROPERTY AND THE CITY'S STORMWATER SYSTEM.



### UNDERGROUND STORAGE



Suspended pavement systems allow for large volumes of water to infiltrate below the hardscape and provide ample stormwater management. A cistern offers similar characteristics.



### RAIN GARDEN



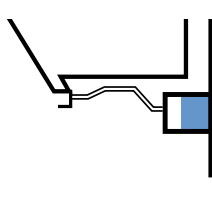
A rain garden is a shallow planted depression with deep rooted native plants. Maintenance includes mulching and plant care and they are better for larger areas as typical garden sizes are 100+ SF. Plantings help further hold and filter stormwater.



### PLANTER BOX



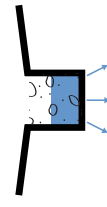
Raised planter boxes can be moved from place to place. They can also be tied into downspouts to store rainwater with water-loving plants.



### RAIN BARREL



A Rain Barrel is a tank used to collect and store rainwater. It reduces flooding and provides water for landscape use. They are great for nearly any size area and are located close to downspouts. Note that they do require some regular sediment removal and cleaning. Typically 24" diameter - for larger needs, consider a cistern.



### INFILTRATION TRENCH



An infiltration trench filled with gravel helps clean stormwater before it reaches the city sewer while allowing a substantial amount to more slowly percolate into the soil.



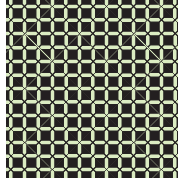
### SWALE



A swale is a marshy depression to catch detain rainwater. It is a relatively low maintenance solution and offers ample stormwater holding.

## PERMEABLE PAVING

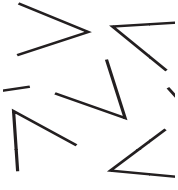
UNLIKE TYPICAL CONCRETE, PERMEABLE PAVING ALLOWS WATER TO PASS TO THE SOIL BELOW INSTEAD OF RUNNING OFF INTO THE STREET AND DIRECTLY INTO THE CITY STORM SEWERS. WHERE PAVING IS NEEDED - PERMEABLE IS PREFERRED AND CAN GENERALLY WORK IN SMALL, MEDIUM OR LARGE YARDS.



### GRASS CONCRETE PAVERS



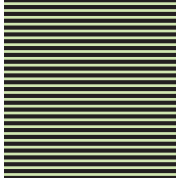
Grass concrete pavers have larger open areas than permeable paving but function similarly. They allow an even larger volume of water to percolate into the soil below.



### OPEN GRID PAVERS (TRUE GRID)



Open grid pavers with a plastic grid of open cells that can be filled with gravel / crushed stone / or grass are a great way to blend stormwater management and pathways / driveways. Maintenance is low though the system usually sits atop 6" - 12" of crushed stone.



### PERMEABLE PAVERS



Traditional stone or brick pavers set in a bed of sand (not mortar). One often can't tell between traditional and permeable paving however the open joints allow water to flow through to the ground below. For even better water storage, permeable paving can be used with a deep gravel bed.



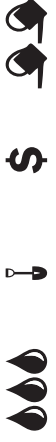
### GRAVEL



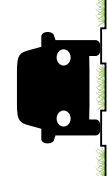
Gravel has the lowest cost and is a permeable solution. Since gravel shifts over time with walking and driving it will require occasional filling and re-grading. A variant is the plastic grid - a grid that increases cost but can decrease maintenance over time as it holds the gravel in place.



### STEPPING STONES



Stepping stones are an economical way to increase stormwater management on your site if a continuous walkway is not necessary.



### DRIVEWAY STRIPS

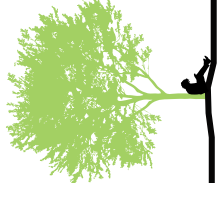


Driveway strips are a cost effective solution to a fully-paved driveway. Existing concrete can be partially removed and replaced with gravel or grass.

## PLANTING

THERE IS A WIDE VARIETY OF PLANTS TO CHOOSE FROM FOR YOUR PROJECT BUT A BIT OF RESEARCH WILL MAKE YOU WELL-VERSED TO TALK TO YOUR CONTRACTOR AND / OR NURSERY OWNER. NATIVE LOUISIANA PLANTS ARE OFTEN THE BEST CHOICE AND THE CATEGORIES BELOW WILL GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF THE BENEFITS OF DIFFERENT PLANT TYPES. FOR FURTHER INFO CHECK OUT THE "RESOURCES" TAB AT THE URBAN CONSERVANCY'S FYI PAGE.

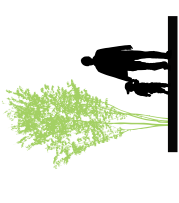
WWW.URBANCONSERVANCY.ORG/FYI/



### SHADE TREES



Larger trees provide overhead canopy and shade or gathering. They do require some space - above and below the ground. The large root system requires they not be placed near foundations. And of course - avoid planting them near overhead utility lines.



### SMALL TREES



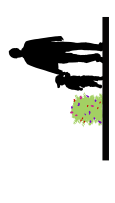
Small trees are a great addition to a yard where appropriate. They add height and visual interest in smaller spaces and can be used under utility lines. Some varieties flower or produce fruit as an added bonus to their stormwater mitigation potential.



### SHRUBS



Taller shrubs can provide privacy if selected with dense foliage. Smaller shrubs can create a border or provide visual interest and layering. Flowering and non-flowering varieties are available. Regular pruning is necessary for maintenance.



### PERENNIALS (ANNUALS)



Flowering plants typically need to be replaced every year (annuals). They are great for adding color and variety to a garden though they too will require some maintenance.



### GROUND COVER



Various varieties exist though they are usually an alternative to turf grass and often more hearty. Maintenance is low in comparison to other plantings (though some weeding will be in your future!). It's not great to walk on but can be good for filling in between stepping stones, driveway strips, and other small areas. Some varieties can survive in full shade under trees too.

**EXISTING YARD**

**NEW DESIGN**

<b>PROJECT INFO</b>	NAME _____	<b>NOTES</b>
	ADDRESS _____	
	DATE _____	