Waterwise Garden
Bellevue Botanical Garden
Georgia O’Keefe, 1925
writing about her petunias:

“I said to myself, I’ll paint what I see. What the flower is to me, but I’ll paint it big and they will be surprised into taking time to look at it. I will make even busy New Yorkers take time to see what I see of flowers.”
The Bellevue Botanical Garden is a rising star in a region of great gardens; a visit is stimulating and invigorating. Where past colored flowers at the border obsolete, big clumps of bronze-red daylilies with amber throats, red-tick pokeweed (Phytolacca) and purple Coreopsis 'Ligatina' are blessed by scarlet-leaved California lilacs (Syringa). A few yards along, the neat evergreen daphne (tibetana) and a yellow segment depends heavily on the golden flowers of striking golden sedge (Carex aurea) and purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea). At first glance, the flowers often draw the most attention, but with only a little more observation, the many beautiful shapes, colors, and textures of the plants and flowers show their great strength and value to the border.

True xeriscaping, or dry gardening, is difficult in the Pacific Northwest because of our wet winter and spring. But with our dry-summer weather, water-wise gardening is superb for any area, whether or not you are watching restrictionography. One section of the Bellevue Botanical Garden is devoted to plants that require little extra water. Here are some useful flowering plants for our water-wise gardens:

- Alkanna tinctoria ('lady's mantle')
- Buddleia davidii (butterfly bush)
- Coreopsis verticillata (thread leaf tickseed)
- Cotoneaster dammeri (smoke bush)
- Geranium sanguineum (bloody cranesbill)
- Knautia macedonica (creeping knautia)
- Kniphofia uvaria (red hot poker)
- Nepeta x faassenii (catmint)
- Salvia officinalis (common sage)
- Sedum species
- Sisyrinchium bellum (Mexican blue grass)
- Verbena bonariensis (Brazil vervain)
Patricia Burgess, Project Manager
Bellevue Utilities and Bellevue Parks Department

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/waterwise-garden.htm
Gratitude for Volunteers!!!
get the most from what we’ve learned

• design it right - good planning is the best practice
• prepare the site right & plant for success
• expect change - it’s a garden!!!
Bellevue’s Waterwise Garden. It’s beautiful…. it’s enlightening….it’s yours to explore.

The Waterwise Garden is full of water-saving and work-reducing tips for gardens of any size, age or style. Visit the Waterwise Garden, and see what’s growing on.

• know your site - look closely
• have a concept - for water use & maintenance
Know your site

- Sun + shade patterns
- Soil conditions
- Existing vegetation
- Drainage patterns
- Circulation
- Views
- Programatic considerations
Short’s House - Visitor’s Center
East side entry to garden
North side “back” of the Visitor’s Center
transition from Woodland

Southwest side of Short’s Visitor’s Center
Southwest side of Short's Visitor's Center
concept

- diversity of planting environments & experiences, similar to residential garden
- provide a guide as the garden changes over time

Garden Map

West Edge:
Part-Shade Boarder & Lawn Alternatives

East Edge:
Part-Sun Entry Grove

North

Shady Woodland

Sunny Kitchen Garden

Visitor Center
the Entry Grove
Kitchen Garden
prepare

- amend soil
- use efficient irrigation
- apply mulch, again & again..
plant it right

- honor the concept
- zone plants by water use
- space plants honestly
- group by maintenance needs
- keep an eye out as the site settles & changes
Guess who needs summer water?

honor the concept
(when planting) space plants honestly
zone for water use & maintenance
field adjust when planting
keep an eye as site settles
expect change!

• plans change
• uses evolve & vary over time
• weather happens
• disease strikes
• plant’s natural life span
• critters show up
people impacts
disease strikes
& a new tree is planted
too sunny for Sarcococca
loss from wind storm damage
Cercis ‘Forest Pansy’ was vulnerable when conditions changed and...
replanted in Woodland
gourmet critter cages
Any time of the year is a good time to visit Bellevue's Waterwise Garden. The Waterwise Demonstration Garden is located on the north and west sides of the Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center at 12001 Main Street. Open daily from dawn to dusk. Admission is always FREE. For more information, visit Bellevue Utilities' Natural Lawn and Garden website at www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/natural_lawn_intro.htm or call 425-452-6932.

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plants

- the garden is organized by microclimates
- each area has a distinct plant palette
Discover an alluring landscape that’s healthier for families and local eco-systems. The Waterwise Garden showcases a diverse array of plants that delight the senses, attract native wildlife, and conserve resources. A visit to its shady pathways confirms that splendid gardens don’t require large amounts of water or garden chemicals that can harm children, pets, and the Puget Sound. This award-winning display offers rich possibilities for your home garden and a healthier environment.

In the Waterwise Garden, you’ll learn new practices and discover solutions.
entry grove

part sun / shade
serviceberry - all seasons award!!
white, pink, yellow
woodland

terrific plants for dry shade.... and increasing amounts of part sun
native colors: greens, reds, golds
North border - “the back 40”
low maintenance zone
plants that misbehave
Euphorbia amygdaloides var. robbiae (Mrs. Robb's bonnet)

Botanical Name: Euphorbia amygdaloides var. robbiae
Common Name: Mrs. Robb's bonnet
Synonyms: E. robbiae
Genus: Euphorbia

This variety has dark, glossy evergreen leaves arranged in tight rosettes, and it produces yellow-green bracts in mid-spring and early summer.

Noteworthy characteristics: This plant spreads rapidly (it may be invasive) and it is difficult to remove. Milky sap may cause irritation to skin and severe discomfort if ingested.

Care: It can take a wide range of conditions; moist or dry soil in full sun to shade.
bamboo

- running vs. clumping
- valuable screen for the right spot
- requires long term commitment
- annual check-up on root barrier & plants
- every 5 years +/- dig out interior and divide
- dwarf varieties are great
install root barrier for all running types, including dwarf varieties
kitchen garden

full sun
summer water use zones
“fun in the sun”: purple, blue, yellow, orange you name it!
plants that misbehave
life span of some wonderful plants is brief
west edge border

mixed sun & shade
alternatives to turf
yellow, white, bronze, purple, red, pink
“…..I will make even busy New Yorkers Puget Sounders take time to see what I see of flowers.”
come be a volunteer!!!
or visit us on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday