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Wetlands

The Wetlands are an innovative, pioneering program in partnership with the City of Silverton in which the area's treated waste water is used to create a thriving wetlands habitat for a variety of wildlife and plants.

The water travels at the rate of 300 gallons per minute in peak season through a series of terraced ponds with cascading water, pools and wetlands plants, into a holding tank where it then flows into an irrigation system — a unique and attractive method of using treated water to irrigate the Garden. The Wetlands also play an active role in the education programs at the Garden.



The Oregon Garden is a botanical garden that showcases a rich diversity of ornamental and native plants in colorful formal gardens, natural landscape settings, water gardens, and acres of forest and native oak groves. Mayer/Reed was part of the initial master planning of the 240-acre garden. The firm then designed the 5.5-acre A-Mazing Water Garden that consists of a series of gravity-fed terraces and interrelated pools that "polish" wastewater from the City of Silverton. Treated water is then re-used for irrigation of 42 acres of developed gardens.

In the upper reaches of the treatment ponds, visitors are focused on wildlife habitat. Pathways are limited so that diverse species of birds, insects and small mammals can inhabit the native riparian vegetation zone and upland thickets. An accessible viewing mound is set up as an overlook. The lowest pool located at the entry gates of the Oregon Garden is a key visitor attraction of the Oregon Garden with a vegetated water wall and a "maze" of pathways. This part of the garden features water lilies, iris, lotus and other interesting aquatic plants. The pedestrian bridge gives visitors a place to feel immersed in the garden and enjoy works of art.

Owner: The Oregon Garden

Photographer: Bruce Forster



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Amazing Water Garden

The award-winning Amazing Water Garden beautifully incorporates a circular water garden with an ornate bridge, criss-crossing paths and a cascading waterfall.

This area combines wildlife habitat and treated wastewater recycling with the creation of a botanical haven, functions that typically are kept separate. It is a shining example of how public gardens can serve multiple purposes.

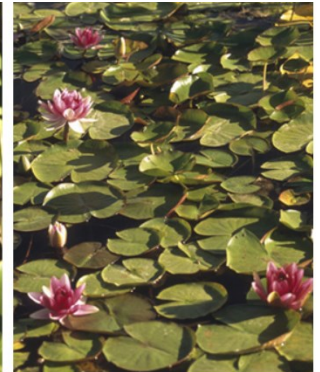
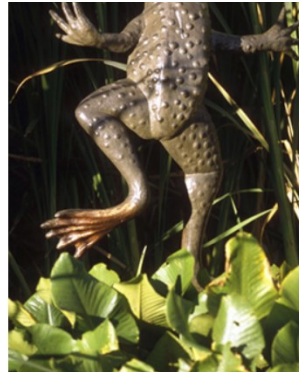
Plants of Interest: Some of the primary plants growing under water in the Amazing Water Garden are *Elodea canadensis* (native to North America), commonly known as American Pondweed, and *Potamogeton crispus* (native to Europe and Asia), commonly known as Curly Leaf Pondweed.

Additional plants in this garden include Candelabra, Hibiscus, and Wild Lilies.

Art in the Garden: Heron by Tom Hardy, 1970. Donated by Margueritte Drake.

Amazing Water Garden Designer: Carol Mayer-Reed

Award: In 2002 the Amazing Water Garden received an Honor Award in the area of Environmental/Sustainable Design from the Oregon Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.



The Oregon Garden, A-Mazing Water Garden Silverton, Oregon

