

HIGH ALTITUDE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN BAILEY, COLORADO (PARK COUNTY)

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Project Introduction

With an elevation range that varies like its people, the small town of Bailey is a mountain getaway for those wanting to take a step back in time. Quickly becoming a favorite spot for tourists from all over the world, the local community is striving to improve Main St.

One of the projects is the brainchild of Extension Director, Barbie Garnett. Hoping to create a space of relaxation, education, and gathering, the Demonstration Gardens were brought to life with the help of extension interns.

This summer aimed to help the community understand the construction efforts—more than just dirt will exist here! Through collaborative garden design and hands-on sustainable landscaping practices, the plot went from weed-infested to plant-invested.

Visitors can now experience the newly installed Sensory, Pollinator, Xeric, and Shade gardens or enjoy an ice cream from Knotty Pine on the lush Native Turf lawn. Eventually, guests will be able to scan QR codes around the site for quick access to information about the gardens or plant care.

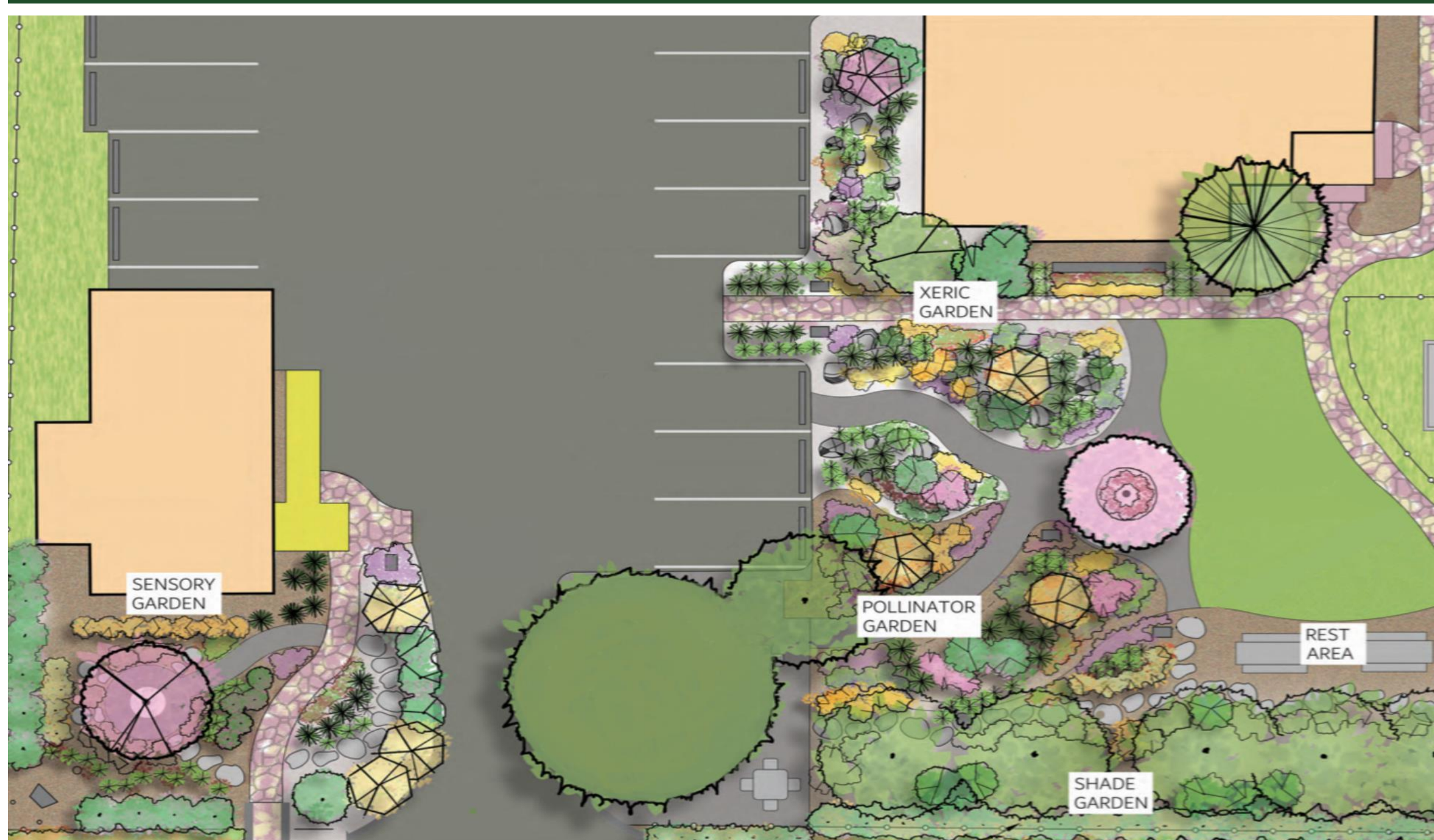
Internship Goals

Educational Outreach: promote sustainable gardening and the importance of native plants through community outreach and workshops

Environmental Conservation: establish a demonstration garden highlighting the beauty & importance of native Colorado flora

Hands-on Learning: enhancing horticulture & landscape skills via sustainable garden design, construction, and maintenance

Figure 1. digital design of the demonstration garden



Timeline

May

- Check in to Glen Isle Resort
- Visit the work site and get goals set
- Begin the weed pulling!
- Start to select plants for each garden & get pricing/check for donations from local nurseries

June

- Weeds are pulled, things get mowed, the usual day-to-day by now
- Sprinklers... irrigation... should just be called "irritation"
- Visits to a lumber mill and other demonstration gardens
- Baily Days booth – designed info sheets, logo created to promote eventual website, rock painting

July

- Wood chips dropped off
- Plans delivered & planted asap
- Hand watering & general lawn care is a daily task
- Information about plant care is sourced and organized
- Website is making good progress; layout and info to use
- Irrigation guy has gone MIA -- thin layer of chips are laid

August

- Thrifted accessories are cleaned & set up around the gardens
- Information for each plant has been listed
- Self-instillation of the irrigation (involving a handful of trips out of town for supplies)
- Last minute weed pulling and other general tidying up

Next Steps

Long-term management – need for hired/volunteer help to manage weeds, maintain plants (provide adequate water and nutrients, prune, etc)

Garden Finish – more plants (manage weeds & fill the empty space), signs for plants and gardens, rock painting station (supplies), dog bag/trash can

Community engagement – raising awareness about the gardens via flyers, social media, meetings; continued donations and support

Website – created but unusable (must be one that meets CSU security guidelines), QR code for quick site access

Takeaways

- Always keep bug spray, sunscreen, and allergy medication on hand
- Pace yourself– the weeds will still be there tomorrow
- Long time locals have the best gossip and native growing information
- “Small town” means that everything is volunteer based, and everyone is stretched paper thin; even if everyone had an extra set of arms, getting things done by any deadline is a challenge
- Wear protective gear when using a weed eater; always check for rocks
- Sasquatch love the town of Bailey (even if they’ve yet to be sighted)
- Take the little victories and turn experiences to memories

Progress Pictures



Figure 2. picture of the site on the final day



Honorable Mentions

- ★★★★★
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| Coffee & book recommendations | Knotty Pine (Barb) |
| Ice cream & conversations | Off the Rails (Kyleigh & Ben) |
| Lodging & memories | Glen Isle Resort (Mary Ruth, Greg, Joe) |
| Assistance & encouragement | Dorry & the crew at 81 st / 83 rd Main Street |
| Transportation & repairs | Mike – each of them |