

The Hardkopf Garden 119 La Vista, White Rock

Directions: From SR4, turn onto Grand Canyon Drive. In 0.5 miles, turn left onto La Vista, proceed to the 3rd house on the right. A public walkway connects La Vista and Sierra Vista.



A large lot and a public walkway on one side has challenged the owners to use creative ways to utilize their property. Walkways, steps and stone terraces are used to divide the space into areas that feature lawns and trees, raised beds filled with perennials including iris, and xeric beds that transition into native piñons and junipers. The landscape design minimizes the intrusiveness of the public pathway by drawing attention to the two level terrace filled with flowers and shrubs. This soft border at the edge of a large lawn creates visual interest and a pleasant transition to the public pathway.

This garden is currently evolving with the removal of overgrown junipers and the introduction of more appropriate sized shrubs. A variety of plants can be found throughout the yard: Climbing roses, mature evergreens, shade tolerant plants, and serene lawns. The back of the lot has preserved the native trees.

Gardens at the Los Alamos Nature Center (PEEC) 2600 Canyon Road, Los Alamos



June is the month for viewing the phenomenal PEEC penstemon collection with approximately 100 different species and 40 subspecies from around the country. The Nature Center building and its water runoff create microclimates that accommodate plants from desert to alpine environments. Penstemons are drought tolerant, thrive in poor soil, and these gardens demonstrate the remarkable ability of penstemons to adapt to environments considerably different from their native climates. You will see plants from Maine growing side by side with plants from New Mexico and Utah.

Don't miss the three large raised beds featuring different themes essential to the demands of successful gardening in the southwest. The first features native plants adapted to local weather patterns and provides an important food source for local animals. Another demonstrates the beauty of drought-tolerant plants found growing under dry conditions. The final bed introduces alluring plants which welcome pollinators that are essential to our ecosystem.

NMSU Extension Master Gardeners

The Los Alamos Master Gardeners' Association is a community service organization whose members have successfully completed the NMSU's Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener Volunteer training. Our goals are to promote knowledgeable, effective, and safe horticultural practices consistent with the Cooperative Extension Service, and to promote goodwill in our community.

Locally, Master Gardener training began in the early 1980s. Our local organization was formed in July 1994. Training is offered each spring. It is comprised of twelve weeks of lectures covering a variety of gardening topics.

For more information about becoming a volunteer please contact our Extension Agent Carlos Valdez at (505) 662-2656 or email at valdez@nmsu.edu. Los Alamos Cooperative Extension Service Office is located at 475 20th Street, Suite A, Los Alamos.



If you are in need of special services in order to participate in this event contact Carlos Valdez, Horticulture Agent, at (505) 662-2656 prior to May 18, 2018.

New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. NMSU, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Los Alamos County cooperating.

2018

Master Gardeners' Garden Tour ***Saturday, June 2*** ***10:00 am to 2:00 pm***



This year's tour centers on the White Rock Community with a total of five gardens. Two of the five gardens feature the work and inspiration of lifetime Master Gardeners, Majorie Selden and Cathy Strong. While both gardens have been seen on previous tours, gardens mature and change just as their owners do. There is much to be learned from decades of gardening experience! Also on this year's tour are the gardens at The Nature Center (PEEC) in Los Alamos.



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and Environmental Sciences

The Strong Garden
229 Rio Bravo, White Rock

Directions: From SR4, turn onto Monte Rey Drive North. In 0.7 miles, turn left on Rio Bravo Drive and follow 0.8 miles.



Cathy and Ian Strong's garden has been in the making for fifty years. The 3.5 acre property, slightly less than half of which is a garden, sits on the edge of White Rock Canyon and enjoys glorious views. In the southwest tradition, a 30' x 30' walled garden just outside the house has raised beds on two sides filled with vines, shrubs, trees, and an assortment of perennials.

The rear gardens have been sculpted around existing piñons, one of which is 250 years old. The farther away from the house, the less water the plants need. The semi-shade garden is filled with climbing roses, Clematis, a small Sargent crab, assorted perennials and a hedge of germander. There is a pond flanked by a deck, berms planted with natives, and an extensive gramma grass lawn. Through an arbor is a native garden with penstemons and native grasses. The latest addition is an Accolade elm, resistant to Dutch elm disease.

The Selden Garden
624 La Bajada, White Rock

Directions: From SR4, turn onto Monte Rey Drive North. In 0.7 miles, turn left on Rio Bravo Drive. In 0.5 miles, turn left onto La Bajada. The Selden Garden is on the right at the end.



Plumes of ornamental grasses, intriguing sculptures, and restful patios surround this adobe hacienda. An inspiring view of White Rock Canyon provides the backdrop. When Bob and Marjorie Selden purchased the lot in the 1980's it had been scraped bare, and was located on the site of the old sewage lagoons for Pajarito Acres.

The restoration began with planting over 300 native piñons and junipers, which created a natural forest on the far reaches of the property. Flagstone and moss rock were used for patios around the house and walkways throughout the property. Locust trees were planted to provide shade for patios. Finally, they planted gardens around the house, including a rock garden, where you will find wild and ornamental grasses, hardy perennials, succulent ground covers, and dwarf conifers. All the plants have stood the test of time in needing only modest water, and being relatively deer resistant.

The Mason Garden
148 Piedra Loop, White Rock

Directions: From SR4, turn onto Piedra Loop and proceed 1 mile. The Mason house is on the right.



This garden represents the journey Master Gardener Cas Mason, originally from Yorkshire, England, took to build a beautiful garden in the arid New Mexican environment. Visions of grasses blowing in the wind was the inspiration. An emphasis on perennial grasses with native plants and hardy shrubs are featured. The use of natives and select non-natives delight the senses with their riotous color.

Cas's garden makes use of varying micro-climates and specific plants in different areas. The low-grow sumacs and apache plume on the dry north side never get additional water while others, like salvia pachyphylla on the east, require watering every summer. When roses and lush blooms withered and perished, native plants took root and thrived. Shade plants in the copse were particularly difficult to establish, but now several, including sweet woodruff and brunnera, do well. Most recently the west side was entrusted with small bulbs and sedums.

The Thielemann-Hollas Garden
119 Sierra Vista, White Rock

Directions: From SR4, turn onto Grand Canyon Drive. In 0.6 miles turn left onto Sierra Vista, proceed to the 2nd house on the right. A public walkway connects La Vista and Sierra Vista



Thirty-five years ago when Master Gardener Doris and husband Charles bought their home, the landscape consisted of river rocks, Kentucky bluegrass lawn, 3 fruit trees, a large maple tree and many weeds. Today that lawn consists of blue gramma, buffalo grass, thyme and fescue. The large vegetable garden on the lower east side provides a range of produce for the owners and neighbors to enjoy. Surrounding the deck and framing the fabulous view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, are annuals and perennials including an herb garden, a pollinator garden and ornamental grasses. The very hot western facing side of the house has mature piñon trees with native grasses and beds of perennials that thrive in the dry New Mexico weather. In the last few years, gardening has involved continuing removal of the river rocks, improving the watering system, and minor changes in plants and layout to make maintenance easier.