**Visit our Demonstration Gardens**

Conservation and Environmental Center
2855 Mesa Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 668-4555
Staff onsite M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Cottonwood Creek Park
3920 Dublin Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(No staff onsite)

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**Getting Started**

Colorado Springs Utilities provides a wealth of resources to help residents make their landscapes more water-wise. We're here to help.

Visit the Conservation and Environmental Center to
- Talk to a Xeriscape expert about your yard
- Visit the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden and
  - explore possibilities of landscape styles
  - see mature plants and plant combinations
  - be inspired

Visit our Website, csu.org, to
- Access in-depth information to lead you through the process of xeriscaping
- Learn about the best plants for Colorado Springs
- Find the latest information and tips about water-saving techniques for inside and outside your home.

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Interested in Xeriscape?

Water-wise landscaping for Colorado Springs

Printed on Recycled Paper
XERISCAPE: A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO CONSERVE WATER

Colorado Springs is a semi-arid climate with limited water resources. The most eye-catching and enduring landscapes in our region are adapted to periodic droughts and limited water supplies.

Rather than referring to the resulting landscape, the term “xeriscape” refers to a process of landscaping founded on a set of seven principles.

Any homeowner can create a beautiful xeriscape in their yard. Whether you are converting your existing landscape or starting from scratch, a xeriscape beautifies, modernizes, and upgrades your landscape, adding value to your home.

Xeriscapes are not “zero-scapes” or barren sweeps of rocks and cactus. Nor are they limited to native plants or southwestern styles.

Colorado xeriscapes feature a wide diversity of plants with attractive colors, textures, and forms. Well-planned xeriscapes create pleasing, functional outdoor living spaces.

Rather than using high maintenance plants, xeriscapes are designed with resilient plants that thrive on less water.

LONG-TERM BENEFITS OF XERISCAPE

- Xeriscapes are healthy, attractive landscapes that add curb appeal, functionality and value to homes.
- Xeriscapes use 30 to 50 percent less water on average, saving money on your water bill.
- Xeriscapes generally require less maintenance, saving valuable time.
- Xeriscapes generally require less fertilizer and fewer pesticides.
- Xeriscapes often retain their attractive appearance during drought years, when traditional landscapes typically suffer.
- Xeriscapes are environmentally-friendly landscapes that reflect responsible stewardship of our western ecosystem.

WHAT IS XERISCAPE?

Xeriscape principles are adaptable to any type of landscape style.

A xeriscape can be as formal, conventional, naturalistic, or creative as you wish.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF XERISCAPE

When used together, these principles create a quality, water-efficient landscape that is adapted to the natural environment.

The seven principles are:

1. Create a xeriscape plan/design
2. Evaluate and improve the soil
3. Create practical turf areas of manageable sizes and shapes
4. Select plants adapted to our climate and soils, and group them according to water need
5. Water efficiently
6. Use mulch to reduce evaporation
7. Care for the landscape using appropriate landscape maintenance techniques.