Located at
Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center
1380 A&M Circle
El Paso, TX 79927

Directions: From the West, Airport/Downtown El Paso on I-10; Take exit 34, Loop 375 / Americas Avenue, 8 miles from Airway Blvd. This is the first exit after Zaragosa Road. Stay on Gateway East and go under Americas. Just past where traffic is merging onto Gateway East from Americas Avenue, turn right on A&M Circle at the green sign that says “Texas A&M Research Center”.

From the East on I-10; Take exit 34, Loop 375 / Americas Avenue. This is the first exit after Eastlake Dr. Stay on Gateway West (the access road paralleling the freeway) and go under Americas Avenue. Immediately after that, bear right on the cloverleaf that takes you to Americas Avenue south. Cross the bridge and immediately take the exit for I-10 east / Van Horn. You will be on Gateway East. Just past where the traffic is merging onto Gateway East from Americas Avenue, turn right on A&M Circle.

The El Paso Master Gardeners would like to thank our sponsors and benefactors

- El Paso Cactus and Rock Club
- Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center
- Mountain State Nurseries
- David L. Carrasco Job Corp. Ctr.
- Tony & Sarah Perez
- Donna & Shaun Tidwell
- Naomi Hardy
- Chris Hart
- Paul & Margarita Aston

Special thanks goes to Mr. Peter Beste of the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club, the primary consultant for the garden development. In addition to providing many of the rescued cacti, he educated the Master Gardeners so we, in turn, can educate our community.

For additional information, contact:
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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

El Paso County

High Desert Cactus Garden

Handicapped Accessible
Free to the public. Open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm
The High Desert Cactus Garden . . .

- is a low-water use and low-maintenance landscape concept designed for the homeowner who wants to reduce the cost and time spent on their landscape
- demonstrates the use of, primarily, cacti native to the Chihuahuan Desert to create visually appealing landscapes
- teaches about the selection of cacti appropriate for outdoor landscape use
- educates on planting techniques and care and maintenance of cacti
- provides guidance on the ethical acquisition of native plants

Garden design elements. . .

- The garden is a cooperative effort by the El Paso County Master Gardeners and the Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center.
- The garden contains, primarily, cacti from the Chihuahuan desert. Other species include exotic South American cacti and cacti from other areas of North America.
- No supplemental irrigation is used. A nearby water source is used to manually water newly transplanted cacti.
- The garden promotes water conservation, Xeriscape concepts, and low-cost or rescued plants.

Source of plant materials. . .

- No cacti were purchased for this garden.
- Some cacti were “rescued” from homeowners who wanted to thin their garden or replace the cacti with other species.
- Some native plants were donated by Mountain State Nurseries.
- Most of the cacti were obtained from “cactus rescue missions”. Before a housing developer bulldozes a site containing native plants, they contact us to extract the plants for reuse in private and public gardens.
- Some of the rescued cacti and native plants are transplanted to the Franklin Mountains State Park.
- Some rescue sites include Resler Ridge, Wildwood Court Arroyo, Castner Range, and New Mexico Hwy 180/62.

Water is our most precious resource in the desert. Use it wisely by landscaping with drought-tolerant plants.

Seventy one volunteers donated over 1000 hours of labor to develop this garden. The efforts of these volunteers are deeply appreciated.