



SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO

Water Conservancy District

"Your investment in water"

Water Wise Demonstration Garden

Planning and Design

Introduction

Before lifting a shovel or buying a plant it is best to take a little time and plan your water wise garden. This first step is crucial to creating a beautiful and cohesive garden. Anyone can create a plan. Here are the basic steps to drawing a rewarding design:

- Create a base plan by drawing a simple scaled sketch of the property. Have someone help with measuring the exterior of buildings, existing features such as walkways, driveways, fence or property lines, and trees or shrubs that you want to retain in your final design.
- After making a "wish list" of wanted items for your yard i.e. patio area, vegetable garden, play area, dog run, pond or utility storage area, prioritize your needs and begin a bubble diagram. By using tracing paper over your base map you can re-arrange these and experiment as much as needed. This bubble diagram should include the best views, sun exposure, slopes, and screening for unsightly views, as well as area functions. Remember to hydro-zone areas. Consider the watering needs to be highest nearer the house, this is called an "oasis" zone, then a moderate transition zone a little outside this "oasis" zone, and the lowest water use (most xeric) the farthest out.
- Finalize your design by converting the best ideas from your bubble diagram to a well-defined plan drawn to scale. Identify hardscape details such as pathways, your planting scheme and the irrigation zones on this plan.

Example Options

Lawn

Turf lawns are useful for children and pets. Due to their water usage they should be used sparingly.

Vegetable Garden

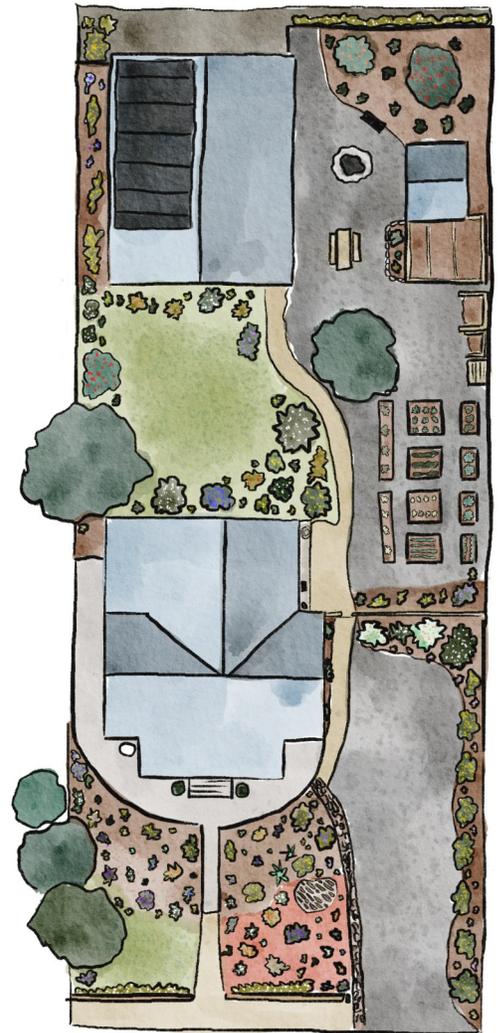
Vegetable gardening is a rewarding activity that can provide fresh, flavorful produce. It offers many of the same benefits as other gardening activities, including exercise, fresh air, landscape beautification and enjoyment.

Pocket Prairie

A pocket prairie is a small, artificially created, self-sustaining native prairie plant area typically found in urban and suburban areas made as habitat for nearby birds, insects, and mammals. Since urban areas usually have a lack of native vegetation these parcels of land are important for the local wildlife that depends on these specific plants.

Crevice Garden

Crevice gardens are a xeric landscape feature emulating natural rocky outcrops, allowing you to incorporate plants that would be difficult to grow otherwise.



More information
can be found on our
website:

[www.secwcd.org/
content/xeriscape-
gardening-information](http://www.secwcd.org/content/xeriscape-gardening-information)

