

## 2023 WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest Judging Criteria

**Overall attractiveness**– Is the landscape visually appealing? Does it have color and texture to it? Does landscape appear cohesive &/or balanced? Do living plants predominate over hardscape?

**WaterWise plant selection**– Are the plants appropriate for our native semi-arid climate? What kind of native plants are used? Will the landscape thrive in our region with minimal watering? Is turf kept to a minimum/functional space? Are there native or invasive species planted?

**Design**– Is the landscape design creative and/or innovative, keeping in mind water conservation and landscape function? Are watering zones correctly used?

**Efficient methods of irrigation**– What is the irrigation source/how is the garden watered? Does the irrigation system use a smart controller, drip, rotating nozzles, rain sensor, or other water efficient devices? Is the irrigation schedule set correctly for the plants and season? How is irrigation adjusted seasonally? Is mulching sufficient and appropriate? Are there signs of overspray, etc.? Is water pressure correct?

**Bonus points**– Does the property maintain any other low water use elements or sustainable qualities that deserve additional recognition? Is there any system for grey water or rain catchment? Are there any native plants that attract local pollinators?