
Cathy
Spokas
Landscape
Architect

CITY OF SPOKANE



WATER WISE SPOKANE

Education and Outreach

Residential Efficiency Check Ups

Water Saving Rebates

Commercial Efficiency Assistance

SpokaneScape

WHAT IS SPOKANESCAPE?





SpokaneScape

The practice of replacing grass lawns with native and water wise plants to create an aesthetically pleasing landscape design that both saves water and enriches the local ecosystem.

CITY OF SPOKANE

SPOKANESCAPE


Before


SPOKANE
SCAPE
After


Before


SPOKANE
SCAPE
After

COMBINATION





SPOKANE SCAPE

Resources: Guidebook





WHY SPOKANESCAPE?

On average, Spokane uses 19 billion gallons of water every year and the majority of it goes towards our landscapes. The thing is, traditional grass lawns aren't built for our climate and they need frequent watering in order to survive. But there's a better way! By switching to SpokaneScape and planting native, water wise plants, we can save water where it matters most.

In addition to conserving water, SpokaneScape also brings life to your yard, creating colorful, vibrant habitats that support essential pollinators and local wildlife.

Let's grow beautiful, resilient landscapes that save water, support the environment, and thrive for generations to come!



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What's New in This Issue?

- **Updated Plant List:** Check out new trees added to the list as well as updated plant classifications! *P. 19*
- **Keystone Natives:** Looking to pick plants with the best ecological impact? Choose keystones! *P. 18*
- **Right Tree, Right Place:** What trees can you plant in your parking strip? Find out on page 9.
- **SpokaneScape 101:** Join us for a crash course to get started and tour the demo garden! *P.4*

Why Water Wise?

Pumping less water from the aquifer during summer months supports the health of the Spokane River when it needs it the most. Each time we use water is an opportunity to make a deliberate choice to use this precious resource responsibly.

SpokaneScape is...

a water-efficient landscape that has been designed for Spokane's high desert climate. A well-designed SpokaneScape will beautify your property, protect our natural resources, enhance the environment, and inevitably reduce maintenance.



High Sand Content Soil
Ball of soil falls apart when you open your hand.

Loamy Soil
Ball of soil holds its shape, but crumbles when you poke it lightly.

High Clay Content Soil
Holds its shape and does not crumble when you poke it lightly.

SOIL AMENDMENTS

Healthy soil grows healthy plants. Consider a soil test prior to choosing your amendments. The Spokane Conservation District and the Master Gardeners Plant Clinic are great local resources for soil testing.

The goal is to achieve healthy soil containing microbes which feed plants, improve soil drainage, and increase the natural water holding capacity of your soil with organic matter. **One pound of compost can hold up to four times its weight in water!** Compost is a common amendment and is highly recommended.

Many water-wise and native plants can be harmed by the wrong nutrients, so it's important to understand your plants' needs before adding any amendments.

GRADING

Grade your soil so it directs water away from your home. To help slow water run-off from your garden into the street, sewer systems, and other unwanted areas, consider creating small depressions where the water is allowed to pool and slowly percolate into the soil.

Consider installing a dry stream bed to create an attractive feature that slows and holds water on site during rain events.





IGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE

ng trees along our city's parking strips brings a range of benefits. Trees help improve air quality, manage water, reduce temperatures, minimize noise, and support local biodiversity–just to name a few.

TREET TREE CLASSIFICATIONS

y of Spokane's Street Tree program requires residents to choose specific trees for specific parking strip conditions. is a list by class of trees that will qualify for both the SpokaneScape program and the street tree program.

Class I
s used underneath power lines

Botanical Name Common Name	Size (w x h)
Acer glabrum Rocky Mtn. Maple	15' x 30'
Acer grisuem Paperbark Maple	20' x 30'
Amelanchier x grandiflora Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry	15' x 25'
Crataegus viridis Winter King	35' x 35'

Class II
Trees for parking strips 5-8ft wide

Class	Botanical Name Common Name	Size (w x h)
II	Catalpa speciosa Northern Catalpa	50' x 70'
II	Cladrastis kentukea Yellowwood	45' x 30'-50'
II	Ginkgo biloba Maidenhair Tree	40' x 40-60'
II	Gleditsia triacanthos Honeylocust	25-40' x 30-40'
II	Sorbus aucuparia European Mountain Ash	15' x 40'

Class III
Trees for parking strips over 8ft wide

Class	Botanical Name Common Name	Size (w x h)
III	Celtis occidentalis Hackberry Magnifica	50' x 50'
III	Gymnocladus dioicus Kentucky Coffee Tree	40-50' x 50-60'
III	Pinus ponderosa Ponderosa Pine	40' x 100'
III	Quercus coccinea Scarlet Oak	40-50' x 100'
III	Quercus macrocarpa Burr Oak	60-80' x 100'
III	Quercus robur English Oak	40' x 40'
III	Quercus rubra Northern Red Oak	75' x 75'
II	Tilia tomentosa Silver Linden	30-50' x 50-70'

City of Spokane **URBAN FORESTRY**

Visit Urban Forestry's website for more info about trees in your parking strip and permitting requirements.



GET FIRE-WISE

Often, the difference between saving your home in a wildfire and losing it depends on what you do to prepare your property before the flames arrive. The U.S. Forest Service calls it being Fire-Wise.

There are no "fire-proof" plants, however, choosing FIRE-RESISTANT vegetation, planting locations, and proper maintenance can greatly lessen your risk. To minimize fire danger, keep in mind plants' sizes at maturity, appropriate plant location, and make sure any mulch within 5ft of your home is rock mulch.

The **Fire-Resistant Plants for Eastern Washington** publication provides guidance to landscaping and examples of plant species to use. View the entire document by scanning the QR code.

for the Fire-Wise symbol in our plant list

ank you.



MULCHING TIPS FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT

Spread mulch 4"-6" thick across planting areas.

Make Mulch Donuts: Keep mulch a few inches away om stems and trunks by forming a 4" ring around lants and a 12" ring around trees to prevent rot.

Spread mulch by hand to avoid damaging plants nd ensure it's not too thick (because more isn't ways better).

Use gravel only for patios or pathways, not planting reas. Gravel fines provide the perfect combo of utrients and sunlight for weeds—yikes!

Groundcovers count as mulch if planted densely nough to provide full coverage at maturity.

Opt for heavier mulch in breezy spots to keep it from lowing away.

A generous layer of mulch means fewer weeds and ore time to sip lemonade instead of pulling weeds.



A: River rock stream bed in a low point for drainage. B: Great color contrast with a variety of mulch types. C: Large basalt rock paired with dark compost mulch. D: Crushed granite pathway with border makes for a great garden walkway. E: Mulch from GetChipDrop.com. F: Repurposed brick and bunch grasses make a nice addition to bark mulch.



GRASS REMOVAL

ere are multiple ways to remove your grass; the choice is yours. Keep any remaining lawn from reading into your new SpokaneScape beds by edging six inches deep around its perimeter and vering all exposed soil with 4"-6" of mulch.

I SHEET MULCHING

re are many benefits to using the et mulching method, especially u are converting a large area. efits include: minimizing labor, i waste, and the ability to plant mediately.

gin by removing several inches of ss and soil from the edges of your n areas. (See trench ging section below)

/et the lawn area e removed, cover ith a layer of thick in cardboard, and er again. If you want optimum the level weed suppresent, sider adding a second r of cardboard to the first n a thin layer of compost in ween.

3 Once you have your cardboard placed, saturate with water and cover with 4"-6" of your preferred mulch.

You can plant immediately but ideally you will allow several weeks for the soil microbes to decompose the lawn below, making the soil more ideal for plant use.

MECHANICAL STRIPPING

Sod strippers are available to rent at most hardware stores. Using a sod stripper to strip your lawn is not recommended around existing trees. Apply mulch immediately to prevent grass from resprouting.

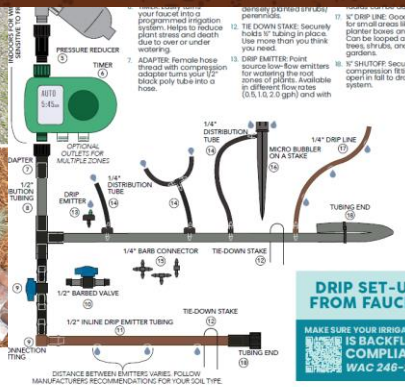
A CAUTIONARY TALE OF TILLING

If you choose to till, proceed with great caution. Do not till if you have existing trees in the area, including your neighbors' property, it will damage roots even beyond the canopy of the tree. Do not till on a slope as this may cause erosion, tilling stirs up weed seeds that were long buried, so be ready to place your mulch immediately.

ENCH GING

Along your hardscape, lawn and soil should be removed 6" and tapered a foot into the landscape. This creates a seat for your mulch to sit so that it doesn't sluff off into your hardscape (or existing landscape such as a neighbor's yard) and prevents weeds from growing on the edge.





DRIP SET-UP FROM FAUCET

MAKE SURE YOUR IRRIGATION IS BACKFLOW COMPLIANT WAC 246-290

Guidebook: SpokaneScape Plant List



- Trees
- Ornamental Trees
- Shrubs
- Groundcover
- Perennials
- Grasses

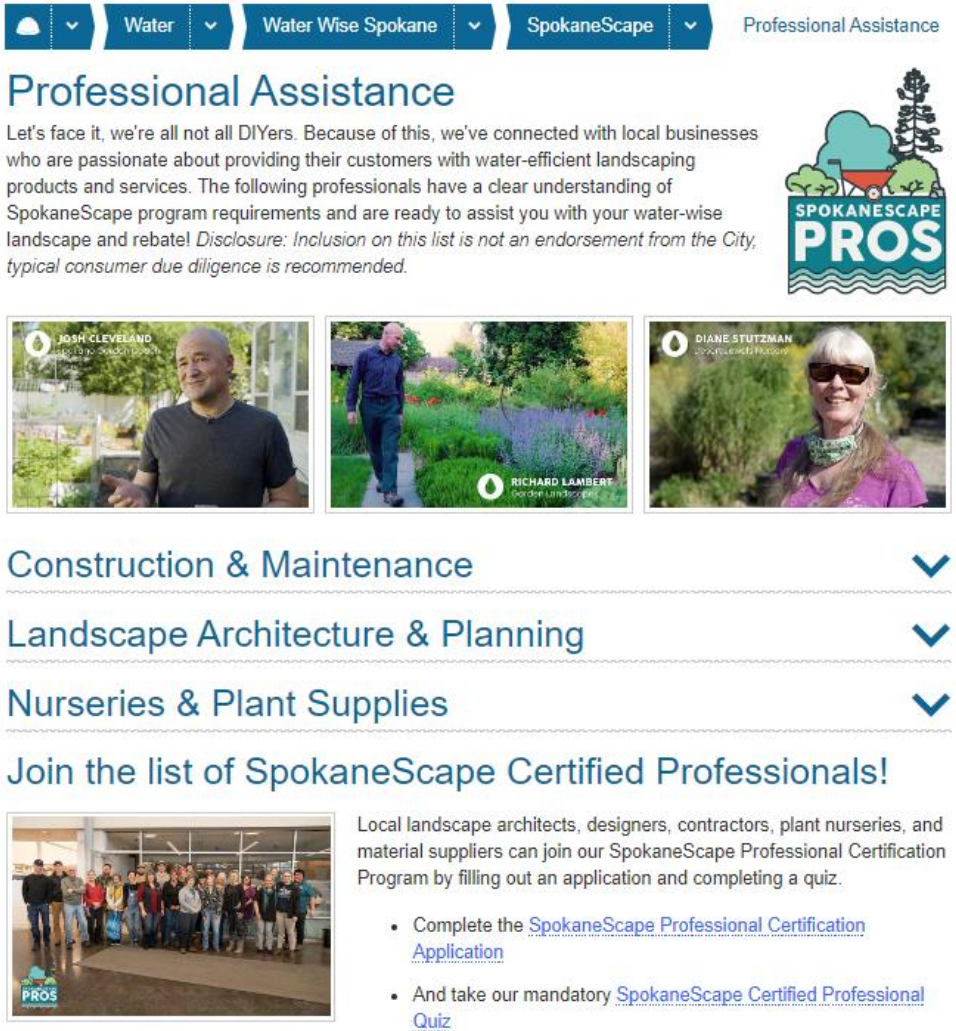
Guidebook: SpokaneScape Plant List



Resources: Professional Assistance







Resources: Designer at Your Door

Need Help Getting a Design Started?

Sign up for a one-hour FREE design consultation from an industry professional

DESIGNER AT YOUR DOOR

- **Goals:** discuss your landscape goals, style preferences, and any specific design features you want to incorporate.

- **Site Review:** microclimates, soil types, drainage, and existing plants and structures.

- **Design:** a conceptual SpokaneScape design, site plan, and plant list.



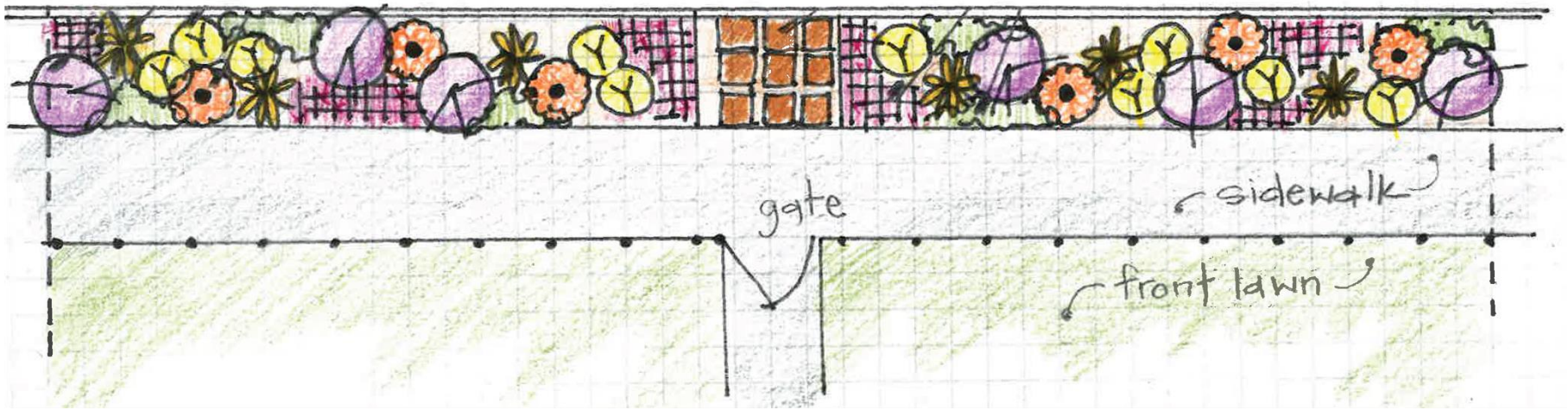
Want to Start Small? Flip your Strip!

Parking Strips are eligible!

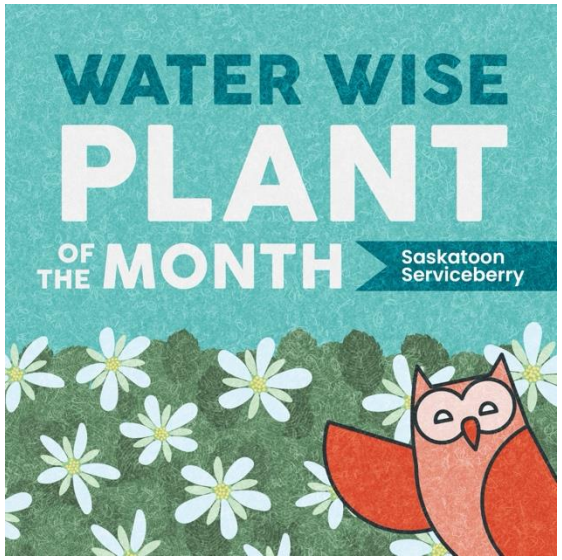
No minimum on square footage!

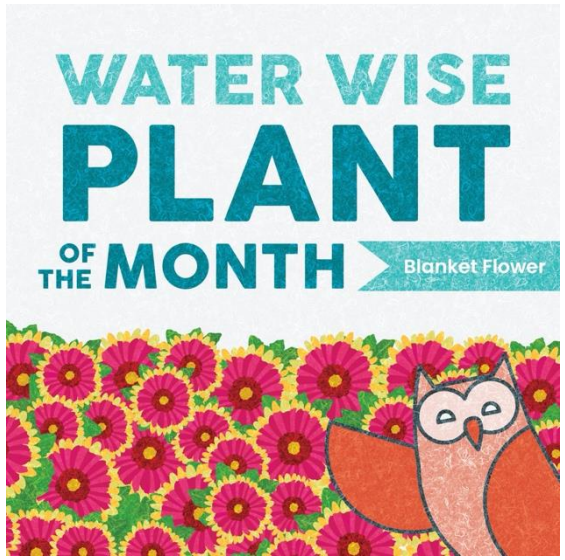
Templates available online!

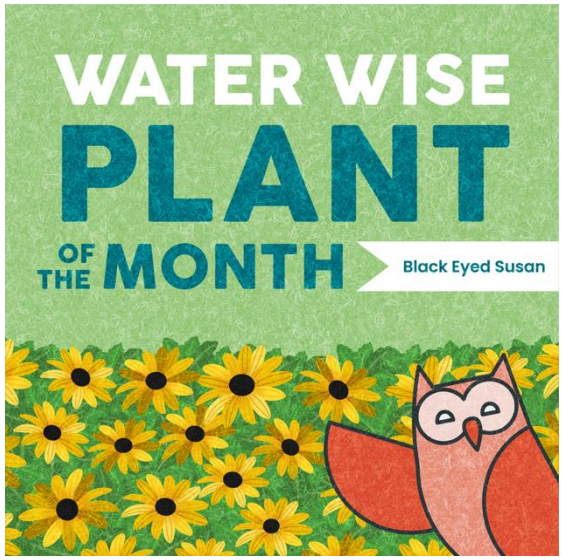




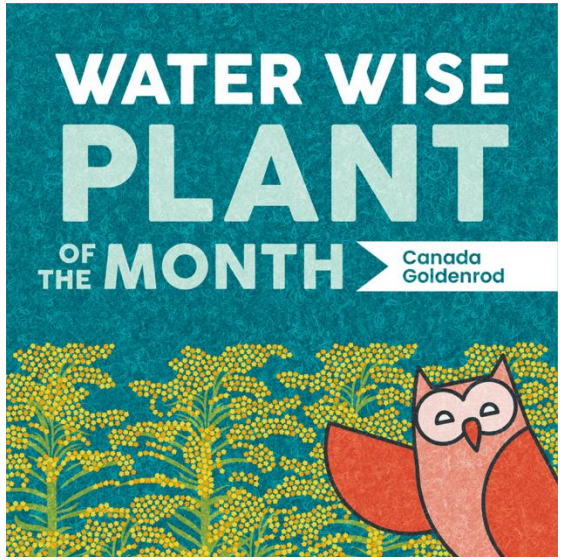
Outreach: Social Media

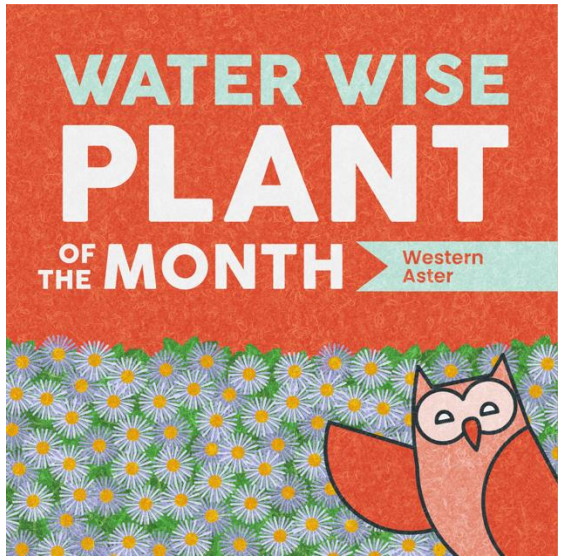


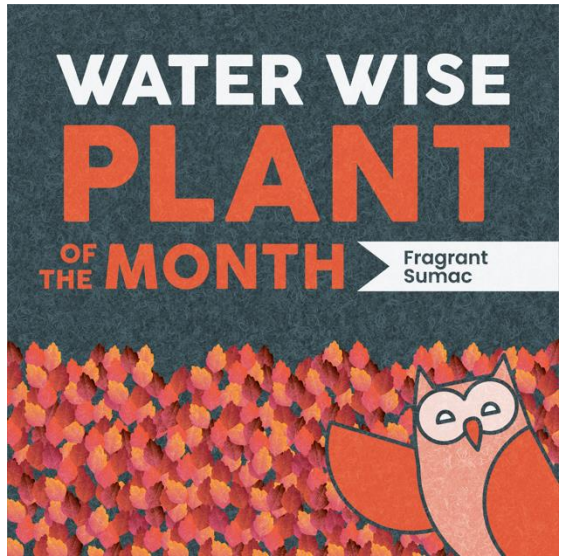












Community Education: Wednesday Workshops

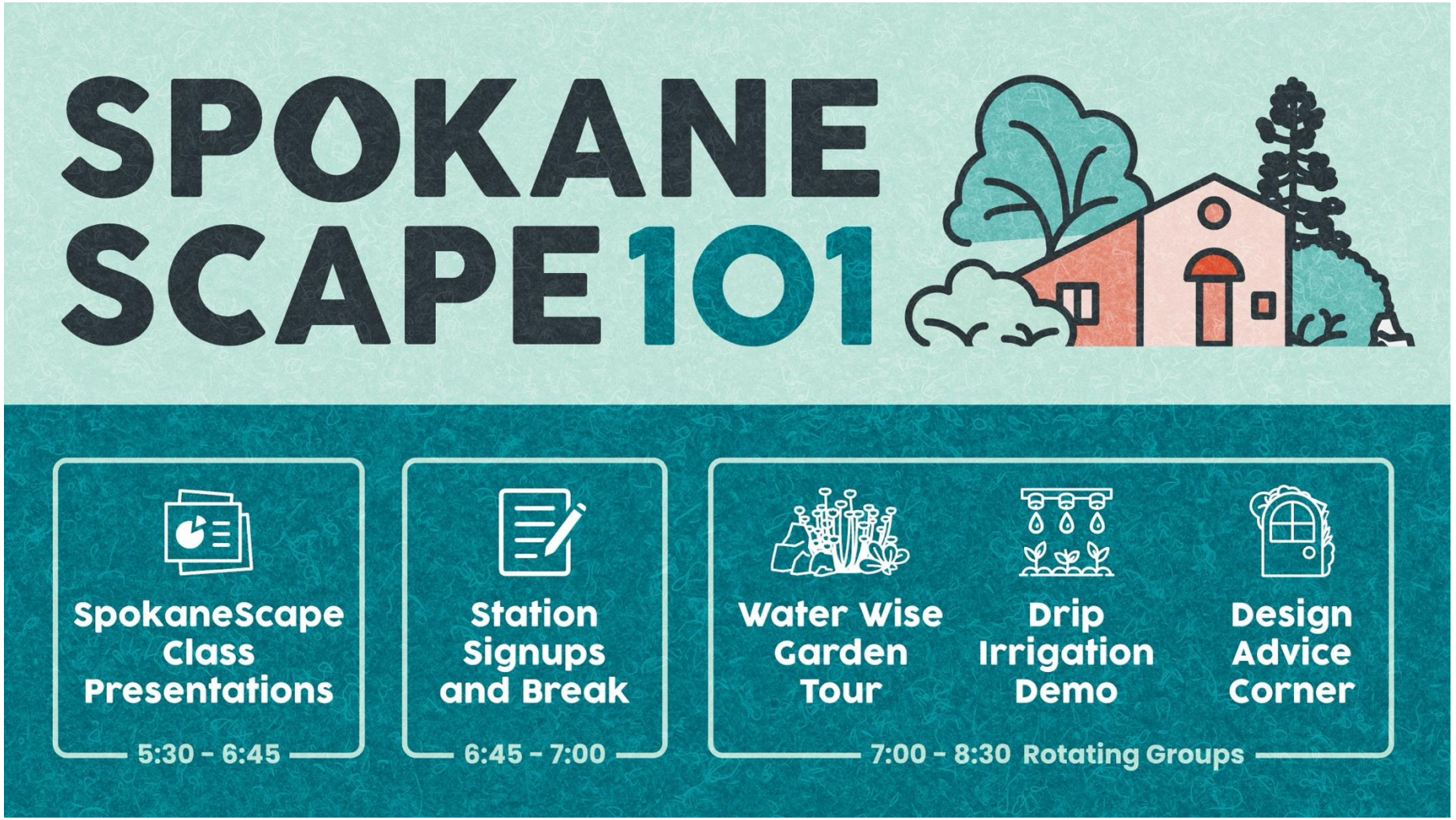


Weekly classes offered for free at the library Wednesday evenings in March & April



- **2024 Classes:**
- Intro to SpokaneScape
- Mulching, Edging, and Laying Hardscape
- Firewise for City Dwellers
- Irrigation Systems
- All About Composting
- Integrated Pest Management
- Pesticide & Herbicide Application
- Native Plants, Keystone Species, & More

Community Education: SpokaneScape 101



- Offered for free once a month May through October
- Review program requirements, process, and resources
- Design steps, native plant choices, drip irrigation
- Feedback

Local Partnerships: WSU Master Gardeners

- Guest speakers at our Water Wise Wednesday Workshops and SpokaneScape 101 classes
- Present our program independently and offer resources and guidebooks at the Master Gardeners Plant Clinic









Local Partnerships: WSU Master Gardeners

Volunteers maintain demo garden est. 2021













PARTNERSHIPS

















WSU EXTENSION
Spokane County





SPOKANE
RIVERKEEPER®











CHANNELS



Website

WaterWiseSpokane.org



SpokaneScape



Kids & Teachers



Efficiency Check-ups



Rebates & Rewards



Watering Rules



For Business



Indoor Tips



Outdoor Tips



Water Wise Challenge



















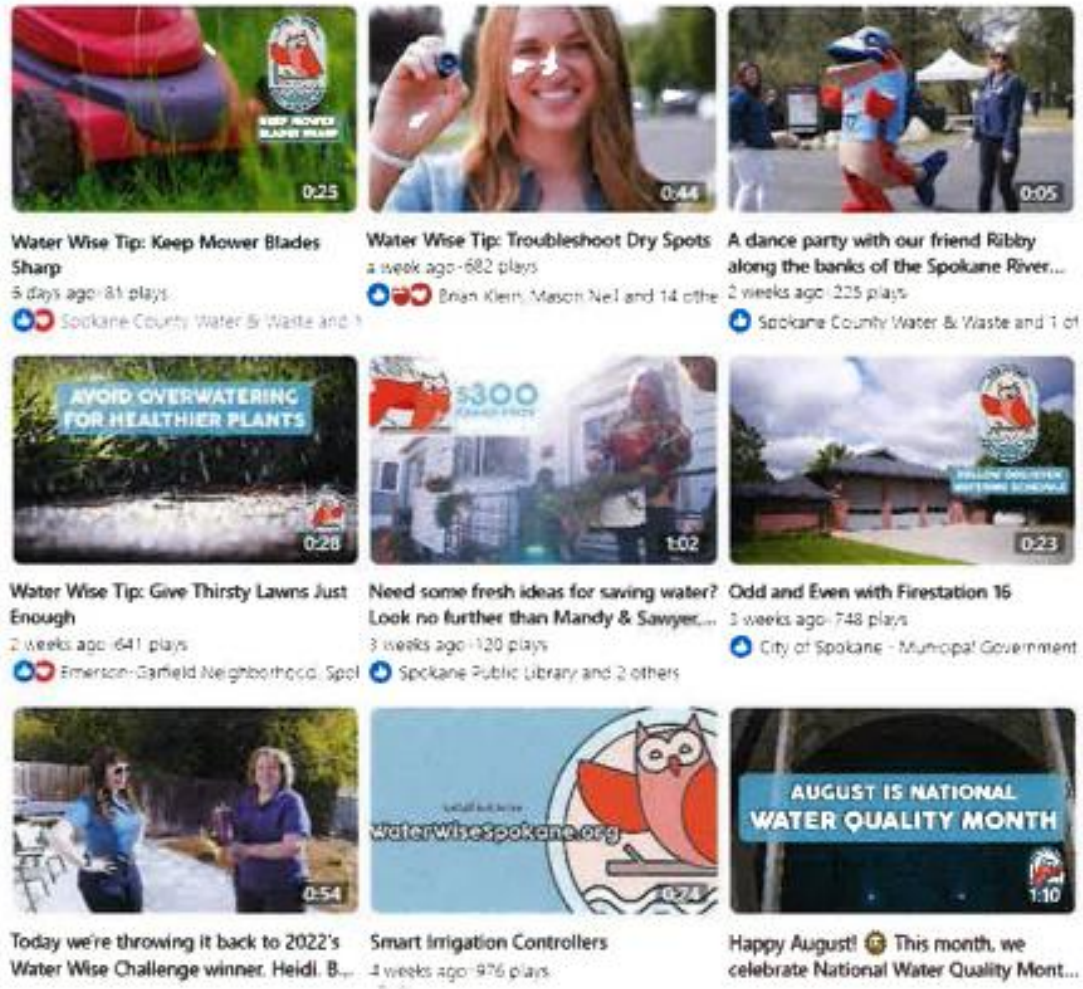
SOCIAL

FIND US ONLINE!

@WaterWiseSpokane

FOLLOWERS: 3,454 FB + 2,026 IG

Videos



PHOTOS + GRAPHICS





























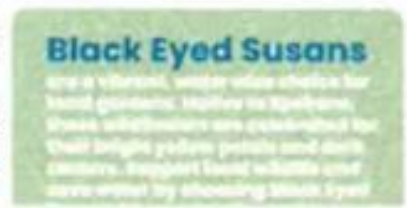




















And More!

- **Community Newsletter**
  - Weekly Email to 85,000 Subscribers
- **City Social + Website**
- **City Blog Posts**
- **Library Social + Website**
- **YouTube + Vimeo Stations**
- **Radio: Spotify, Pandora, NPR**
- **Other Paid Media as Needed**



Data to Review

- Water Wise Social Engagement Stats
- Website Engagement
- Community Newsletter Clicks
- Blog Posts Views
- YouTube + Vimeo Views
- Workshop Sign-Ups & Attendance
- Program Participation Rates
- Customer Feedback Surveys
- Rebate Program Stats
- Program Participant Water Consumption
- Annual Water System Consumption



FIND US ONLINE!

@WaterWiseSpokane