

*Rock Gardens are areas for specialty plants tucked in among or draping over natural or constructed rock features.*

## Why a Rock Garden?

Many home and commercial grounds in Eastern Washington have natural basalt formations that can be enhanced with rock garden plants. Rock gardens can also be created in “difficult” garden spots such as slopes, terraces, rock walls or ledges. Depending on surrounding features, the conditions may be hot and dry, as in exposed alpine sites; or wet and shady, as in forested waterfall spots. Effective rock gardens display a subtle mingling of plants suited to conditions provided by the rock.

## Plants in the Rock Garden

*Plants are representative of those that do well in a Rock Garden.*

Stonecrop	<i>Sedum ewersii, Sedum populifolium, Sedum lydium, Sedum anacampseros, Sedum album murale, Sedum spurium</i> ‘Ruby’s Mantle’, <i>Sedum spurium</i> ‘Tricolor’, <i>Sedum kamtchaticum, Sedum cauticola</i> ‘Vera Jameson’, <i>Sedum spurium</i>
Hen & Chicks	<i>Sempervivum sobliferum, Sempervivum tectorum, Sempervivum</i> ‘Ashes of Roses’
Rockfoil	<i>Saxifraga x andrusii, Saxifraga x umbrosa</i> ‘Aurea’, <i>Saxifraga x macnabiana</i>
Bellflower	<i>Campanula</i> ‘Blue Clips’, <i>Campanula porcharskyana</i>
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium dalmaticum</i>
Creeping Bellflower	<i>Campanula portenschlagiana</i>
Creeping Speedwell	<i>Veronica peduncularis</i> ‘Waterperry’
Crispy Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i> ‘Crispum’
Dwarf Lady’s Mantle	<i>Aquilegia alpina</i>
Dwarf Thrift	<i>Armeria martimia</i>
Dwarf Yarrow	<i>Achillea tomentosum</i>
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> ‘Mother Lode’
Pink Rock Cress	<i>Arabis caucasica</i> ‘Rosea’
Sea Thrift	<i>Armeria splendens</i>
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria</i> ‘Pink Panda’
White Rock Cress	<i>Arabis caucasica</i> ‘Alba’

## Designing the Rock Garden

A classic rock garden rises naturally from a low level to a higher one on a rocky slope or is constructed in a way to appear part of the natural surroundings. Some plants will thrive in the shallow soils on hot, exposed slopes while others will survive only in the cool deep pockets between rocks. If rocks are brought in to create a rock garden, use rock material that is natural to the area. Position rocks horizontally rather than upright, burying the bottom third in the ground. At least a few should be quite large, positioned among an assortment of smaller ones in a random fashion.

A great variety of plant materials can be grown in rock gardens. Typical plants in rock gardens include many small perennials, and some bulbs and annual flowers. Ground covers and low creeping plants, dwarf evergreens and small shrubs are also well suited to rock gardens. Interspersing small annuals among perennial plants will keep soil in place until the perennials fill in.

More maintenance will be required the first couple of years until plants are “established,” meaning they have developed a root system to anchor them in place. Monitor the garden frequently and remove weeds before *they* get established. (Young weeds are easy to control; older ones are not.) Water rock garden plants regularly the first year and water the following years based on need.

The Green Zone Rock Garden is a demonstration garden created and maintained by the WSU/Spokane County Master Gardeners.

**The Green Zone map is on page 2.**

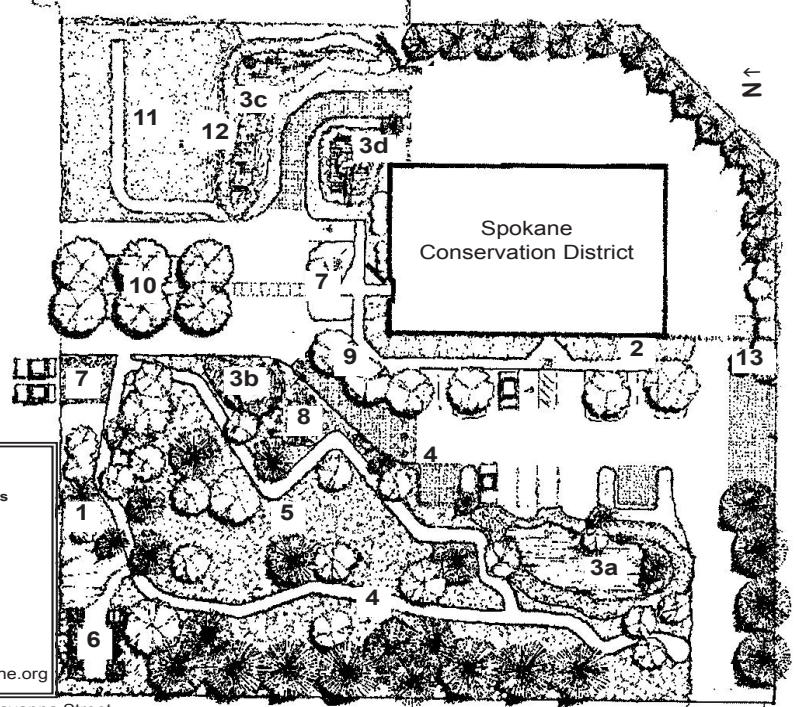
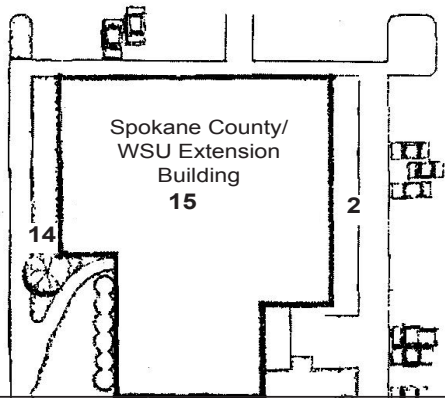
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The Rock Garden exhibit is #7 on The Green Zone map. The Green Zone is located at the Spokane Conservation District and WSU/Spokane County Extension, 210 & 222 N. Havana, Spokane WA 99202.  
(509) 535-7274 (SCD)  
(509) 477-2048 (WSU)

# Rock Garden (continued)

## THE GREEN ZONE

Spokane County Fair & Expo Center  
←



### Legend

- |                        |                                  |                        |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Living Fence        | 5. Arboretum                     | 11. Raised Bed Gardens |
| 2. Xeriscape Beds      | 6. Composting Demonstration Area | 12. Temporary Nursery  |
| 3. Wetlands            | 7. Rock Gardens                  | 13. Storm Garden       |
| a. Scrub Shrub Wetland | 8. Ornamental Grasses            | 14. Shade Garden       |
| b. Wet Meadow Wetland  | 9. Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary   | 15. Resource Center    |
| c. Forested Wetland    |                                  |                        |
| d. Pond                |                                  |                        |
| 4. Pathways            | 10. Street Trees                 |                        |

Download more information on each of the areas you wish to explore -- [www.thegreenzone.org](http://www.thegreenzone.org)

Havanna Street