City of Surprise
Xeriscape Demonstration Garden
City of Surprise

- Master planning area = 302 square miles
- Current incorporated land = 108 square miles
- 12 water service providers
- 6 planning areas
- 98% SFR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts</td>
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<td>Demand/account</td>
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<td>SFR unit demand</td>
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<td>IRR unit demand*</td>
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<td>6.21 af/acct.</td>
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<td>Designation Volume</td>
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Designing the Xeriscape Garden
What’s in our garden?

• 63 plant species
• 51 trees
• Concrete and DG pathways
• Seating areas
• Amphitheater
• Student/community artwork
• Interpretive signage
• 100% reclaimed water
Why Have Demonstration Gardens?

**Water Management Tool**

- In Surprise ~60% of all potable water is used outdoors
- Proper watering & leak detection is “lowest hanging fruit” of water conservation
- Conversion to xeric landscaping results in approximately 58 gallons of water saved annually per square foot*

Master Gardener Partnership

The Surprise University of Arizona Master Gardener Office is a space dedicated to the joint partnership between the West Valley Master Gardeners and the City of Surprise Water Conservation Program
City of Surprise Xeriscape Demonstration Garden

The Seven Principles of Xeriscape

**PLANNING & DESIGN**
Create a plan that considers cost, function and both water and energy efficiency (by placing plants to shade your home).

**SOIL IMPROVEMENT**
Improve your soil health and it will benefit your plants and save water. Soil can also be graded to collect rainwater for your plants.

**PRACTICAL TURF AREAS**
Consider forgoing or minimizing the amount of grass in your landscape. Grass lawns use a lot of water and require specialized maintenance.

**EFFICIENT IRRIGATION**
Install a properly designed system that will deliver the right amount of water at the right time, and don’t forget to collect rainwater.

**MULCH**
Apply organic mulches to: reduce evaporation from the soil surface, keep soil temperatures cooler in summer, and help prevent weed growth.

**LOW-WATER-USE PLANTS**
Select from hundreds of plants to provide many functions for your landscape, from attracting birds and butterflies to screening unsightly areas.

**APPROPRIATE MAINTENANCE**
All landscapes need some care. Improper pruning and fertilizing can actually cause your landscape to use more water.

Scan this QR code for more information on how you can help conserve water.
The average City of Surprise resident uses more than 130 gallons of water every day! Approximately 70% of that use is outdoors. Converting even a portion of landscape to low-water-use plants can save water and money!
City of Surprise Xeriscape Demonstration Garden

- Themes
  - Low Desert
  - Native Compatible
  - Sensory
  - Year Round Color

- Interpretive Panels
  - Urban forests
  - Proper watering
Education Goals of Garden

Passive education
• Flyers & brochures for kiosk
• Informational sheets for bulletin board (plant or animal of the month)
• Self-guided tour pamphlet

Active education
• Water Education Center classes
• Garden tours
• Classroom tours
QUESTIONS???

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