

# DEMONSTRATION GARDEN: FORESTSCAPE | ALTERNATIVE LAWNS

## RELEVANCE

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES BEGIN WITH LOCAL AND REGIONAL NATIVE PLANTS. THESE PLANTS ARE PERFECTLY ADAPTED TO OUR VARIOUS CLIMATES IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO. FROM DRY MONTANE TO SUBALPINE, THESE SPECIES ARE SPECTACULAR SPECIMENS SHOWCASING THE DURABILITY OF LOW MAINTENANCE AND WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPES.

NATIVE SPECIES FOR LANDSCAPES OFFERS A LOW MAINTENANCE DESIGN AND HELPS PRESERVE RESOURCES FOR OUR FUTURE.

## OBJECTIVE/AIM

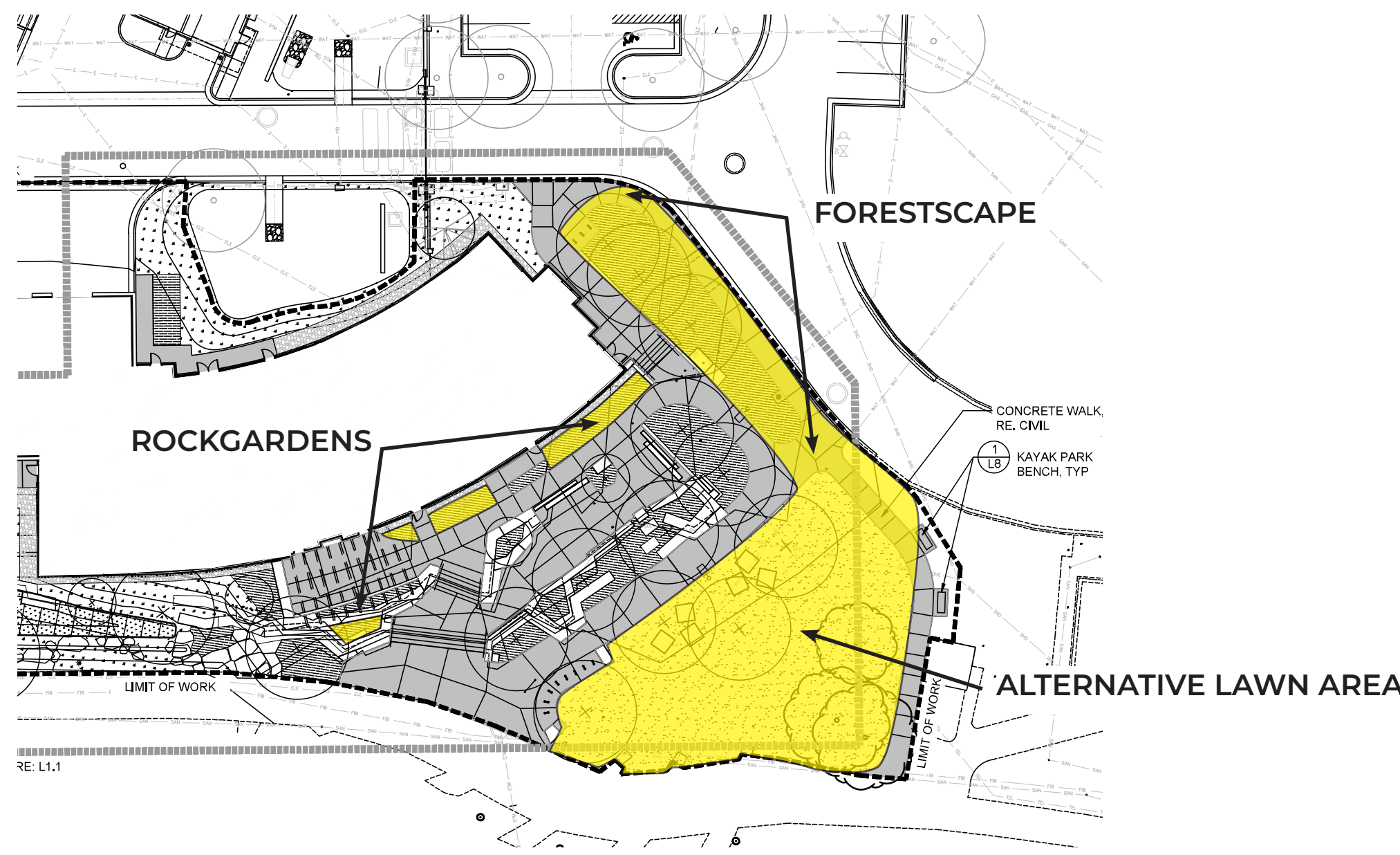
- BEAUTIFICATION OF THE ENTRY TO THE DURANGO WASTE-WATER PLANT.
- EXAMPLE DURABLE NATIVES FOR DURANGO LANDSCAPES.
- EDUCATE HOMEOWNERS IN WAYS TO REDUCE WATER NEEDS IN THEIR LANDSCAPES WHILE UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF TREATED WATER.

## BENEFITS

WATER SHORTAGE IS AN INCREASING CRISIS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD. NATURAL LANDSCAPES WITH NATIVE SPECIES CAN HELP REDUCE EXCESSIVE WATER USE IN PARKS, RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPES. WE CAN DEMONSTRATE SEVERAL TYPES OF PLANTS THAT CAN CREATE A 'LAWN' TYPE SETTING, WITHOUT THE ENORMOUS INPUT THAT A TRADITIONAL LAWN WOULD REQUIRE.

WITHIN ANY LANDSCAPE, APPROPRIATELY PLACED NATIVE SPECIES INCLUDING GROUND COVERS, GRASSES, SUBSHRUBS, AND TREES THAT MAKE UP OUR UPPER, MIDDLE AND LOWER CANOPY BUILDS HEALTHY HABITATS WITH A BIODEVERSE PLANT COMMUNITY RESEMBLING OUR LOCAL FORESTS.

## SITE CONTEXT AND FINDINGS



WASTE-WATER TREATMENT PLANT; DURANGO, COLORADO

**ALTERNATIVE LAWN AREA** IS APPROXIMATELY 9,400 SQFT, ALONG THE ANIMAS RIVER TRAIL (ART) AND SITS ADJASCENT TO THE ANIMAS RIVER WHITEWATER PARK WHERE WHITEWATER ENTHUSIASTS ENTER AND EXIT THE RIVER. A SUGGESTED USE FOR THIS SITE (REFERENCE: MOUNTAIN STUDIES INSTITUTE - COMPREHENSIVE INTERPRETIVE PLAN) IS TO OFFER A COMMON AREA FOR BOTH RIVER AND BIKE TRAIL USERS. THE SITE HOST TWO MATURE COTTONWOODS (POPULUS ACUMINATA) THAT SHADE 2/3 OF THIS AREA. THE HARDSCAPE CONSISTS OF EXISTING SQUARE BOULDER SEATING TO INVITE THE PUBLIC INTO THIS SPACE. TRAFFIC INTO THIS AREA CAN BE HIGH AND NECESSITATES AN INVITING LANDSCAPE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

**FORESTSCAPE** SECTION REPRESENTS AN AREA AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SANTA RITA WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY. THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE IS SLIGHTLY SLOPED TO THE EAST AND THIS GARDEN WILL BE VIEWED FROM ALL DIRECTIONS. AN AREA BETWEEN FORESTSCAPE AND ALTERNATIVE LAWN AREA HAS AN ACCESS POINT AND LENDS ITSELF TO ANOTHER APPROACH FROM THE PARKING LOT TO RIVER TRAIL ACCESS.



FORESTSCAPE



ALTERNATIVE LAWN AREA

## DESIGN PRECEDENTS

### LAWN ALTERNATIVES - ECOLOGY LAWN

NATIVE LAWNS ARE CREATED USING SHORT NATIVE GRASS SPECIES. THESE TURF ALTERNATES REQUIRING FAR LESS IRRIGATION, AND FERTILIZATION AND MOWING CAN BE ELIMINATED ALTOGETHER PROVIDING A SUSTAINABLE TURF. THESE CAN BE COMBINED WITH FORBES TO PROVIDE HABITAT TO WILDLIFE INCLUDING POLLINATORS.



SF GATE



Kimberley Navabpour | SUNSET MAGAZINE

### FORESTSCAPE - NATIVE LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY

NATIVE PLANTS ARE DOMINATING OUR LANDSCAPES FOR GOOD REASONS. WE NEED TO RESHAPE OUR IMAGES OF WATER HUNGRY LANDSCAPES TO LUSH WATER THRIFTY VERSIONS. BOTH DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS AND KENDRICK LAKE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS GIVE LUST TO THE XERIC LANDSCAPE GARDENS OF OUR FUTURE.



PLANTSELECT.ORG



DENVERBOTANICGARDENS.ORG

### KENDRICK LAKE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

THIS LAKEWOOD PARK CONVERTED A ONE ACRE PLOT OF NEGLECTED LAND DURING SEVERE DROUGHT IN 2002. AS WATER RESTRICTINS WERE ENACTED GRASSY PARKS DRIED UP WHILE THE DISPLAY BEDS FILLED WITH NATIVE PLANTS FLOURISHED. THE BEDS HOUSED SPECIES NATIVE TO THE WESTERN UNITED STATES. THIS EXAMPLE HAS INFLUENCED NEIGHBORHOODS TO CONVERT THEIR LANDSCAPES WITH NATIVE PLANTS.

### DENVER BOTANIC GARDEN - NATIVE PLANT COLLECTION

THEIR NATIVE PLANT COLLECTION HAS SEVERAL SUB-COLLECTIONS AND IS BROADLY DEFINED AS THOSE PLANTS THAT ARE KNOWN TO OCCUR NATURALLY (PRE-EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT) IN COLORADO AND THE WEST.

### ROCKGARDENS

ADDING NATIVE STONE (TWILIGHT GNEISS) IN FLAMBOYANT POSITIONS GIVES REFERENCE AND PERFECT POSITIONS FOR OUR GREATEST MINUTIVE NATIVE PLANTS. BOTH REFLECT THE ELEGANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS EACH ADDS TO THE WATER-WISE ROCK GARDEN. AS WE ADMIRE THE GRACEFUL INTERACTION OF PLANTS IN THE ROCK CREVICES, SO DO WE ENCHANT THEM MORE IN OUR OWN GARDENS. HERE WE DESCRIBE SEVERAL PLANTS THAT LIVE WITHIN OUR NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS: NATIVE ROCKS WITH THEIR TRIBAL PLANTS AND THE DELCATE EMBRACE THEY DEMONSTRATE.



DURANGO BOTANICAL GARDENS