

Localscapes Checklist:

1 - Central Open Shape

Localscapes begin with a Central Open Shape that is geometric in nature. The size and material used for this element can be unique to each landscape, but typically there will be a Central Open Shape in both the front and back yards.

Design Requirements:

- The Central Open Shape is unobstructed. Trees, posts, planting beds, playsets, and other elements are not placed inside this area.
- The Central Open Shape is created with a permanent material that is different from and creates contrast with the surrounding landscape.
- The Central Open Shape has a clearly defined edge.
- The Central Open Shape cannot be lawn if it is on a slope with more than a 25% grade.
- The Central Open Shape is at least 8 feet wide at its narrowest point.

Additional Requirements if Lawn is used as a Central Open Shape:

- The Central Open Shape is irrigated separately. This is the only landscape element that can use overhead sprinklers. All other irrigated areas will use a drip system.
- The Central Open Shape shall not exceed the greater of 250 sq. ft., or 35% of the total landscaped area.

2 - Gathering Areas

Gathering Areas like patios, gazebos, or outdoor seating areas of varying sizes are incorporated throughout the landscape.

Design Requirements:

- Gathering Areas are hardscaped. Surfacing materials may include concrete, brick pavers, or inorganic mulch.
- Gathering Areas are not irrigated.

3 - Activity Zones

Activity Zones like children's play areas, fire pits, vegetable gardens, and hot tubs are designed to meet a homeowner's needs and interests. Activity Zones cannot function as the Central Open Shape.

Design Requirements:

- Activity Zones are not surfaced with lawn.
- Activity Zones are placed outside the Central Open Shape.

4 - Paths

Paths connect each of the previously designed elements.

Design Requirements:

- Paths are not lawn. Paths can be created with hardscape, pavers, or organic mulch.
- Paths are not irrigated.

5 - Planting Beds

Remaining areas of the landscape become Planting Beds.

Design Requirements:

- Planting beds are drip irrigated. Drip systems should be equipped with a pressure regulator, filter, flush-end assembly and any other appropriate components. Micro-sprays and bubblers do not qualify as drip irrigation.
- Planting beds have at least 50% plant coverage at maturity and are covered in 3-4" of mulch.

Park Strips Design Requirement:

- Lawn is not allowed in park strips. Park strips should be designed with hardscape, mulch, and other planting materials.

