



We're Here to Help!

With thoughtful planning, creative thinking, imaginative use of plants and material, and attention to detail, any homeowner can create a garden landscape that reflects their unique individuality and lifestyle.

But, if you are running into creative stumbling blocks, or are not quite sure of your design, Phelan Gardens offers consultation services. Just call (719) 574-8058 to set up an appointment.

We can create a design for you OR review your design before you implement your project. If you prefer to hire out the labor portion, Phelan's also offers full service installations.



Open Year-Round
7 days a week
4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway
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www.phelangardens.com

- *local gardening information
- *upcoming classes & events
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The Well Designed Landscape

Tips and Tricks to Achieve the Yard You Desire



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Garden Design... where to begin?

Start With Function

When planning your yard, first look at function:

- Where are the areas with heavy foot traffic?
- What view (or neighbor) would you like blocked? Create a screen with tall shrubs.
- Is there a bare wall or side of the house?
- Is the west side of your house too hot? A large deciduous tree will offer shade.
- What might you do with that slope on your property? How about a retaining wall to hold the soil or a living retaining wall?
- Is there an area for a playground set? It would be nice to have soft grass around it.
- Do you want to attract or deter wildlife?
- Do you want to include an edible area into your yard? If so, plantings that encourage pollinators are helpful.

As overwhelming as your project might seem now, try to consider how your landscape might change in future years. A well-designed landscape will mature and adapt with the needs of the owners. For example, today's sandbox could evolve into a patio extension, water feature, or rose arbor in later years.

Consider Your Yard's Unique Environment

After you know what you want from your yard, look at what it has to offer – soil types,



During your planning process take a moment to look out your window. Consider what your view might be like from inside your house.

sunny areas and shady areas. If the soil isn't great, amend it with

organic matter before planting. Find plants that work in your conditions. Is it a hot/dry or shady/cool area? **The Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association has published plant guides available at Phelan Gardens.** These guides describe the plants that do well in Colorado. What their special qualities are, how tall and wide they will get, their water and winter requirements and the sun exposures they will tolerate. They are a wealth of information, especially if you are new to Colorado or to gardening.

At this stage, you should also address any concerns such as drainage, hard-surface areas, and utility needs.

Permanent Features First

It can actually be fun creating your yard to suit your family's needs. Think about large additions first such as trees and shrubs. We usually don't move the yard around like the living room. So work on permanent features and the small ones will fall into place. The design should include elements that complement the style and structure of your house while accommodating the desires and demands of you, the homeowner.

Consider Maintenance

The garden is where we relax, work, play and entertain. Be realistic about the amount of time you will want to spend on maintenance. Large lawns, flower or vegetable areas do not take care of themselves. They require regular mowing, feeding, watering and weeding in order to remain attractive and productive. So choose the garden style that fits your lifestyle.

Whether you are retrofitting an old landscape or are starting with bare soil, we offer one key piece of advice: Do what you want – it's your yard; you live in it and look at it. So make it what YOU want it to be.

