

The city of Castle Rock, Washington, located between Seattle, WA and Portland, OR, was a natural place to establish the inaugural Proven Winners® Signature City in 2018 given its extensive network of parks and gardens that blanket the city in color all year long. Proven Winners® annuals, perennials and flowering shrubs can be found growing in more than 180 mixed containers, 199 hanging baskets and multiple flower beds throughout the city.

Proven Winners® ColorChoice® Shrubs and perennials grace park after park and are featured in a display garden at the Castle Rock Visitor Information Center at Exit 49 off Interstate 5. Planting efforts are spearheaded by Bloom Team volunteers who work year round in the landscapefriendly climate of the Pacific Northwest. They begin in May of each year to plant annuals in Castle Rock's public spaces.

The temperate climate makes Castle Rock an ideal location to grow Proven Winners® plants. Forests of Western red cedar, Douglas fir, and Western hemlock evergreen trees also thrive here, growing along the rivers and coating surrounding hills from the valley floor into the rocky outcroppings near Mount St. Helens.

The city itself is named for a specific part of the ridge where an enormous craggy outcropping nicknamed "The Rock" rises 190 feet south of the city. This geographic landmark resembled a castle to early settlers who used the Cowlitz River as their main mode of transportation. Thus, the city of Castle Rock was incorporated in 1890.

Many of the city's residents have caught the "floral fever," choosing to decorate their front porches and gardens with bountiful hanging baskets as well as long blooming perennials and shrubs.

Understanding the critical role pollinators play in our lives, volunteers have designed, installed and maintained gardens specifically to benefit pollinators and wildlife. A new 10,000 square foot pollinator garden and 12,000 square foot wildflower meadow were planted in 2018 with more Proven Winners® plants added in 2019-2020.

Castle Rock Blooms is the story of a tiny town and its dream to thrive and grow. Volunteers, aka 'The Bloom Team' are the heart of CRB. In addition to its designation as a Proven Winners® Signature City, Castle Rock earned a first-place America in Bloom Outstanding Achievement Award for flowers in 2019.



Mayor Paul Helenberg

"Castle Rock has always been a community of volunteers who loved their town. This dedication to our city of 2,200 has been elevated to a higher level by the city and business commitment to upgrade streets and buildings and encouraging the planting of many thousands of Proven Winners® flowers and shrubs since 2011." – **Mayor Paul Helenberg**

"Growing and designing with Proven Winners® flowering annuals, perennials and ColorChoice® flowering shrubs provides diversity, high quality and proven performance. We have confidence in the product and our expectation is that Castle Rock baskets, gardens and containers will always be exceptional." –Nancy G. Chennault; Castle Rock Blooms Volunteer Coordinator

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For more information about all of the gardens in the Proven Winners[®] Signarure Garden Program, please visit **ProvenWinnersPros.ProvenWinners.com**

CASTLE ROCK

A Proven Winners Signature City Since 2018

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Castle Rock

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The thousands of plants grown for the Castle Rock Blooms program are grown in donated greenhouse space throughout the area and therefore need to be tough. Volunteers plant and nurture flowers at home and local nurseries. The efforts of the Bloom Team to beautify the city of Castle Rock have earned it the prestigious title of Proven Winners® Signature City.

To learn more about each plant, visit provenwinners.com

