

RIVER CITY GARDENS  
Sustainable Landscape Design  
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Date:

Homeowner:

## CLIENT & SITE SURVEY

Garden Planning is a collaborative process involving the homeowners and the designer. Together we determine what you want, and examine what you currently have. Budget, time line and personal taste are all factors we consider. Your involvement in the process is the best way for you to get a garden environment that delights you and fits your lifestyle.

This Survey is useful in identifying what you want your outdoor life to be like. Please hold nothing back. Every effort will be made to include each concept that you identify. Just check and circle your way through the survey.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

- New construction
- Old garden/large plants
- Old garden/few plants
- Slope:    how steep    covered with vegetation
- Trees:    need rehabilitating    pruning    fruit trees    forest trees
- Water issues:    drainage    standing water    shortage of water
- Existing irrigation system    does it work?
- Soil:    clay    sand    hard    rocky    rich & healthy  
easy to work
- Hardscape: patios    decks    balconies    paths    compost yard  
water features    structures    firepit    etc.
- Is the hardscape in good condition
- If not can the materials be reused on this project
- Fences: none    need replacing    good condition
- What kind of plants do you have?    lawn    shrubs    trees  
messy    invasive weeds    edibles
- Overhead wires, underground pipes

- Views good bad

## THE FUTURE LANDSCAPE

- Please think about budget, time line and priorities
- Will you do the installation yourself all part
- Do you want a contractor to install

## IDENTIFY WHAT IS NEEDED & WANTED:

- Beautiful entry garden
- Paths
- Fences walls hedges privacy screens
- Decks patio terrace places to be
- Outdoor cooking outdoor dining
- Children's play spaces adult play spaces
- Place for dogs cats chickens
- Outdoor cloths line (drying cloths uses about 6% of USA electric energy)
- Edibles organic fruit trees berries veggies prize tomatoes
- Wild life friendly bird baths bird feeders
- Storage trash barrels recycling boats RV
- Composting / utility yard
- Fire pit firewood storage wood chopping
- outdoor shower bathtub
- Structures garden shed play house gazebo sauna trellis office covered dining area greenhouse tea house meditation retreat

## WATER

- Water feature pond waterfall water rock
- Water play garden
- Swimming pool hot tub
- Storm water facilities to keep water on site and out of storm drain system disconnect downspout
- Rain garden / bioswale
- Dry creek bed for storm water
- Irrigation system hand water additional hose bibs needed
- Is water use an issue?

- Rain barrels and water storage
- Green roof

## ACTIVITIES

- Entertaining: big crowds medium crowds intimate parties  
family gatherings outdoor cooking & eating  
kid's parties sleeping & star gazing pizza oven
- Swimming pool pool house
- Sports: ball croquette badminton horseshoes  
volleyball tennis playing with dog bocci ball
- Retreat: meditation spot secret hiding place  
hammock tree house
- Children: play house sandbox play structure  
tree climbing tree swing plant growing
- Edibles: veggies fruit trees berries outdoor sink  
grapes herbs raised beds
- Plant growing trees shrubs perennial flowers  
annual flowers ornamental grasses natives  
fragrance cut flowers container gardens  
lawn
- Are you a plant collector/nerd? Do you love gardening?
- Do you have a gardener?
- Low maintenance of course!

## STYLE

Let us explore your personal style. Pictures in garden mags and books, gardens in your neighborhood or remembering your grandmother's garden are all helpful tools.

## A WORD ABOUT SOIL

Healthy & vibrant soil is the most important element in the garden. Organic composts, fertilizers and other imputes can begin healing a soil damaged with chemical use and construction abuses. The design specifications will include particular information about soil preparation and ongoing soil health.

Please add other ideas. The process of garden building can be quite enjoyable. Let's have some fun!

Kathryn Leech APLD, Designer