



Water Management - curb appeal with zero water usage. Xeriscape Case Study

With a Restaurant Group - 287 locations - California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Texas.

The challenge:

A mid-sized restaurant chain was looking to maintain inviting locations and a high level of curb appeal without the use of water. Being based in Southern California their brand was greatly affected by the drought, water usage was no longer a viable option and because their brand locations were spread out across the Southwest United States water was always an issue.

Best practice implemented:

We looked at each of the 287 restaurant locations and provided a comprehensive landscape design and water management plan.

Step 1.

We removed all landscape beds and designed xeriscape landscape beds which consisted of decorative 2-6 in rock, drought tolerant plantings (which did not require watering), and custom edging which helped to enhance the landscape. We then looked at the brands turf areas and implemented a synthetic turf option.

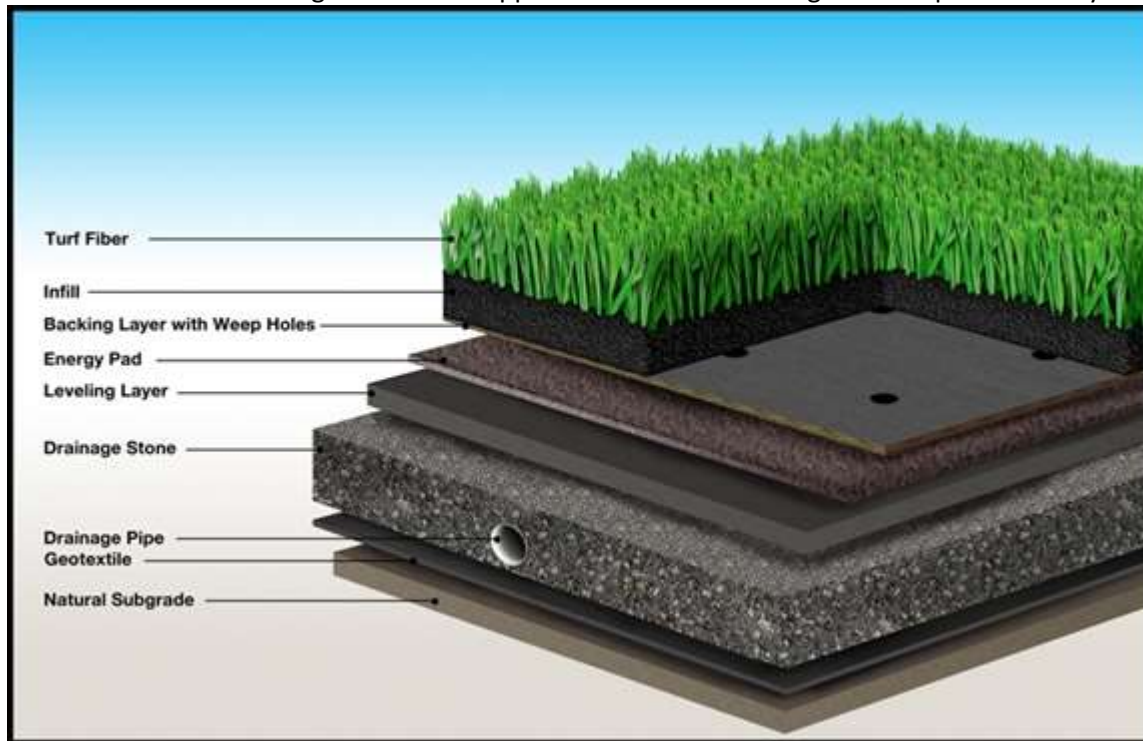


Step 2.

The synthetic turf look and feel were that of natural green grass. We utilized a turf that looked as though it had just been freshly mowed. The look was beautiful. Each sq. ft. Of synthetic turf was five pounds in weight and was installed to drain at the rate of 60 inches per minute. The base of the synthetic turf was built from a base six inches of clean crushed rock to allow for optimum drainage. We wanted to ensure the brand was protected against monsoons, flashfloods, heavy rains, etc. As these types of water surges can create flooding when grounds have been dry for extended periods of time. The drainage allowed the brand to ensure operations during unprecedented water events.



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Results of the Best Practice Implemented:

As a result of this best practice we looked at the overall costs of the investment. We eliminated landscape maintenance from each location completely. That saved the brand \$1,881,360.00 in landscape maintenance. By installing a xeriscape landscape program the brand no longer needed weekly landscape services. Because the cost of water was approx. \$2.16 per 1000 gallons or .00216 cents per gallon we were able to calculate the exact water savings. Having the irrigation water run on each irrigation zone for a minimum of 10 minutes during the middle of the night was costing the brand:

- Average 4 zones per location
- 10 minutes per zone
- 5 gallons per minutes used per zone
- 50 gallons per watering
- 350 gallons per week per store
- 350 gallons per week across 287 location was 100,450 gallons in total weekly water usage.
- \$216.97 per week
- With an annual cost of \$11,282.54 not including weekly irrigation repairs.



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- Irrigation repairs averaged \$16,551.56 on a yearly basis above and beyond the landscape maintenance service cost.
- Giving a total water savings of \$27,834.10

This best practice completely mitigated the need for irrigation at each location. The brand moved to a semi yearly landscape service to apply herbicide to rock beds and synthetic turf areas, clean up and leaves around the location and address any pruning needs. This cost annually for all locations was \$75,060.00.

The cost for the installation across all locations was \$1,390,050.00 to install the xeriscape landscape program.

The cost of the landscape install was slightly less than the overall cost for maintenance during that year, but during the following year the cost was completely mitigated and the brand saved \$1,833,588.10 during the next full season. The breakdown below shows the exact progression of costs.

Yearly Landscape Maintenance: \$1,881,360.00
Total yearly irrigation costs: \$11,282.54
Total yearly irrigation repairs: \$16,551.56
Total landscape SPEND 2013: \$1,909,194.10

Yearly Landscape Maintenance: \$75,060.00
Total xeriscape install cost: \$1,390,050.00
Total landscape SPEND 2014: \$1,465,110.00 (Savings in first year \$444,084.10)

Yearly landscape Maintenance: \$75,606.00
Total landscape SPEND 2015: \$75,606.00 (Savings in second year \$1,833,588.10)

Total savings moving forward was \$1,833,588.10. With beautiful landscape and curb appeal. Because of our water management and xeriscape services we greatly reduced this brands overall costs while providing them with a beautiful, long term sustainable landscape solutions. Because of this work and cost savings we were able to add on several other needed services to this brands portfolio of services that Transblue provides.