

Things to do

- Discover more than 170 water-efficient plant varieties
- Experience the beautiful colors and textures of desert landscapes
- Learn about irrigation systems and proper watering techniques
- Participate in educational classes and workshops
- See rare and endangered fish species
- Walk, run or skip on meandering trails
- Explore the replica slot canyon
- Hop over the stream
- Search for prehistoric tracks
- Visit the neighboring tortoise reserve
- Admire panoramic city and mountain views
- Sit on rock benches, or for the more adventurous types, swing
- Enjoy nature
- Have fun

Red Hills Desert Garden enhances the existing educational, recreational and social amenities available to Washington County residents and visitors. It's a collaborative project of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, City of St. George and Virgin River Program.



WASHINGTON COUNTY
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



VIRGIN RIVER
PROGRAM

RED HILLS DESERT GARDEN

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RED HILLS DESERT GARDEN

Utah's first interactive desert garden showcasing water-efficient landscapes, endangered species and prehistoric tracks in one central location



Water-efficient Landscapes

Beautiful and water smart. That's how we would describe Utah's largest desert landscape garden. The 4.5-acre garden, which features more than 170 water-efficient plant varieties, uses an average of five million gallons of water less per year than a traditional turf landscape. That's enough water to support 50 average American homes for a year.

The garden showcases the beauty of water smart landscapes while providing home- and business-owners information on designing, installing and maintaining a desert landscape that's compatible with our climate. Plant identification cards are located throughout the garden. Additional information can be found at redhillsdesertgarden.com.



Engelmann Prickly Pear



Joshua Tree



Firecracker Penstemon



White Evening Primrose



Globemallow



Utah Century Plant

Save 55 gallons of water per square foot every year by converting turf to desert landscape.

Native and Endangered Species

Fish

The Virgin River is home to some of the rarest fish species on earth and you may see them in the garden's 1,150-foot meandering stream. The garden also features a fish viewing area located in a replica slot canyon, a central feature of the garden and a tribute to Southern Utah's natural landscape.



Virgin Spinedace
3-5" long

Flannelmouth Sucker
10-24" long

Woundfin
2-4" long

Speckled Dace
2-4" long

Desert Sucker
6-18" long

Virgin River Chub
8-18" long

Tortoise

Immediately adjacent to Red Hills Desert Garden is the 62,000-acre Red Cliffs Desert Reserve established in 1996 for the protection of the Mojave Desert Tortoise and other rare plants and animals.

The reserve offers hikers, cyclists and outdoor enthusiasts dozens of trail options that connect to Red Hills Desert Garden allowing for an even greater outdoor experience.



Mojave Desert Tortoise
8-15" long

Prehistoric Tracks

Red Hills Desert Garden features a variety of unique fossil tracks made by dinosaurs of all sizes as they walked in the mud or swam in shallow streams that existed here approximately 200 million years ago. Tracks for megapnosaurus scutellosaurus and dilophosaurus are located throughout the garden.



Dilophosaurus
20' long
1,000 lbs



Megapnosaurus
10' long
65-85 lbs



Scutellosaurus
20" tall
25 lbs