

Nothing is too small to know, and nothing is too big to attempt. - William Van Horne

INTRODUCING... CAROLINE HICKS



Having recently been brought on board with Southwick LA, I thought I should introduce myself. I am Caroline Hicks, Marketing Director, and am very pleased to be working with the team here at Southwick LA. I most recently worked for a National Home Builder here in Las Vegas, which is what brought me to the Las Vegas Valley. I am originally from Denver, Colorado. My love for the outdoors definitely comes from hiking, biking, climbing, and camping throughout the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. I also enjoy hunting with my husband in Northern Nevada and Utah.

Working with designers has definitely opened my eyes to a whole new way of viewing and enjoying the spaces that make up our everyday lives. I have an entirely new appreciation for and tendency to observe landscape design throughout our community. The team here has also taught me a thing or two about plant selection and site layout. For example, my home is on your average cracker-box sized lot. In the spring of last year my husband and I decided to design and install our own backyard landscaping. We are very proud of our 4 trees, 5 shrubs, 1 vine, artificial turf, patio, and river bed. A little over a year has passed and the trees seem to be growing too fast and getting too big for our tiny backyard. As I have shared this with the team, I've been taught quite a lot about what is going to happen in a few years especially with 4 trees in such a tiny backyard! We definitely have our work cut out for us in the tree trimming department in the years to come. What a difference it would have made working with a landscape architect in the beginning. Now, when we get around to remodeling our front yard, we will definitely be consulting the team, making sure we don't choose something like a Cottonwood tree in our 16x20 foot yard.

Looking forward to working with and meeting each of you!

CSN TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUILDING

The CSN Telecommunications Building is one of the first LEED projects in Southern Nevada. Located on the CSN Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas, we worked with JMA Architects to complete this impressive project. Our design included overall landscaping, irrigation, plaza hardscape, and site furniture. Stone cube seating placed along the main entry was designed with low level lighting. The stone was provided by a local quarry and adds dimension to the entryway. As students approach the building in evening, the low level lighting strikes a rhythmic pattern along the curved walkway.

Adjacent to the tall precipice at the front of the site lies a semi-shaded seating area. The sun shines through the beams to create a mesmerizing pattern on the hardscape beneath. Next to the seating area is a grassy open space which can be used by students for study and social lingering.

This is the fifth building that Southwick Landscape Architects has designed at this campus.



FAVORITE FLORA: PORTULACARIA AFRA - AFRICAN JADE PLANT



Portulacaria afra (African Jade Plant, Elephant's Food) is a wonderful succulent for the house or office in Las Vegas. The small, glossy, oval leaves are only about 1/2 inch long and grow in pairs on a thick, fleshy brown stem. It produces tiny pink flowers which are rarely seen outside the wild.

It grows well in frost free areas and has a high heat tolerance. Elephant's Food is very drought tolerant and can reach height of 10 feet and a width of 8. Here in Las Vegas however this plant remains fairly small. This plant is perfect as a patio shrub that can be moved inside during times of frost or in a protected succulent garden with aloes, iceplant, and specimen cacti. On a side note, the African Jade Plant is one of the few succulents that can be pruned successfully into a formal shape making it very popular with aspiring bonsai growers.

Next time we'll feature a plant that is used often in landscape and you can cook with it...

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



RISING MOON
MOAB, UT
CAROLINE HICKS