



# MAJESTIC VIEW NATURE CENTER

Majestic View Nature Center and Community Park is a place to learn about, understand, and appreciate the area's natural features and cultural history by interacting directly with nature! The 3,000 square foot Nature Center features hands-on nature and environmental displays, wildlife exhibits, a kid's area, classrooms and meeting space.

Majestic View Nature Center was recently recognized for the **'best new program'** in Colorado by the Colorado Association of Environmental Educators with their program on water conservation.

In addition, this amazing facility maintained its commitment to sustainability by switching to solar power (meeting 98% of Nature Center's electricity needs), installing the first LED solar-powered parking light in Colorado, and selling reusable cloth grocery bags. The park encompasses over 80 acres, which includes a lake and wetland areas, a beautiful demonstration garden, interpretive trails, prairie grasses and many wildlife species.

Majestic View Nature Center is located at 7030 Garrison Street, **720-898-7405**.

## **Majestic View's Demonstration Garden**

The 25,000 square foot Xeriscape Demonstration Garden is now in its 4th blooming season at the City of Arvada's Majestic View Nature Center. The garden is located immediately adjacent to the Nature Center on the south and east sides of the building. The purpose of the Majestic View Xeriscape Demonstration Garden is to exhibit regionally appropriate plants, materials and the principals applied to design a landscape or garden that thrive in our arid, Front Range climate.

Xeriscape is not a style or an aesthetic, but rather a process for the design of a landscape that is appropriate to our region, given the weather, climate and available moisture. Often mispronounced "xeroscape", xeriscape has become associated with vast expanses of gravel, cacti and artificial turf. To the contrary, our yards and gardens can be lush, colorful and use less water. The Majestic View Xeriscape Demonstration Garden provides citizens with a resource that illustrates the application of the principles involved in the design and maintenance of a water-wise landscape. Trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses are incorporated with their names, characteristics and cultural requirements noted on signs and in accompanying literature. Many plants from Colorado State University's Plant Select program and the Colorado Native Plant Society recommendations have been utilized in the garden. The garden has become a forum for a range of educational activities associated with gardening, horticulture and water conservation, which compliments the environmental education curriculum already underway at the Nature Center.

The Garden was funded by a \$60,000 Jefferson County Open Space Grant in addition to the City's General and Water Funds. The Master Plan for Majestic View Park calls for a Prairie Arboretum proximate to the Nature Center and Community Gardens at the former Kennedy property. The Division hopes to develop these facilities as an extension of the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, while continuing to build on the themes of regionally appropriate plants, horticulture and water conservation. There is no funding currently in place for either of these projects. Given the scope and nature of the project, a Friends of the Garden group has been formed for those wishing to contribute time to assist with gardening or to volunteer at the Nature Center.

For additional information on the Demonstration Garden Contact Karen Miller, Director of Majestic View Nature Center at **720-898-7405**.

