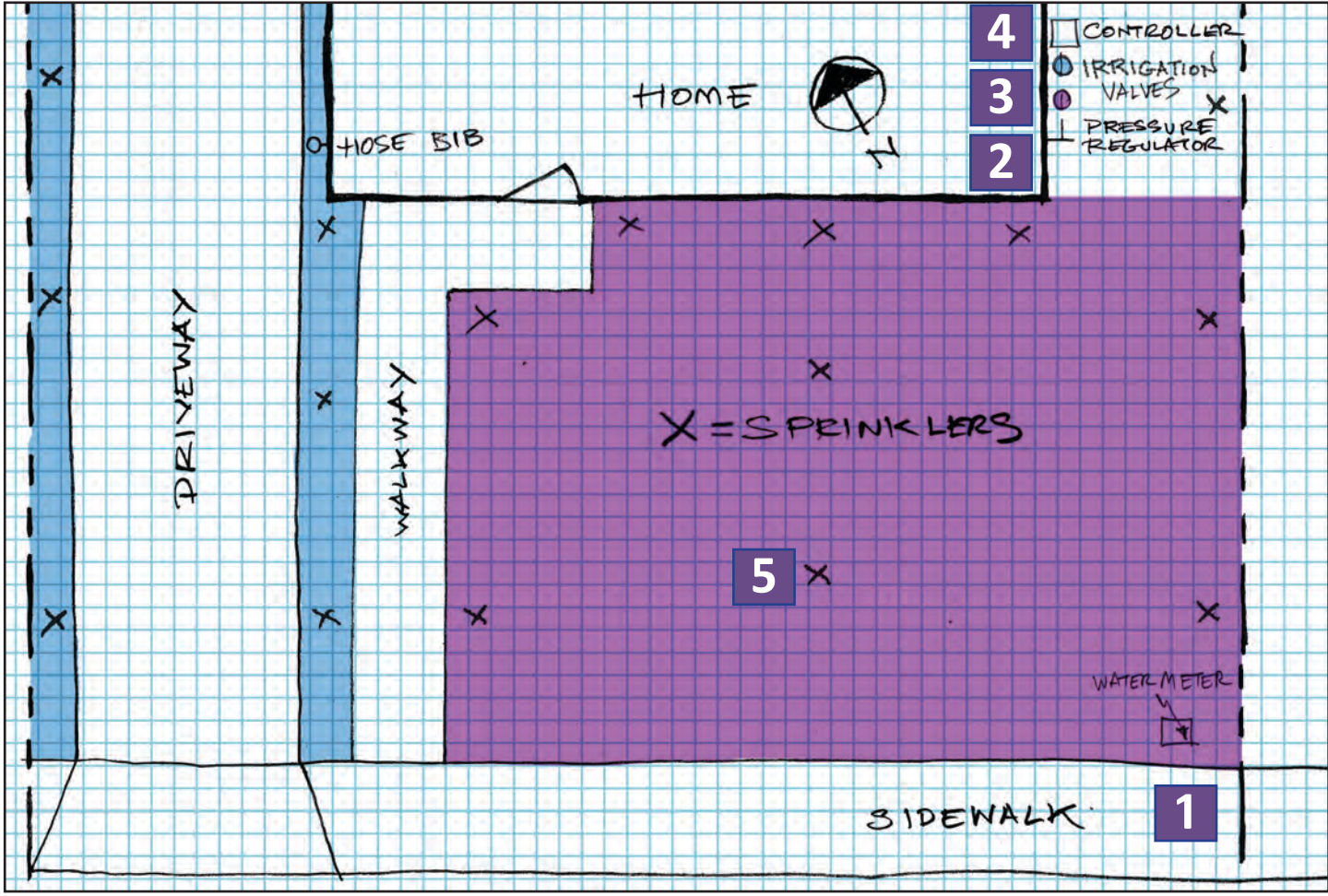


Evaluate your Existing Irrigation layout



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Make A Plan of your spray irrigation system.

Start the discussion about whether or not to abandon your existing irrigation by mapping out the components of the system. If you have lawn, chances are that your existing irrigation is a spray sprinkler system with an automatic irrigation controller. When converting older spray systems to drip, pressure differentials may damage unseen lateral lines, causing difficult to find micro-leaks. **If you are renovating most of your landscape, be prepared to start from scratch rather than try to significantly alter the existing irrigation system.** This way you have an opportunity to use the latest technologies and proper design for your new garden. It is especially difficult to match existing irrigation to new plants grouped by water needs (see p. 35).

Locate all the sprinkler heads on your property and mark their locations on a copy of your Site Plan. Note where the water comes on to your property from the street (the water meter/main line), the location of your irrigation controller, and the location of the valves that control the various irrigation zones. Also, mark the location of hose bibs, shut off valves, and pressure regulators or backflow prevention devices.

Now color code the areas that spray with each valve so you easily can see the various zones you are dealing with for replacing plants and irrigation. Our front yard example (above) has two separate zones marked by two different colors.

