



### Lesson for Podcast 04: Be a Landscape Designer!

#### Lesson Summary: Design your own green garden

**Lesson Description:** Landscape designers create gardens for schools, homes and businesses. In this lesson you will create your own “green” garden, which means that the plants you choose will be adapted to the Austin climate and therefore use less water, fertilizer and pesticides. To get started, trek to the Green Garden, located in the Zilker Botanical Garden. You will see nine different gardens arranged by growing conditions. Think about the growing conditions of the garden that you would like to design. Look at the plants from the green garden that grow well under those conditions and then consider the spacing and arrangement of the plants. The help sheet also shows some of the plants that will work well under different conditions. Record your garden design in your journal. If you actually want to build this garden, check out the garden design basics website listed below for more tips.

#### Materials Needed:

I-pod, loaded with Zilker Trek and headphones  
Journal  
Colored Pencils  
Help Sheets: Plants

#### Activity Discussion:

According to the City of Austin website, a green garden is one that uses plants that are native or adapted to their environment. These plants will use less water and require less fertilizer and pesticides, which will keep the water in our creeks and aquifers cleaner. The main features of a green garden, according to the City of Austin include:

- Austin-hardy plants (natives and adapted) that require fewer pesticides and less water.
- Appropriate turf varieties to limit water, maintenance and fertilizer needs
- Compost, and/or Dillo Dirt, to recycle waste products while providing nutrients
- Trees to reduce energy needs and improve air quality
- Don't bag lawn clippings to reduce waste in the landfills and replenish nutrients to the lawn
- Reduce pavement to allow water to filter into the yard and avoid runoff to the street

## Zilker Trek Lesson Plan

### **Additional Resources:**

Zilker Botanical Garden Web site

<http://www.zilker garden.org/gardens/greengarden.html>

Garden Design Basics

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/2006.kids.garden.news/june/pg1.html>

<http://www.zilker garden.org/gardens/greengarden.html>

### **Notes:**

Don't forget to upload your images and scans of your journal pages to our on-line gallery.