

# 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. The more accurate your measurements, the better the plan you receive will fit the area.

### 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
- Utility boxes or service lines
- 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 Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr. Find out more about these programs and others in the series at [www.fcgov.com/reps](http://www.fcgov.com/reps).

March 14: **Xeriscape from the Ground Up** - Learn fresh ideas for converting an area of your yard into a beautiful, water-saving landscape. Jim Tolstrup, director of Loveland's High Plains Environmental Center, will guide you through the steps needed to get started.

April 4: **Xeriscape by Design** - Discover the tools you need to prepare a design for year-round enjoyment. Joanie Schneider of Sustainescapes will share the landscape designer's rules of thumb for adding structure as well as delightful plants.

### ***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***

Fort Collins Utilities, 970-221-6877, [fcgov.com/conserves](http://fcgov.com/conserves) or [fcgov.com/xeriscape](http://fcgov.com/xeriscape)

CSU Extension fact sheets, [www.ext.colostate.edu](http://www.ext.colostate.edu)

Plant Select® plants, [www.plantselect.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_
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## 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.

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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.

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