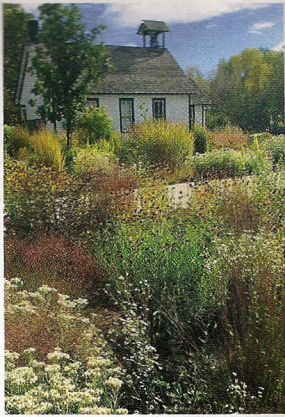


HABITAT HERO GARDENS

A sampling of Habitat Hero Award-winning gardens from around the region, both public and private.

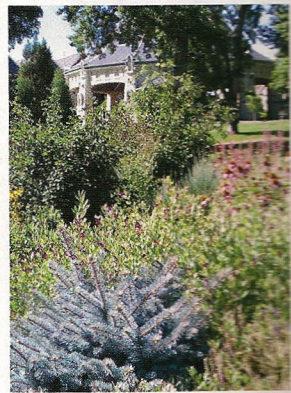


This mesic prairie garden surrounds the old schoolhouse at Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) at Chatfield, named "Outstanding Public Garden" in the 2014 Habitat Hero Awards. Lauren Springer Ogden and Scott Ogden designed the DBG at Chatfield entrance gardens to showcase the biomes of the interior West using 10,000 individual plants, plus 14,000 non-native bulbs for spring. The gardens are only three years old, but they already look fully natural.



A water conservation agreement with Denver Water and a progressive Home Owners' Association board resulted in a whole new look for the Cherry Creek 3 townhome complex, plus \$20,000 in water-bill-rebates over five years, and increased property values. Colorful habitat gardens now replace overgrown "pooled" junipers and lava rock in front of all 251 town homes and brighten the ends of each building as well as the "hell strips" around the complex parking lots. A community edible garden helps residents grow their own food.

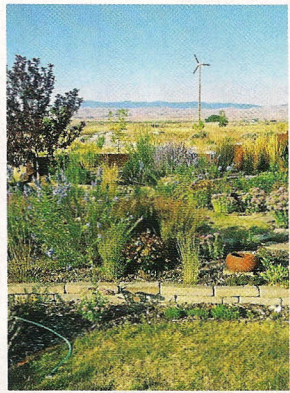
comply with their subdivision's lawn regulations. Fifteen years and drought, hail, a grasshopper plague, and much trial and error later, their native blue grama grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*) "lawn" thrives without additional water and the expansive habitat garden—the couple's favorite place to be—blooms from spring through fall, and is home to songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, praying mantids, rabbits, toads, and both hognose and bull snakes.



This formal habitat garden at Highlands Garden Village just off busy 38th Avenue, in northwest Denver, honors the original Elitch's Gardens, a historic amusement park and Denver's first botanical garden, which opened in 1890. Now a public garden designed and maintained by Erica Holtzinger and her volunteer crew, the gardens provide seasonal color and inspiration plus year-round habitat for urban wildlife from native bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to foxes and even the occasional coyote.



When Mary and Pete Cappel moved to a semi-rural subdivision near Brighton on Colorado's high plains, they wanted a beautiful, waterwise and wildlife-friendly landscape, and they also needed to



On a windswept acreage with alkaline soil and 8 inches of annual precipitation outside Powell, Wyoming, Stephanie and Andy Rose created an oasis for wildlife and people inside a low adobe wall around their house. Regionally adapted and native trees, shrubs, and tall bunch grasses create windbreaks and sheltered microclimates, in which they've planted over 60 varieties of perennials to provide nectar, pollen, fruit, and seeds for songbirds and pollinators. Their wildscape, say the Roses, makes their home life more "colorful, aromatic, and resilient."



SHOW US YOUR HERO HABITAT!
ROCKY MOUNTAIN GARDENING'S
WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN PHOTO CONTEST

Details on pg. 38