



A Participant's Guide to FYI

We can live here, but we have to learn to live with water.

While New Orleans is no stranger to regular flooding, our single approach to water management coupled with the spread of impervious surfaces has only increased the City's susceptibility to flooding from rain events. Regular deluges have become the new normal, leaving residents asking whether it's safe to live here. Since then, the Urban Conservancy has strived to not only educate our City's residents about the need to redefine our relationship with water but also connect them to the resources to create their own solutions to live with water/mitigate flooding.

Want more information about why stormwater management is so important for the future of New Orleans? Try these short videos:

[Managing Water in New Orleans- from Dana Brown & Associates](#)
[The Bowl- How New Orleans Became a "Bowl"](#)

Read steps you can take to mitigate flooding on your property:

[Five Simple Things Homeowners Can Do To Fight Flooding and Improve Drainage \(NOLA.com\)](#)

First Things First.

You've completed the first step of the FYI program, the Design Workshop. Now you're home and ready to work on your design. Where to start?!

Please make sure you have read and understand the [FYI Terms and Conditions](#).

Home Assessment

First, you need to know how water flows on your property. Check the forecast, is it going to rain soon? That would be a good day to observe how water flows on your property. For tips on how to assess your site, please see page 13 of [The Joy of Water](#). You can also review our [Homeowner Toolkit](#).

Pro Tips

Look to see where water pools. That might be a good spot for a rain garden.

Worried about water staying under your house? A French drain might be in order.

Have a downspout near your existing or future garden? Try a rain barrel. Green Light New Orleans will install an artist-painted rain barrel on a sliding scale. [Here's their application.](#)

It's all in the details: look for dirt washout on sidewalks to see how water is flowing. Moss growing indicates an area that stays wet for a long period of time.

Measure the Square Footage of Your Property

Square footage is the **length multiplied by the width** of the space you're measuring.

$$SF = L \times W$$

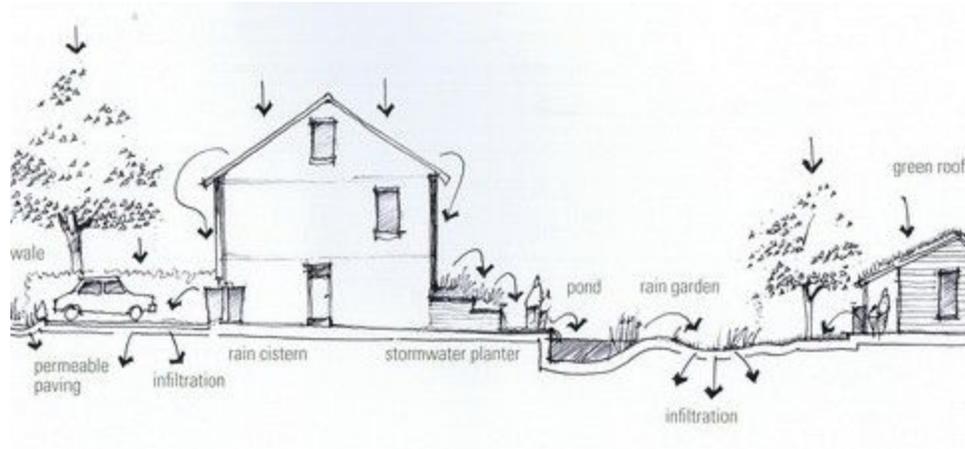
Draft Your Design

Now that you've measured your property, it's time to draft your vision! Using your graph paper, sketch how your property looks now on the *Existing Yard* graph. Sketch how you envision your yard looking with FYI on the *New Design* graph.

Need additional graph paper? [Click here!](#)

Looking for inspiration? Check out some of our previous FYI [design examples](#).

Questions? Feel free to call us at (504) 717-6187.



Elemental Design

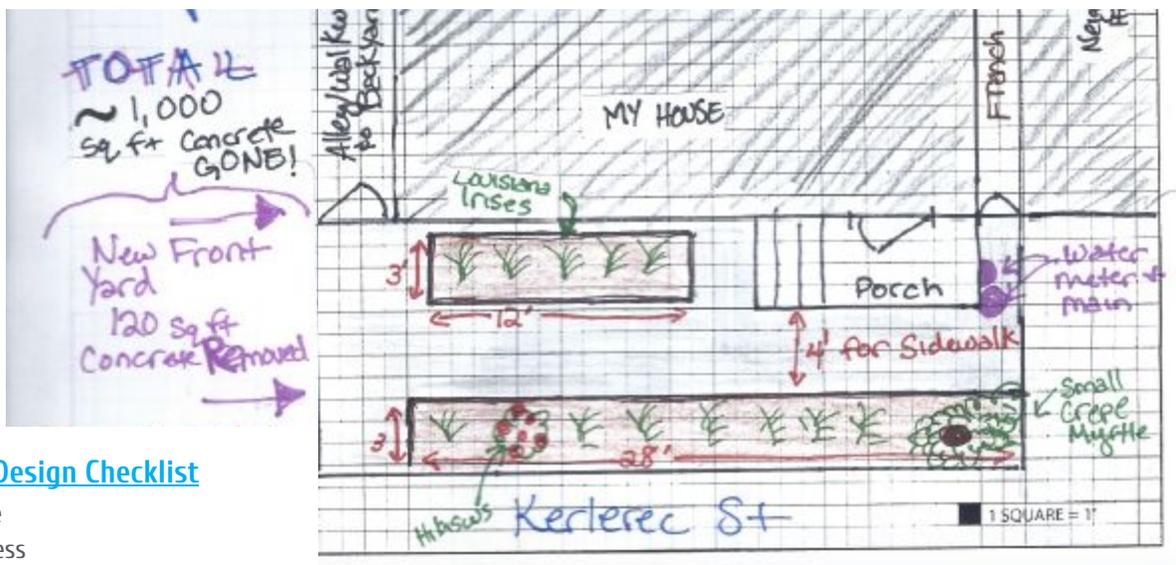
Before Design Submission

Feel free to review the [Design Presentation](#) from the FYI Workshop.

For our recommended native plant options, please take a look at the [FYI Plant List](#).

NOTE: You may **not** use cypress or hardwood mulch in your projects. It's made from needlessly cut down trees. Please use **pine straw mulch**, as it's a renewable resource.

Double Check for Completion



[FYI Design Checklist](#)

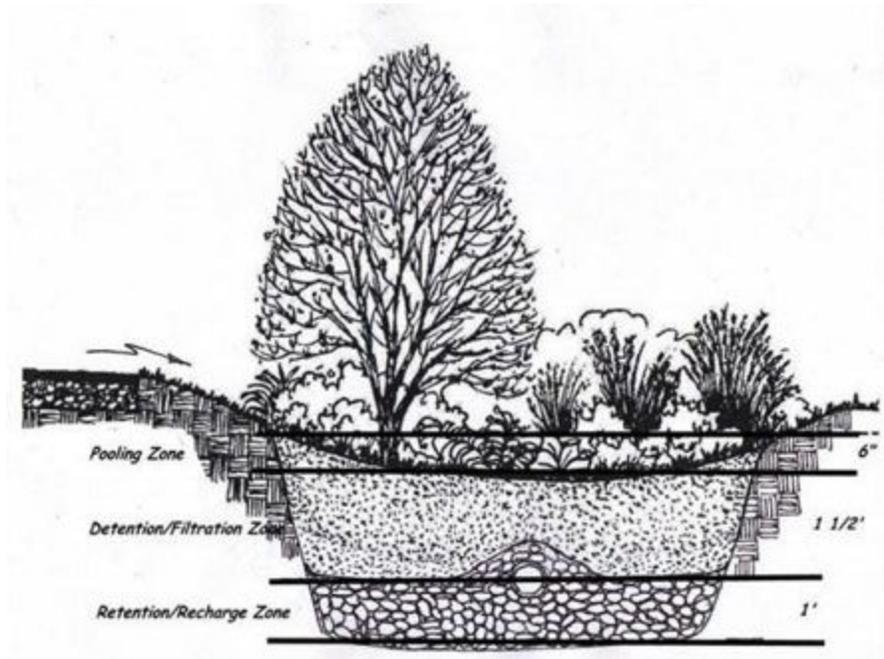
- Name
- Address
- Street frontages
- Plants labeled
- Materials labeled (gravel, pine straw mulch, grass, rain garden)
- Square footages indicated

Parks + Parkways, planting in the Public Right of Way

If you're planting a tree in the Public Right of Way (the area between the sidewalk and the street) you'll need to [get a permit](#) from Parks and Parkways. For more info on planting a tree in the PROW check out [P&P Tree Permitting Pamphlet](#).

See also their guide to [Choosing An Appropriate Tree](#) and some recommended [Design Standards for Plantings on Public Green Space](#).

Rain Garden Examples



Texaswater.edu

Rain Garden



www.midmeac.org

Before You Seek Bids

We've compiled this [Resource List](#) of trusted Green Sector Professionals for your use. Need advice on which contractor might be a good fit for your project? Email felice@urbanconservancy.org or call 504-717-6187

Before Construction

You or your contractor will dial [LA One Call](#) and [811](#) to identify underground utilities before you dig.

After FYI

Inspection

To ensure compliance, your FYI project may be picked for inspection.

After your project, we'll send you your reimbursement check and later, a 1099. It is the responsibility of the individual homeowner to consult a tax professional if there is any question about the proper reporting of FYI funds.

See an excessive paving violation? Report it [here](#).

Love your project? *Let us know if you're interested in sharing your story!*

Homeowner Story, Porch Party, or testimonial feature: email felice@urbanconservancy.org

Follow us on social media and look for your project to be featured!

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)