

DENVER GARDENS AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN WILDFLOWERS

JUNE 13 - 20, 2023



AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR ESCORTED BY
C. COLSTON BURRELL
with
PANAYOTI KEL Aidis



Denver, the capital of Colorado, is an American metropolis dating to the Old West era. Larimer Square, the city's oldest block, features landmark 19th-century buildings. Museums include the Denver Art Museum, known for its collection of indigenous works, and the mansion of famed Titanic survivor Molly Brown. Denver marks the transition between the prairies and the Rocky Mountains. With a rich gardening tradition and a diverse native flora, this tour offers diverse opportunities to enjoy both nature and culture.



Meet Your Escort and Host

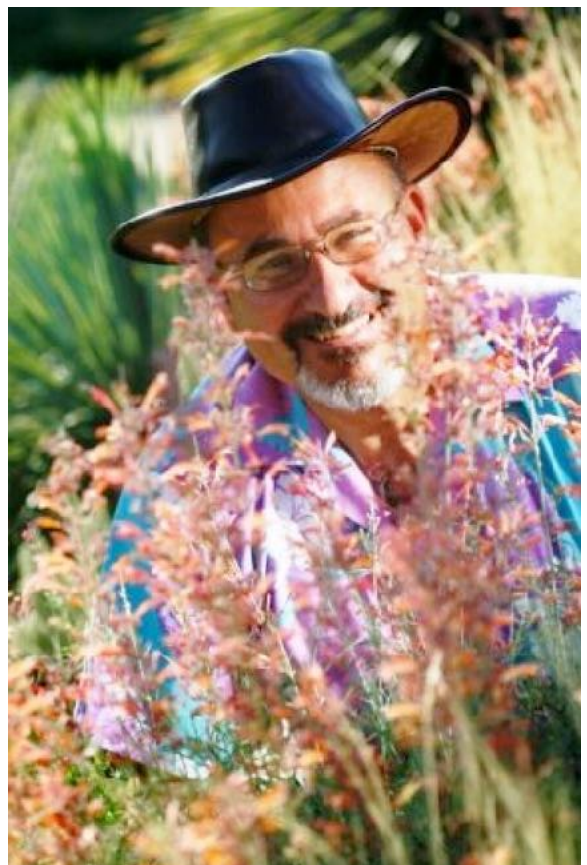


C. Colston Burrell is a lifelong naturalist, plantsman, and gardener. He is principal of Native Landscape Design and Restoration, which specializes in blending nature and culture through artistic design. When Cole is not traveling, he is designing gardens for his clients, or tending his own 10-acre property designed to display the plants he loves while letting natural succession serve as head gardener. He shares his garden with birds, butterflies and a wealth of amphibians.

Cole escorts garden and natural history tours throughout the United States and abroad. The New World tropics are a favorite destination. He has traveled in Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador and Argentina, as well as Europe and Japan.

Panayoti Kelaidis is a plant explorer, gardener and public garden administrator associated with Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) where he is now Senior Curator and Director of Outreach. He has designed plantings for many of the gardens at DBG and is particularly noted for the plantings of the Rock Alpine Garden.

Panayoti has introduced hundreds of native ornamentals from throughout the Western United States to general horticulture. He has collected plants throughout both hemispheres, and his plant introductions are available through Plant Select®, (a plant introduction program he helped launch along with staff from Colorado State University and nurseries across America). He has lectured in twelve countries and has been featured in dozens of television, newspaper and magazine pieces.



WELCOME TO DENVER

Join **Garden and Nature Tours with C. Colston Burrell, The Minnesota State Horticultural Society, The North American Rock Garden Society** and **Friendship Tours** in The Mile High City of Denver, the capital of Colorado. Poised at the foot of the Front Range, Denver's gardens reflect the tension between plains and mountains, with elements as diverse as sweeping prairies, colorful perennial beds, cottage gardens, dwarf conifer collections and intricate rock and alpine gardens.

Our tour takes us to private and public gardens throughout the metro area, including the world-famous Denver Botanic Gardens, as well as private gardens including those of well-known American horticulturists Panayoti Kelaidis, Rob Proctor, Marcia Tatroe and Lauren Springer. We will also explore an innovative urban greening project designed to provide useable open space while managing stormwater.

Our hotel for five nights is in LoDo (Lower Downtown), a neighborhood that offers the perfect blend of nostalgia and modernity. LoDo is home to nearly 100 restaurants, clubs, galleries, shops and hospitality businesses, making it the perfect place to explore for residents and tourists alike. LoDo's rich history dates to 1858 when gold was discovered at the confluence of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek. Since then, the area has undergone a major revitalization, becoming a key link between Denver's past and present.

The gardens we visit on our tour are located within the city limits as well as all around the greater metro area. South of Denver, we visit a variety of private gardens in Colorado Springs and Castle Pines. We also spend a day visiting gardens in Pueblo and Colorado Springs.

After touring 14 gardens in the metro area, we head north to visit gardens in Boulder and on to Fort Collins for two nights. The Old Town historic district has 1800s houses, a vintage trolley, specialty shops and restaurants. Here we visit both private and public gardens, including The Gardens on Spring Creek, a city-owned botanical garden offering a diversity of native and site-adapted plants and a wealth of garden styles.

I hope that you will join me for an immersive exploration of Denver gardens, history and culture at the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

Tour Itinerary Highlights

- Enjoy a welcome dinner in the private garden of Panayoti Kelaidis
- Enjoy a guided tour of Denver Botanic Garden with Panayoti Kelaidis
- Visit 12 private gardens in the greater Denver area
- Meet authors Rob Proctor, Marcia Tatroe, Jim Tolstrup and Lauren Springer
- Take a day trip to Pueblo to visit 4 private gardens
- Get to know the gardeners and garden owners, and explore the opportunities and challenges of gardening in the Interior West
- Explore an innovative urban renewal project designed to create gathering spaces and to manage stormwater
- Explore the restaurants, galleries and shops in downtown Denver's historic LoDo neighborhood
- Visit 3 private gardens in Boulder and Fort Collins
- Take a guided tour of The Gardens on Spring Creek with Lauren Springer and Bryan Fischer
- Learn about plains ecology at High Plains Environmental Center
- Wander the streets of Old Town Fort Collins to discover history and culture
- Relish a reception and farewell dinner at The Blue Agave Grill



Tour Details

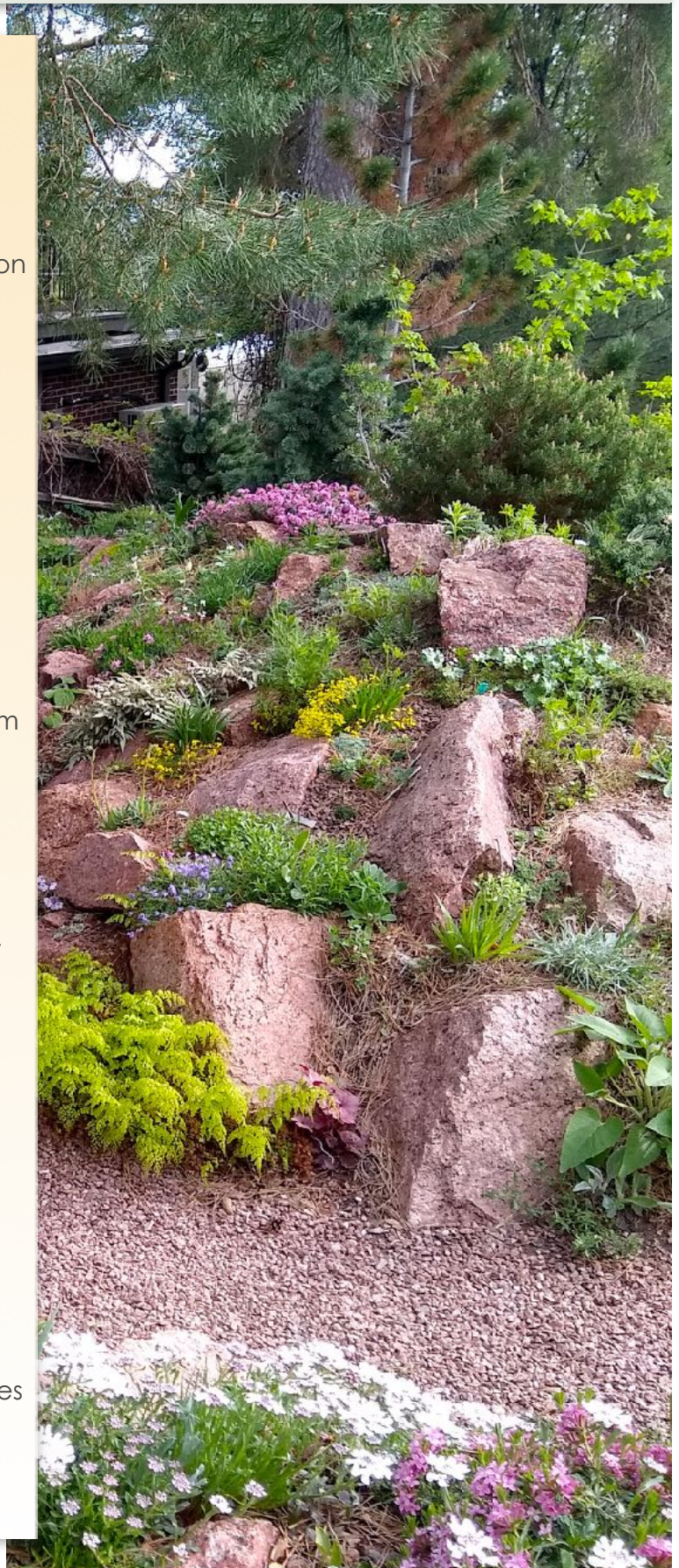
TOUR DURATION 7 Nights / 8 Days

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Airport transfers
- Five nights lodging — Hilton Garden Inn Union Station Historic Plaza, a Four Star Hotel
- Two nights lodging — Hilton Fort Collins
- Breakfast daily
- Six lunches, welcome and farewell dinners
- Farewell dinner at Blue Agave Grill
- Escort throughout tour — C. Colston Burrell
- Local host — Panayoti Kelaidis
- Transportation by passenger coach
- Admissions to all gardens and parks
- Admission to The Molly Brown House Museum
- Guided garden tours and natural history excursions
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Gratuities for your tour escort
- Gratuities to your local driver and local host

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

- Round trip airfare from home cities
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages except at receptions
- Travel insurance
- Airport fees, taxes and baggage charges
- Gratuities to luggage handlers or housekeeping
- Optional sightseeing or recreational activities
- Any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary



Tour Pricing and Registration

TOUR DURATION

7 Nights / 8 Days

PRICING

Based on 18-22 Travelers

\$4,390.00 Land Price — Double Occupancy

\$945.00 Single Supplement

Based on 15-17 Travelers

\$4,740.00 Land Price — Double Occupancy

\$945.00 Single Supplement

~ Fewer than 15 travelers may result in a small surcharge

~ Itinerary subject to change without notice

DEPOSIT

\$1,000.00 per person with reservation to secure your spot on both the Post Tour and the Main Tour

TO REGISTER VISIT

<https://www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel>

Select "Group Sign In". Enter the Tour Code **23JUNE13DENVER** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."



FRIENDSHIP TOURS
THE SHIP SHOP

Minnesota State
**Horticultural
Society** 



**NORTH AMERICAN
ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY**

Terms and Conditions

Denver Gardens and Rocky Mountain Wildflowers - Main Tour

Escorted by C. Colston Burrell

June 13-20, 2023 7 Nights/8 Days

ARRIVAL: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at Denver International Airport (DEN) . Meet your local guide & fellow travelers at airport to begin the tour aboard private coach. Time TBD based on passenger's arrivals.

RETURN: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 transfers included from hotel to DEN for your flight home unless continuing on the Post-Tour. Arrange for flights after 12:00pm.

COST (with 18-22 paying guests):
\$4,390. per person based on double occupancy
+\$945. per person single supplement

COST (with 15-17 paying guests):
\$4,740. per person based on double occupancy
+\$945. per person single supplement

RESERVATIONS VIA FRIENDSHIP TOURS:

CALL: 800-243-1630 and ask for **Denver Gardens Tour with C. Colston Burrell**

ON LINE : www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel and select "Group Sign In". Enter the Tour Code **23JUNE13DENVER** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."

DEPOSIT: \$1,000 per person with reservation to secure your spot.

Please reserve now. Small group tour.

FINAL PAYMENT: April 3, 2023

CANCELLATION POLICY: If a passenger cancels after deposit and before April 3, 2023, the fee is \$500 pp; no refunds if cancelled after April 3, 2023.

AIR TRAVEL: Do not purchase air until you have been advised that the minimum number of travelers for this tour has been reached. This trip is based on a minimum of 15 travelers. Flight arrangements are not included in this tour package.

PRICES & ITINERARY: Prices are valid at time of publication. Friendship Tours shall not be liable for any fluctuation in price or change in schedule or equipment or accommodations for any travel booking or travel service to be provided by a Travel Supplier. Changes to itineraries may become necessary. These changes will not be considered a material change and will not be cause for cancellation or refund.

COVID-19: PROOF OF VACCINATION: All travelers are strongly requested to be double vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine and have a booster(s) wherever possible to participate in this tour.

TRIP PROTECTION COVERAGE is strongly recommended. Friendship Tours can assist with the purchase of trip protection coverage. We recommend 2 different policies. For information: <https://www.friendshiptours.net/protection-plan>

The NTA Travel Protection plan designed specifically for members of the National Tour Association. The Pre-existing medical condition exclusion can be waived by purchasing the Enhanced Plan within 14 days of your deposit or initial payment. Premium is nonrefundable once paid. Three ways to enroll:

1. Website: <https://nta.aontravelprotect.com> Tour Operator Location #076068. You can also view plan details on this site.
2. Call Aon 1-800-388-1470. Tour Operator Location #076068. Customer service agents can also answer questions about each plan.
3. Call Friendship Tours 860-243-1630 or 800-243-1630

TRIP PROTECTION COVERAGE with CANCEL FOR ANY REASON coverage is available through **Travel Insured International** when purchased within 14 days of your initial deposit—ask Friendship Tours for more information. Or request a quote online: <https://www.travelinsured.com/agency/?r=http:%2F%2Fwww.friendshiptours.net&p=>

RESPONSIBILITY: This package is subject to our full terms and conditions which can be found on our website at <https://www.friendshiptours.net/tour-policies>. Paper copies are available upon request. **By signing up for the tour, making a payment and continuing to use our services, you are agreeing to be bound by the Terms and Conditions.**



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Itinerary

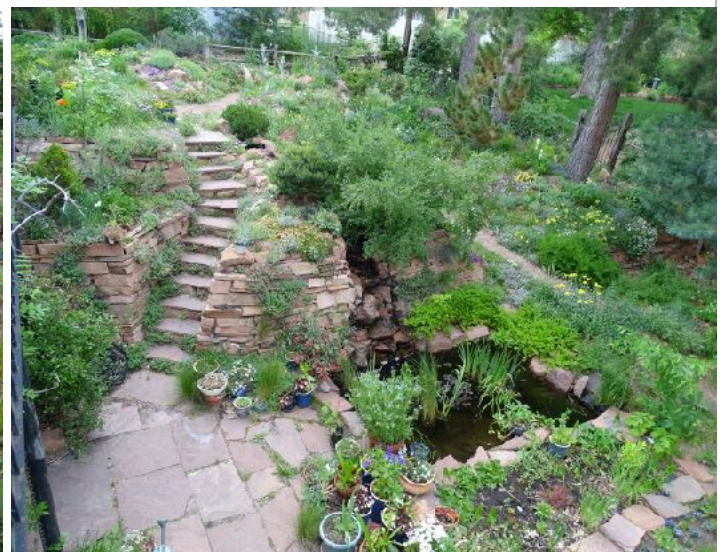
DAY 1 - Tuesday, June 13

Arrival Day

Today, depart your home cities for Denver International, a stunning, modern airport set on the rolling prairie northeast of downtown Denver. Lunch is on your own, so grab a bite at the airport, or wait to have a snack at the hotel. Plan to arrive in Denver no later than noon. Once we are all collected, we board the coach for our hotel, The Hilton Garden Inn Union Station, in the bustling LoDo neighborhood. There is time to check in before we visit Quince Garden, the home of internationally renowned horticulturist and plantsman **Panayoti Kelaidis**. He and his partner Jan Fahs will welcome us for a tour, reception and dinner.

Panayoti has gardened on a knoll with the best mountain view in Denver for many years. He and Jan have shoehorned a surprising number of very different gardens into this intensively cultivated half acre, including a vegetable garden, woodland gardens, a number of perennial borders, crevice and rock gardens, pond, bog, a small prairie, extensive xeric wild gardens and even a bit of lawn and a nursery! Where else will you see over 100 species each of ferns, cacti and South African succulents all in the same garden? And then there are the hundreds of pots and troughs.

After our tour and dinner, we return to our hotel for five nights. Night at Hilton Garden Inn Union Station. D



Itinerary

DAY 2 - Wednesday, June 14

Denver Botanic Garden

Today, after our included breakfast, we set out to visit **Denver Botanic Gardens** (DBG) with host Panayoti Kelaidis. The 23-acre garden contains a conservatory, a variety of themed gardens and a sunken amphitheater. It features North America's largest collection of plants from cold temperate climates around the world, as well as seven diverse gardens that mostly include plants from Colorado and neighboring states. The world's first Xeriscape Demonstration Garden was created at the Gardens in 1986. DBG also boasts the first conservatory in America that was made entirely of concrete and plexiglass panes. At the conclusion of our tour, enjoy lunch in the Gardens' cafe.

Next, we depart DBG to visit the **Molly Brown House Museum**. The house stands as an enduring symbol of the turn of the 20th century in Denver. The museum features memorabilia from the life of philanthropist and Titanic survivor Elizabeth "Molly" Brown.

The vision for **SummerHome Garden**, our next stop, was pioneered by Lisa Negri, a community leader in the Washington Park neighborhood and a lifelong resident of the city. Lisa bought the uninhabitable vacant home next to hers and collapsed it into its basement, creating a safe, inspirational, and horticulturally progressive pocket park for the community to enjoy. The plantings, designed by Kevin Philip Williams and Sonya Anderson, are modeled on the ephemerality of graffiti and celebrate the complexity and immersive nature of southwestern shrublands.

Our final stop today is for a visit with **Dan Johnson**, Curator of Native Plants and Associate Director of Horticulture at the Denver Botanic Gardens. His garden delights visitors with xeric and native plants, cacti and succulents, conifers, annuals, perennials, temperate trees and shrubs, tropicals from the traditional to the rare, and up-cycled artifacts "just for fun."

After our tour, we return to our hotel. Dinner is on your own. Night at Hilton Garden Inn Union Station. B, L



Itinerary

DAY 3 - Thursday, June 15

Private Gardens at Elevation

Today, after our included breakfast, we visit with **Keith and Retha Funk**. Their **Pine Garden** is a collector's paradise with no preplanned design. They removed the lawn in favor of interconnected gardens including a hot, sunny rock garden, water feature, flagstone patio surrounded by shade gardens and perennial beds dotted with dwarf conifers. The back garden feels like an English walled garden with perennial beds surrounding a patio embellished with large potted tropicals and colorful annuals.

The eight compact gardens of **Glen Gutenberg and Patrice Van Vleet Garden** surround their mountain home at an elevation of 6,300 feet. The local red rock formations set the tone for the eclectic, semi-wild style that has evolved over 30 years. The gardens are tucked into groves of Gambel oak with a backdrop of towering Douglas fir and sandstone cliffs. Over time, the plant pallet has shifted toward alpine and cold-hardy desert plants that survive erratic temperature swings and extended droughts.

Next, we visit **Bob and Shari Jondle** for a box lunch and tour in their spectacular garden nestled in the rolling hills at an elevation of 6,500 feet. Paths throughout the sloping, one-acre property lead to sitting areas with spectacular views of Pikes Peak and Mount Evans. Water features add sound and movement to the surroundings. Plantings chosen to coexist with deer and other wildlife blend seamlessly into the native landscape beyond.

Author/photographer team **Marcia and Randy Tatroe** have been gardening on a small suburban lot in Centennial since 1987. Their collector's garden with hundreds of native plants has been featured in numerous books, magazines and garden programs. Their organic wildlife-friendly garden is designated a Xerces Society pollinator habitat, a wildlife habitat by National Wildlife Federation, and as Habitat Hero status from Audubon Rockies.

After our tour, we return to the hotel. Dinner is on your own. Night at Hilton Garden Inn Union Station. B, L



Itinerary

DAY 4 - Friday, June 16

Pueblo and Colorado Spring with Panayoti

Today, after our included breakfast, we set out to visit **Bobby Valentine** in his ever-changing garden built from the ground up on a once-overgrown site. Inspired by years living in Tucson, Arizona, this xeric garden is built with dedication and imagination, a collection of Agave, Yucca and myriad cacti create a sculptural backdrop for a series of terraces.

Our next stop is for a tour and box lunch with **Andrew and Michelle Conrad**. Their spectacular two-acre garden sits atop the bluffs along the southern bank of the Arkansas river near Pueblo. The garden consists of natural wetlands and prairie mixed with xeriscaped areas and English gardens. Both native and non-native species are represented along with abundant wildlife.

Jeff Ottersberg gardens out in the public eye. His rock garden fills the entire front of his half-acre lot, and his Wild Things nursery covers the back. The garden features cold and drought tolerant cactus such as *Echinocerus* and *Opuntia*, and succulents *Agave*, *Yucca*, *Hesperaloe* and *Nolina*, admired for their flowers and summer effect. Perennials include *Hymenoxis*, *Callilophus*, penstemon and verbena.

Our last stop of the day is for an amazing tour of **Domenique Turnbull's** personal alpine and rock garden, on which he has been working for over 20 years. Domenique has designed alpine troughs for the Denver Botanic Gardens and Betty Ford Alpine Gardens (where he also helped install their rock garden). A gifted artist using the medium of stone and plants, his reputation has spread across Colorado and beyond.

After our tour, we return to our hotel. Dinner is on your own. Night at Hilton Garden Inn Union Station. B, L



Itinerary

DAY 5 - Saturday, June 17

Private Gardens Denver

Today, after our included breakfast, we set out to visit the gardens of two exceptional Denver plantsmen — Kelly Grummons and Rob Proctor. **Kelly Grummons'** three-quarter-acre garden is an ongoing experiment with growing native plant species and especially cultivars. Most plants in the garden were tested for the Plant Select Program. Many are ongoing candidates for introductions. His goal over the 30 years in this garden has been to show gardeners that the low-water garden can be beautiful throughout the year. The garden has a backbone of native yuccas, agaves, cacti, conifers, grasses and wildflowers.

TV host **Rob Proctor** and his partner **David Macke's** roomy city garden is planted from lot line to lot line. Starting as a nearly-blank canvas of lawn and trash trees 25 years ago, this garden is a series of perennial borders, garden rooms and intimate spaces. It also features extensive pollinator-friendly xeriscapes, shade gardens, a European-style parterre and vegetable garden. Six hundred containers feature tropicals and annuals. The 1905 Italianate house will also be open.

After visiting with these powerhouse gardeners, we enjoy lunch at **Patzcuaro's**, noted for award-winning authentic Mexican fare.

After lunch, we take a tour of the **39TH Avenue Greenway**, an innovative urban greening and stormwater management project. The Greenway is a flood-control mechanism and public park, one in a suite of projects referred to as the Platte to Park Hill stormwater plan intended to reduce flooding in the area. Amenities include picnic areas accented with native shrubs, wildflowers and grasses.

After our tour, in mid-afternoon we return to our hotel. Dinner is on your own. Night at Hilton Garden Inn Union Station. B, L



Itinerary

DAY 6 - Sunday, June 18

Boulder to Fort Collins

After our included breakfast, we check out and depart for the drive to Boulder, and then on to Fort Collins.

Our first stop is **Harlequin's Garden** for a tour and boxed lunch. Owners Mikl Brawner and Eve Reshetnik Brawner specialize in Colorado-adapted plants, hardy own-root roses, xeriscape plants, natives, perennials, shrubs, herbs, rock garden plants and fruit trees. They have been testing these plants since 1985 at their exposed and dry North Boulder location and we will tour the nursery and the demonstration gardens, which are both organic.

After an early lunch we continue on to **High Plains Environmental Center** to meet Executive Director Jim Tolstrup. The Center's mission is to educate communities to become replicable "living laboratories" that demonstrate restorative examples of land-stewardship, native plants and wildlife habitat. The center features prairie and wetland demonstration gardens, medicinal plants, heirloom fruits and a native plant nursery.

After our tour, we head to Fort Collins to check into our hotel for two nights. The afternoon is at leisure. Dinner is on your own. Night in Fort Collins at The Hilton Fort Collins. B, L



Itinerary

DAY 7 - Monday, June 19

Fort Collins

After our included breakfast, we begin our day of garden visits with **Carol Shinn**, where rock gardens, sunny perennial beds, xeric and native beds, roses, vegetables, and shade areas all blend beautifully on her one-third-acre lot. Her rock gardens display a diversity of construction styles using three different rock types. Two water features compliment the diverse plantings in the garden, which provide a year round refuge for birds and pollinators.

Our next stop is the garden of **Herb and Cindy Schaal**, a one-acre wonderland they have tended for the past 30 years. Nestled spaces and strong indoor/outdoor relationships characterize this cottage style home and garden featuring a mix of ornamental and edible species. Plant selections stress Colorado natives and other species that are site adapted and deer resistant. The garden provides excellent habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Lunch is at **Howling Cow Café and Market**, located at Morning Fresh Dairy Farm.

The 18-acre **Gardens on Spring Creek** is the community botanic garden of Fort Collins. It reflects an important partnership between the City of Fort Collins and the Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek. The carefully curated gardens provide an escape for healing, rest, retreat, and a place to experience the beauty of nature. Individual gardens of interest include the Undaunted Garden, Rock Garden, Prairie Garden, Foothills Garden, vegetable gardens, and themed and sustainable demonstration gardens. We have special guided tours with **Bryan Fischer**, designer of the Prairie Garden, and author **Lauren Springer**, designer of the Undaunted Garden.

After our tour, we return to the hotel to freshen up before gathering for our farewell dinner at **Blue Agave Grill**. Night in Fort Collins at The Hilton Fort Collins. B, L, D



Itinerary

DAY 8 - Tuesday, June 20

Fort Collins to Denver International

After our included breakfast, we check out of the hotel and say farewell to those heading for the Denver International airport and on to home. It is an hour-and-a-half drive to the airport. Please do not schedule your return flight before noon.

Those joining the extension will board our coach for a scenic three-and-a-half-hour drive through prairies and mountain passes to Steamboat Springs.



Denver Gardens



Denver and Fort Collins Maps

