step 1

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H₂OVERHAUL

Planning & Design

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Ready to start your H$_2$Overhaul? Learn how to plan and design your own water-wise landscape with these step-by-step instructions.

Create A Map

1 Use Google Earth, or any online map app, to get a birds-eye view of your property.

2 Print it out and place tracing paper over the image.

3 With a pencil, trace a map of your property, including large structures, and any existing plants, trees, shrubs and features you'd like to keep.

4 Mark changes in grade (for example, where there is a hill or a slope) and draw contour lines on the land areas. You'll need this to plan proper drainage.

5 Be sure to also mark your irrigation layout, too. (Refer to "Step 5: Irrigation" in your kit.)
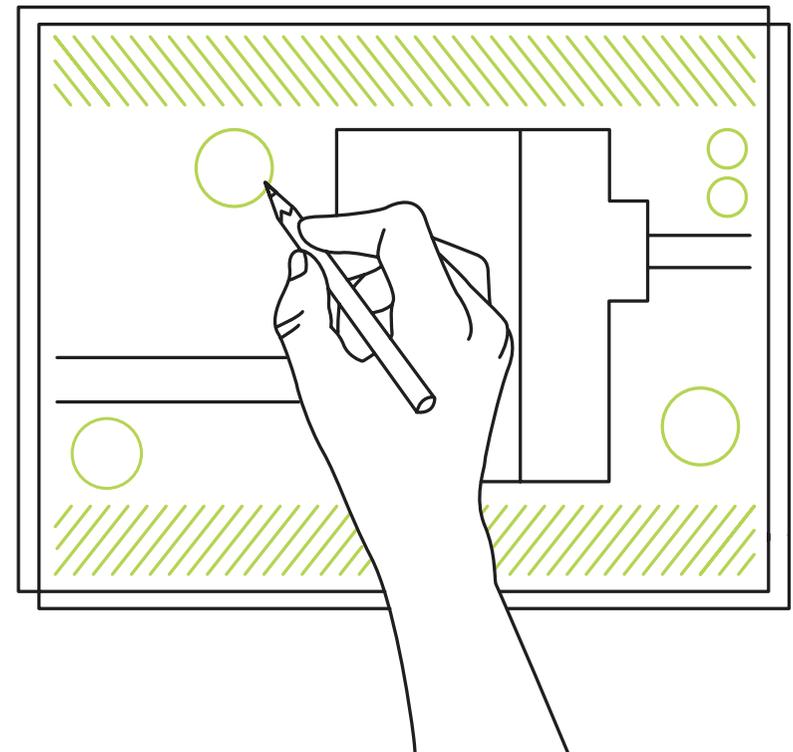
step 2:

Select An Area To Overhaul

Your new landscape or garden area will need to be on a different irrigation zone from the rest of the lawn due to lower water requirements. Choose a section of your lawn that:

Can easily be converted to a drip system using a drip conversion kit.

Is tough to keep green, or is rarely used by kids and/or pets.

Could be a nice spot to enjoy in a new way! (For example, a garden or entertainment space.)

Tap into your inner artist! (If you don't have one, hire a professional landscape designer instead. Your secret's safe with me.)

step 3:

Design Your Landscape

Get garden-spired.
Take a look at design plans on Pinterest or PlantSelect.org to spark ideas, or customize them to work with your landscape.

Make it yours.
Think about what's important to you and what you like to do in your yard and then design a landscape that's a perfect fit.

Some landscapes require lots of maintenance. If you don't have much time for that sort of thing, go easy on yourself! Look for lower-maintenance options, there are plenty to choose from.
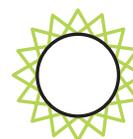
Note the amount of sun your landscape will receive throughout the day (full, partial or shade) and select plants that will do well in the amount of sun they will be exposed to.

Group plants with similar water and sun requirements to save water and help plants reach their full potential.

Choose a space where plants won't be exposed to too much wind, moisture or sun, based on their needs.

Design with the future in mind. Remember, plants grow! Plan a landscape that allows room for mature-sized plants, trees and shrubs, as well as existing or added irrigation systems and mulch.

Work with what you already have.
Design your landscape around large trees or interesting features that already exist. No need to throw the baby out with the bathwater so to speak. (We could use that bathwater!)

Keep your mind and your options open.
Use your tracing paper to draft a few alternate designs of the map you made in Step 1. Don't be afraid to edit or make mistakes, it's all part of the creative process! It's easier to erase on paper, than to correct mistakes after the fact.
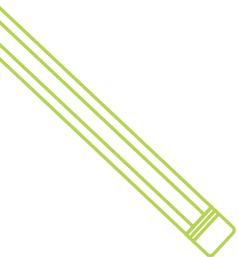
Start big. Add your largest features first. Draw in trees, shrubs and hardscapes, then fill in open areas with smaller plants, native grasses and accents like boulders or benches. Check out "Step 2: Plants & Alternative Turf" in your H$_2$Overhaul Kit to find options that are just the right size.

Plant outside the lines.
Create visual interest by adding curves and nonlinear elements your design.

Keep a schedule. Create a timeline for each phase of your H$_2$Overhaul, from sod removal through final planting. (Some methods of sod removal take longer than others. Check out "Step 3: Removing Your Turf" in your H$_2$Overhaul Kit for options.)
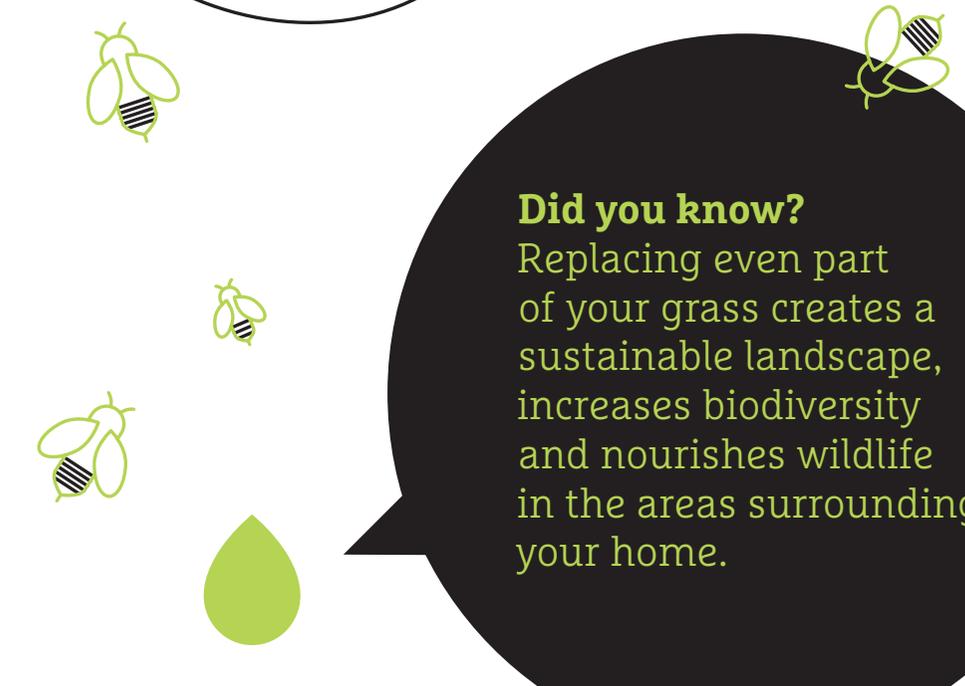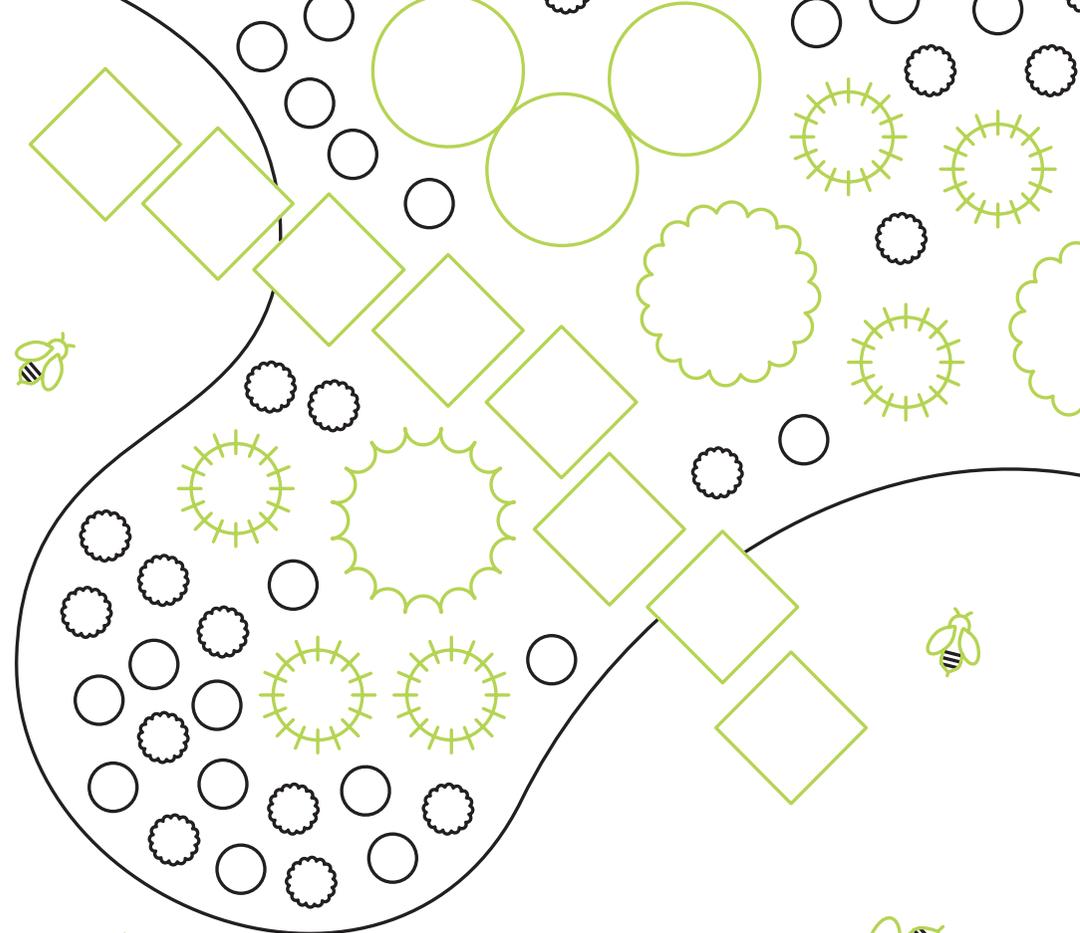
Did you know?
Replacing even part of your grass creates a sustainable landscape, increases biodiversity and nourishes wildlife in the areas surrounding your home.

Additional Resources

Visit **ThorntonWater.com/H2Overhaul** for additional ideas to help you plan.

You'll find links to resources such as downloadable designs, photos of landscapes and plants, Online apps to help you create your own design and more.

This is the fun stuff! Admiring your work from your new hammock will also be fun.

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ThorntonWater.com/H2Overhaul

City of
Thornton