Rita and Joel Cloud

This unusual garden is in the shape of Africa with specific areas dedicated to the couple’s cherished destinations. The Madagascar Palm is one of the focal points and a favorite. This garden is for aloe, agave, cacti, rock, and succulent lovers. Going green without the grass, beautiful flowers, trees, an array of plants and garden art will delight your senses. Enjoy your walk through Africa and watch out for animals!

Susan and Larry Nichols

A cottage-style landscape on a half-acre, this lush garden features a variety of drought-tolerant plants designed to provide a colorful and bird friendly environment. The front yard is a low water meadow filled with flowering perennials and ornamental grasses. The backyard retreat is filled with roses, succulents, fruit trees and flowering ornamentals with winding paths and even a chicken “mansion!”

Jill and Gaylord Norcross

This small, half-acre property nestled on the South slope of Mt. Helix had approximately 3,000 square feet of lawn removed to create a water-wise natural landscape. The semi-dessert front yard highlights a unique variety of cactus, succulents and cycads. The back yard was designed primarily to showcase drought-tolerant native plants of the Southwest.

Amethel and Ken Parel-Sewell

Following the work of succulent expert Debra Lee Baldwin and designer Laura Eubanks, approximately 300 plants were creatively placed in their garden tapestry, with ribbons of succulents and cacti weaving throughout the garden and along the flagstone paths. This natural, outdoor room featuring hummingbirds visiting amazing succulent blooms has become an extension of their living space. This ecosystem has no gophers!

Marsha and Gary Rold

Bordering the Crestridge Ecological Reserve, this acre-plus garden began as an owner-designed retirement project after the Cedar fire burned through the neighboring open space. The landscape features natural boulders and stacked-rock borders, California native plants, water-wise selections from Australia and other Mediterranean climate regions, fruit trees, vegetable beds and strategies for critter-proofing the edible crops.