

RIVER CITY GARDENS
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Sustainable landscape design

Client & Site Survey

Garden Planning is a collaborative process involving the homeowners and the designer. Together we determine what you want, and examine what you currently have. Budget, time line and personal taste are all factors we consider. Your involvement in the process is the best way for you to get a garden environment that delights you and fits your lifestyle.

This Survey is useful in identifying what you want your outdoor life to be like. Please hold nothing back. Every effort will be made to include each concept that you identify. Just check and circle your way through the survey.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- New construction
- Old garden/large plants
- Old garden/few plants
- Slope: how steep covered with vegetation
- Trees: need rehabilitating pruning fruit trees forest trees
- Water issues: drainage standing water shortage of water
- Existing irrigation system does it work?
- Soil: clay sand hard rocky rich & healthy
easy to work
- Hardscape: patios decks balconies paths compost yard
water features structures firepit etc.
- Is the hardscape in good condition
- If not can the materials be reused on this project
- Fences: none need replacing good condition
- What kind of plants do you have? lawn shrubs trees
messy invasive weeds edibles
- Overhead wires, underground pipes
- Views good bad

THE FUTURE LANDSCAPE

- ❑ Please think about budget, time line and priorities
- ❑ Will you do the installation yourself all part
- ❑ Do you want a contractor to install

IDENTIFY WHAT IS NEEDED & WANTED:

- ❑ Beautiful entry garden
- ❑ Paths
- ❑ Fences walls hedges privacy screens
- ❑ Decks patio terrace places to be
- ❑ Outdoor cooking outdoor dining
- ❑ Children's play spaces adult play spaces
- ❑ Place for dogs cats chickens
- ❑ Outdoor cloths line (drying cloths uses about 6% of USA energy resources)
- ❑ Edibles organic
- ❑ Wild life friendly bird baths bird feeders
- ❑ Storage trash barrels recycling boats RV
- ❑ Composting / utility yard
- ❑ Fire pit firewood storage wood chopping
- ❑ outdoor shower bathtub
- ❑ Structures garden shed play house gazebo sauna
trellis office covered dining area
greenhouse tea house meditation retreat

WATER

- ❑ Water feature pond waterfall water rock
- ❑ Water play garden
- ❑ Swimming pool hot tub
- ❑ Storm water facilities to keep water on site and out of storm drain system disconnect downspout
- ❑ Rain garden / bioswale
- ❑ Dry creek bed for storm water
- ❑ Irrigation system hand water additional hose bibs needed
- ❑ Is water use an issue?
- ❑ Rain barrels and water storage
- ❑ Green roof

ACTIVITIES

- Entertaining: big crowds medium crowds intimate parties
family gatherings outdoor cooking & eating
kid's parties sleeping & star gazing pizza oven
- Swimming pool pool house
- Sports: ball croquette badminton horseshoes
volleyball tennis playing with dog bocci ball
- Retreat: meditation spot secret hiding place
hammock tree house
- Children: play house sandbox play structure
tree climbing tree swing plant growing
- Edibles: veggies fruit trees berries outdoor sink
grapes herbs raised beds
- Plant growing trees shrubs perennial flowers
annual flowers ornamental grasses natives
fragrance cut flowers container gardens
lawn
- Are you a plant collector/nerd? Do you love gardening?
- Do you have a gardener?
- Low maintenance of course!

STYLE

Let us explore your personal style. Pictures in garden mags and books, gardens in your neighborhood or remembering your grandmother's garden are all helpful tools.

A WORD ABOUT SOIL

Healthy & vibrant soil is the most important element in the garden. Organic composts, fertilizers and other imputes can begin healing a soil damaged with chemical use and construction abuses. The design specifications will include particular information about soil preparation and ongoing soil health.

Please add other ideas. The process of garden building can be quite enjoyable. Let's have some fun.

Kathryn Leech APLD, Designer