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# LIVING

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In *harmony* with the environment  
**JAMES LANDSCAPING, INC.**  
Water Conservation by *Design*



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# IN *harmony* WITH THE ENVIRONMENT JAMES LANDSCAPING, INC.

## WATER CONSERVATION BY *Design*

by pamela hammonds | photos by premiere photography

**W**e hear a lot of talk about the environment. From recycling to global warming, eating organic to conserving energy. The professionals at James Landscaping are dedicated to doing their part by helping their clients make a difference.

After 20 years in the business, they have assimilated a host of ideas and techniques for achieving success in our diverse environment. Both Rhonda James and Cassie Cole-James know the first step to improving our environment is by changing the way we view our landscape and the way we use water.

By admitting that the way we've always done it just isn't acceptable anymore, James Landscaping endeavors to improve the way your landscape looks, grows and works in harmony with the environment.

### **EFFICIENT WATERING BEGINS NOW**

"We focus on conserving water," said Cassie. "This is done through irrigation, planting materials, eliminating storm water runoff and capturing rain water." Just changing your existing water system's nozzles to more efficient ones can make a huge difference.

Chances are your current spray nozzles emit a fine mist that either evaporates or blows away before it ever hits your plants. "The newest nozzles we are using put out water in bigger droplets so more hits the ground," Rhonda said. "Water also comes out at a slower rate so more water soaks in and you have less runoff. As a result you use water more efficiently and use less water overall."



James Landscaping also installs "smart controllers that calculate the amount of water lost from plants on a daily basis," said Rhonda. "Then it replaces that water so you never over water. On average, people tend to water about 25 percent more than is needed, so these pay for themselves pretty quickly."

James Landscaping also recommends having drip irrigation in your planting beds. "If we go to water restrictions, you can still usually run your drip zones," Rhonda said, "thereby keeping your plants alive and protecting your home's foundation." While converting your existing system will require an initial investment, you will recoup those costs by conserving water and keeping your landscaping alive and thriving.

### **USING RAIN WATER IS THE REDISCOVERED WAY TO CONSERVE**

The best way to avoid paying for water is to save rainwater and draw from it when you need it. "We can capture it off your roof and store it in an underground reservoir," Rhonda said. "We can design patios (with permeable pavers) that absorb water and collect it in a reservoir. Attaching a water feature to circulate the captured water keeps it fresh and provides a beautiful focal point. Then you tie in your sprinkler system to help supplement your water supply."

Minimizing runoff by installing a rain garden is another water conservation practice that can be easily incorporated into almost any yard. Residential lots are graded to drain water away from homes.



*Not pictured: Sarah Keller, landscape designer*

If we can catch that water in a rain garden before it hits the street, we can prevent some polluted water from draining into the Trinity River and help recharge aquifers. Chemical fertilizers, pesticides and petroleum products get filtered out of water through the plants and aggregate.

And that's exactly what they did for Camille Tafel at her Ft. Worth home. "Our lot is a peculiar shape and the back dropped off into a hole," Camille said. "We were concerned about drainage, and James Landscaping designed a rain garden that is not only beautiful but functions year round, exactly as it should—even when it's not blooming." Camille said that after a heavy rain, water will remain in the garden and then absorb into the aquifer, typically within 12 hours, leaving the rest of the lawn firm. And the plants come back every year so it's low maintenance. "They were an incredible company to work with. Everything was quality from the start."

### UNIQUE GARDEN DESIGNS TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

"Choosing drought tolerant plants is only one factor in a water wise landscape," Cassie said. "You also have to factor in the heavy rains, tight clay soils and extended high temperatures. Rhonda suggested using plants that are "either native or very well-adapted." To help with plant selection and soil preparations, the experts at James Landscaping call on their years of experience to offer you options. So, whether you want a low-maintenance natural look or don't mind devoting

the extra attention to a more hands-on trimmed garden, they can present a plan that works within your lifestyle.

Dr. Al Yurvati needed help at his Southlake home. He and his wife used the landscaper recommended by his builder but were less than thrilled with the results. "My wife wanted to use Rhonda with James Landscaping and I should have listened to her," he said. "Rhonda redesigned our landscaping, taking the vision that my wife had, put it on paper and then installed it exactly the way we had envisioned it. It's a complicated system that involves several water elements and the way it flows and holds the Koi, but it's worked really well. They've come back for routine maintenance and to clear it out in the spring before the growing season. I'm very happy and the post-installation service has been excellent. I would highly recommend them and have done so. We have another concept for a new garden, and we've brought them back to do that as well."

James Landscaping provides designs you can enjoy for their beauty as well as function. View a photo gallery of green garden solutions on their Web site at [JamesLandscaping.com](http://JamesLandscaping.com). 

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*A rain garden is a constructed depression in the landscape which collects runoff and allows water to percolate into aquifers within 24 hours.*

