

Xeriscape Design Clinic



Before



After

Name _____

Clinic Date _____ Time _____

Location: Gardens on Spring Creek,
2145 Centre Ave.

Please arrive on time. For questions, call 221-6877. Refunds are available if cancelled one week prior to appointment.



Preparing for your Xeriscape Design Clinic

Objective

The Xeriscape Design Clinic is meant to assist you in creating an attractive, low water-using landscape plan. The plan will be specific enough for you or a contracted landscaper to install.

Bring to your Session:

- Landscape Profile
- To-Scale Site Map
- Panorama Photographs (bring prints, a camera with cord or flash drive)
- Flash drive (optional)

Step 1: Complete the Landscape Profile (see page 5)

Step 2: Choose an area of your property:

- That needs improvement
- Where turf is not needed
- Defined by fences, property line, sidewalks
- On a separate sprinkler zone from turf

Step 3: Prepare a Site Plan

A Site Plan is a to-scale diagram showing the major elements of your landscape—your house, driveway, sidewalk, deck or patio, existing trees and plantings, and other features.

A. Materials Needed

- 50-foot or longer tape measure and someone to help.
- A sheet of 1:10 graph paper. This means that there are 10 squares per inch. Each little square will equal one foot. Be aware that your drawing will be fairly small.

B. Measurements

- Measure the length of your four property lines.
- Measure the length and width of your house.
- Measure the distance from each corner of the house to the property lines.
- Measure any impervious surfaces, such as driveways, sidewalks and decks/patios.

C. Create a Site Plan

- Using the above measurements, draw the dimensions of your property lines, house, driveway, sidewalks and deck/patios on the graph paper. Start in the center of the graph paper with the footprint of your home. For example, if your property measures 50 feet wide by 100 feet long, you would draw an outline that was 50 squares wide and 100 squares long.

D. Add the following to your Site Plan:

- Name and Address
- North Arrow

- Scale 1"=10'
- Existing lawn, shrubs, flowerbeds and gardens
- Trees (both yours and your neighbors, if they shade part of your yard)
- Spigots, downspouts and external electrical outlets.
- Fences, walls and other structures
- Slopes – to measure the degree of slope, stand at the base of the slope and hold a measuring tape level from the top of the slope to where you are standing. Then measure from where you and tape measure intersect to the ground. If the slope is very steep, you may need to take more than one measure, and add the results to get the total slope. For example, if the distance from the top of the slope to you is 6 feet, and the distance from where you and tape intersect to the ground is 3 feet, then you know your slope drops 3 feet for every 6 feet of distance, or 1 foot for every 2. This is a 1:2 slope.

F. Size Existing Trees

- Mark the location of the trunk by measuring from the trunk in two directions to a fixed object (property line, fence, house, etc.)
- Start measuring at the trunk of the tree and walk until you see the ends of the branches. This is the radius. Multiply the radius by 2 to get the diameter.
- Mark the trunk location and draw the canopy of the tree on your Site Plan.

G. How to Plot a Curve

1. Along a straight edge (house, sidewalk, etc.), measure and mark every two feet.
2. Measure perpendicularly from the straight edge to the curve
3. Plot the points of the curve on your site plan.
4. Connect the points as best you can.

Step 4: Take Photographs

A. Take panorama shots of the area to be landscaped

- Best time is when sun is high in the sky, minimizing shadows
- Stand back and take shots from several angles
- Pivot the camera, not your feet to take multiple overlapping photos
- Develop and overlap the pictures to match edges and features in the landscape

B. Close-ups of Specific Areas

- Existing planting beds
- Unknown plants
- Other features

Xeriscape Resources

Xeriscape Classes

The classes below are part of the City's Residential Environmental Program Series. These free programs are from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays (no registration necessary) at the Drake Centre, 802 W. Drake Rd. Find out more about these programs and others in the series at www.fcgov.com/reps.

March 16: **Xeriscape: Beyond the Basics** – Find out how Xeriscape offers eco-friendly landscaping ideas, and lowers maintenance and water use.

March 30: **Landscape Design for Water-wise Beauty** - Learn the basic design principles that will help you reduce lawn area, create useable spaces and enhance visual appeal.

April 13: **The Lowdown on Low Water Plants** – Use these plant selections for trees, shrubs and perennials to create seasonal interest and year-round beauty.

Books

Cutting Edge Gardening in the Intermountain West, Marcia Tatroe

Durable Plants for the Garden: A Plant Select Guide, Plant Select

Hardy Succulents, Gwen Moore Kelaidis

High & Dry: Gardening with Cold-Hardy Dryland Plants, Robert Nold

How to Get Started in Rocky Mountain Gardening, Rob Proctor

Ornamental Grasses for Western Gardens, Marilyn Raff

Passionate Gardening: Good Advice for Challenging Climates, Lauren Springer

Plant-Driven Design, Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer Ogden

Rocky Mountain Gardener's Guide, John Cretti

Rocky Mountain Garden Survival Guide, Susan Tweit

The Xeriscape Flower Gardener, Jim Knopf

The Undaunted Garden: Planting for Weather-Resilient Beauty, Lauren Springer

Waterwise Landscaping with Trees, Shrubs & Vines, Jim Knopf

Xeriscape Handbook, Gayle Weinstein

Xeriscape Plant Guide, David Winger, ed.

Sources of information

City of Fort Collins Utilities, 970-221-6877, www.fcgov.com/conservation

Colorado WaterWise, www.coloradowaterwise.org

CSU Extension fact sheets, www.ext.colostate.edu

Plant Select® plants, www.plantselect.org

Landscape Profile

Name _____ Date _____

Site Analysis

- Soil Type: Clay Sand Loam
Exposure: North South East West
Slope: None Slight Steep
Current Watering Method: Sprayheads Rotors Drip Hand None

Are there any features you'd like to camouflage or enhance?

- Street light Fire hydrant View of neighbors Mountain view
 More shade Shield from wind Other _____
-

Use Analysis

Why do you want to Xeriscape?

- Save water Save money Save maintenance time Need landscaping
 Like appearance Other _____

What is your knowledge of gardening? Expert Moderate Limited

List family members, ages and any relevant special interests.

What do you want to use the area for?

- Outdoor entertaining Kids play Dogs Relax No real use
 Other _____

Do you want the look to be: Manicured Lush Colorful Natural

Other _____

What hardscape would you like?

- Patio Fire pit BBQ area Walkway Bench

Other _____

List any plants you'd like included in the design.
