

FOREST FIRE SMART LANDSCAPE



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



SILVANUS

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A "Forest Fire Smart Landscape" refers to a strategic approach in landscaping and land management that reduces the vulnerability of an area to wildfires.



This concept is part of broader fire-smart or fire-wise community planning efforts that aim to mitigate the risks and impacts of wildfires through various landscaping and building techniques. Here's an overview of what a Forest Fire Smart Landscape involves:

CLEARING AND FUEL REDUCTION

Clearing Vegetation

Removing or thinning flammable vegetation and other materials that could fuel a wildfire. This includes trimming bushes, pruning trees, and clearing out underbrush.



Regular Maintenance

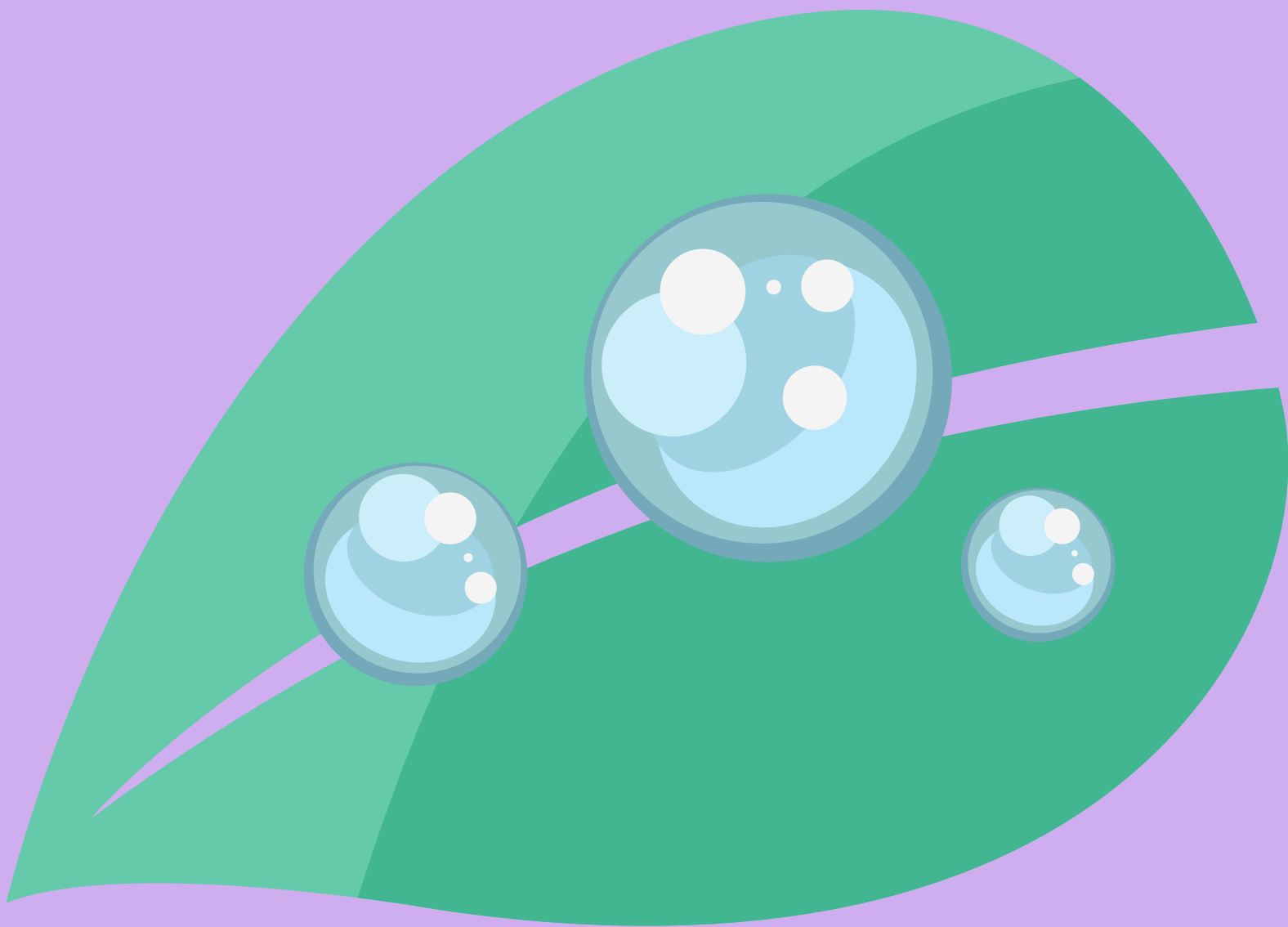
Keeping the landscape clean and free of debris such as fallen leaves, branches, and dead plants that can easily catch fire.



CHOICE OF PLANTS

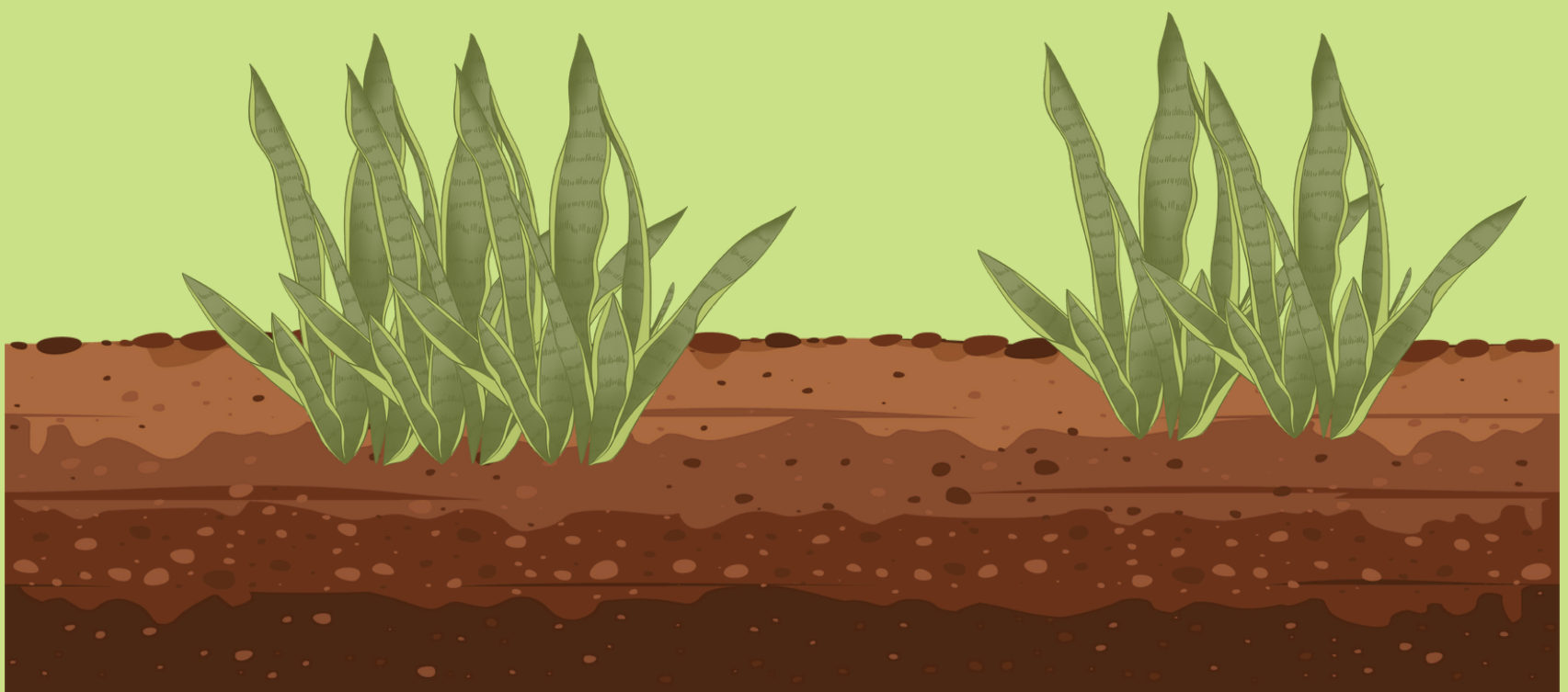
Fire-Resistant Planting

Selecting and planting fire-resistant plants that are less likely to ignite from a stray ember. Some plants have higher moisture content in their leaves, non-resinous material, and are less flammable.



Strategic Plant Placement

Arranging plants in a way that minimizes the spread of fire. This can involve creating firebreaks or spaces between groups of plants to slow or stop the fire from spreading.



ZONING

Defensible Space

Creating zones around structures where vegetation is carefully controlled to reduce the risk of fire reaching the buildings. This space is typically divided into different zones with varying degrees of thinning, removal, and replacement of vegetation.



Access Points

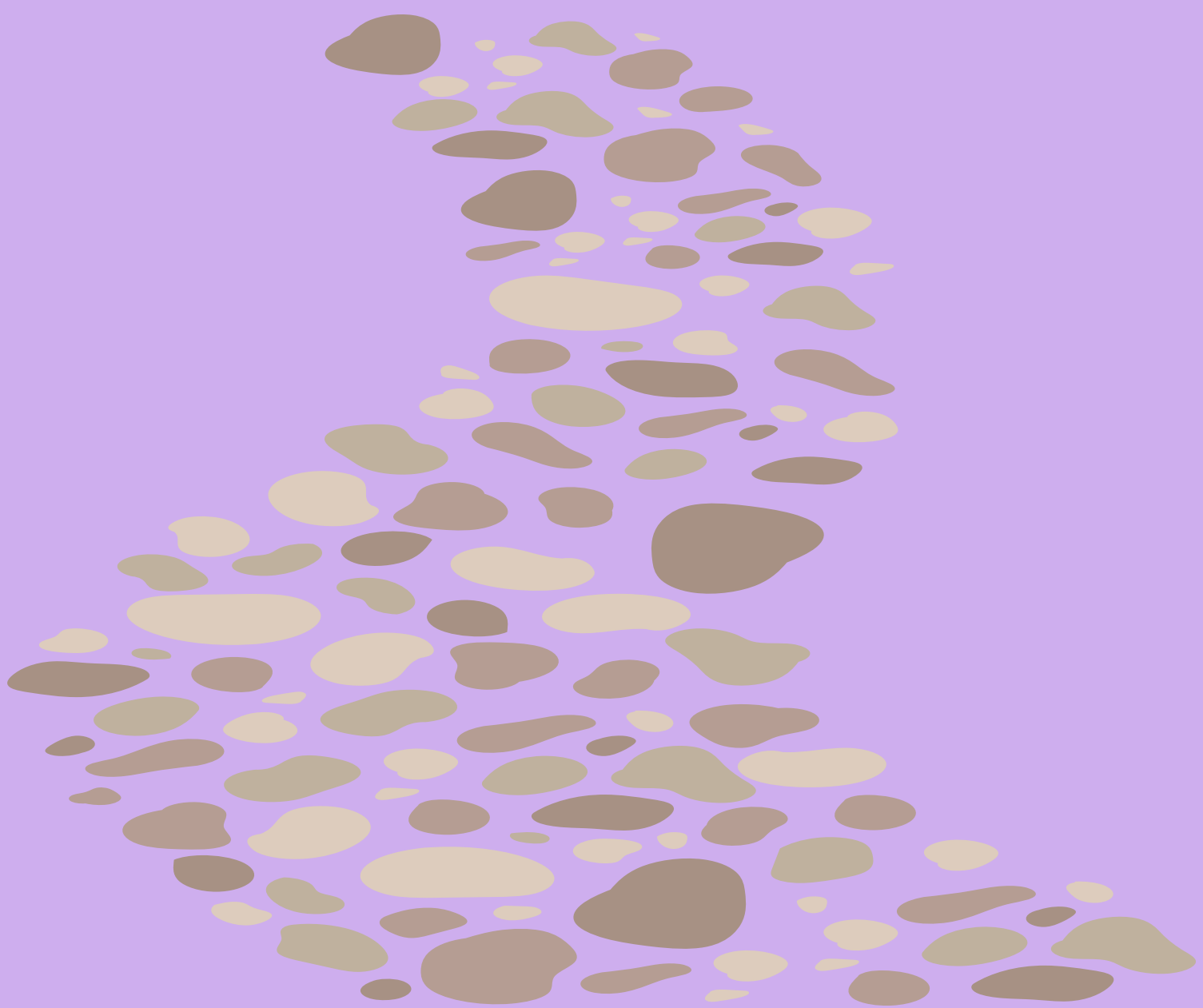
Ensuring there are clear access routes for firefighting equipment and personnel, which can be crucial during a fire emergency.



MATERIALS AND DESIGN

Fire-Safe Materials

Using non-flammable or fire-resistant materials for paths, fences, decks, and mulch. For instance, gravel mulch and stone pathways are preferable to wood chips and pine straw.



Irrigation Systems

Installing and maintaining proper irrigation systems to keep vegetation sufficiently hydrated to resist the ignition and spread of fires.



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Education and Training

Educating the community about fire-smart practices and the importance of maintaining a landscape that can resist wildfires.



Coordinated Efforts

Working together with local fire departments, forestry services, and neighbours to ensure a unified approach to wildfire preparedness.





Implementing a Forest Fire Smart Landscape is a proactive measure that can significantly mitigate the risk of wildfire damage. It is especially critical in regions prone to such natural disasters, helping to protect homes, businesses, and ecosystems from the destructive forces of wildfires.