

Castle Rock **PARADE OF GARDENS 2019**

Garden Map

The Parade of Gardens will take you through some of the most beautiful, eclectic and water-wise, private gardens in our community. The owners of these gardens have volunteered to showcase their landscaping exemplifying low-water use design. Their rationale for incorporating ColoradoScape design include water conservation, less yard maintenance, more color, and more uses from their yard. Professional design may have played a part in one or two landscapes, but it is the vision of the homeowner that has created each of these spaces. These landscapes have been a labor of love and have taken several years to get to their current stage, with many still having more plans for the future. We hope you enjoy exploring the many facets of ColoradoScapes.

The Starting Point: CSU Extension, 410 Fairgrounds Road (Douglas County Fairgrounds/Plum Creek Parkway & Plum Creek Blvd.)

The *guided tour* begins at the CSU Extension office that has its own water-wise gardens. These gardens, shouting with flowering color, tingling with aromatic herbs and shaded by a grove of various trees are tended by Master Gardeners, trained by CSU Extension. The Extension Office is the go-to place on how to plant trees, discover native plants, grow edible gardens, and manage pest problems. They host classes on better gardening and much, much more. Check out their online, Ask an Expert!

The Secret Garden: 1560 Short Grass Court (Meadows @ Red Hawk)
Park on Thatch Circle and enter the gate on the side yard.

This is the secret garden with meandering pathways, levels of entertaining and color popping from every corner. This side and back yard show what years of inspiration can create. A fanciful spattering of yard art, including those pesky gnomes, gives this landscape a personal touch. See how to blend stone, brick, mulch and plantings, along with arbors to create interest and variety in every space. The tour is giving by the owner couple who planned and planted together.

Nipping Back the Lawn: 6941 Sapphire Pointe Blvd. (Sapphire Pointe)

How much lawn is too much lawn? This immense back yard shows how to scale down that lawn and create unique spaces. Explore the gazebo at the edge, the private girls' getaway among the pines, the breezy couch under the aspens and the swing on back deck. Each year there is less lawn, less maintenance and more water conscious lilacs, pines and roses.

****Unofficial tour: Take a drive on Tramoline among these estate properties that clearly understand how to use ColoradoScape to make a stunning impact.*

Slopes and Terraces: 1428 Sterling Hill Court (Escavera)

This front yard tantalizes the senses with huge shade trees, winding paths, aromatic plants and artistic touches. Who knew you could make your front yard an escape to nature. Find seating hidden under the giant pine near aromatic plants to calm the senses. A winding path creates terraces to make this sloped yard useful and accessible front yard living space.

****Unofficial tour: Take some time to drive through the neighborhood, (especially Saddleback Drive) to see how ColoradoScaping is used to fit into the contours of this neighborhood.*

The Passion for Perennials: 1981 Vineyard (Plum Creek & Gilbert)

This eclectic back yard shows how the passion for perennials can take over. Every nook and cranny is overflowing with flowers and greenery. Though each plant has had a loving hand plant tending it, most have been left to naturalize. Master Gardener Dan will show how easy it is to grow a large variety of low-water groundcovers, perennials, shrubs and trees and simply for the love of it. Discover which perennials seem to grow well on south-facing slopes, in shade-loving gardens, around decks and in those hard-to-reach spots. There's a vegetable garden and more than 40 potted plants too.

The Vision Comes Together: 291 Falmouth St. (Castlewood Ranch)

See how the vision comes together in this corner lot that brings color and interest to shady, sunny and low water areas. Both the front and back yard have been transformed to a ColoradoScape, yet still include some turf. Explore the dry creek bed which actually channels stormwater, a gurgling pond next to the flagstone patio, and a shade garden with lots of color. The raised vegetable garden complete with fruit trees provides additional inspiration. The homeowners will be on hand to answer questions about how they incorporated plants to create privacy, repel deer and handle limited irrigation.

****Unofficial tour: HOAs are getting in on ColoradoScapes too. Check out how the neighborhood entrances and medians have replaced turf with more color and plant variety.*

A River Runs Through: 154 Portmeirion Lane (Crystal Valley)

This professionally landscaped back yard took the owner's passion for hiking and brought it to their home. The deck literally melts into the giant boulders of dry creek bed easily found in any Colorado forest. Pines and perennials shower each side of the creek and create a natural flow with the open area beyond the fence. The front yard has just begun its transformation with giant boulders and pines anchoring the space and perennials filling in the gaps, leaving space for the homeowner to begin her creative gardening.

Can't wait to get started planning your own ColoradoScape? Visit CRconserve.com to find the 7 Principles of ColoradoScape, more than 275 plants that do well in Castle Rock, and examples of more Castle Rock ColoradoScapes!