

1. When did you start working on your landscape?

Fall of 2022

2. What inspired/motivated you to re-do your landscape? How long did it take to complete your landscape?

We wanted to be water conscious and remove lawn. It has taken us about 2 yrs doing it ourselves (front and backyard) with lots of breaks for weather that was too hot or too cold and rainy to work.

3. Did you experience any set-backs or delays while working on your yard?

We've had to wait to finish the backyard because of unexpected early rain this winter. The underlying road base and sand layers between the flagstone needs to be completely dry and the temperature must be above 60 degrees to lay down the polymeric sand (gator dust).

4. How would you describe your yard?

Meandering paths among the flower beds

5. Did you do it yourself, hire a professional, or a combination of both?

We have done it completely ourselves.

6. What type of plants did you use? Did you have a design plan in mind when choosing plants?

All new plantings have been water wise plants. We have a lot of mature trees in our neighborhood so have largely needed plants that can tolerate part shade or shade.

7. Did you use any rebates that the city offers? Did you take a landscaping class?

No rebates. No landscaping class. Graph paper was our friend.

8. Do you have background experience in landscaping?

We do now!

9. Does your landscape use any pesticides? If the answer is no, how do you fight against pests?

No. Hasn't been a problem.

10. How often do you water your yard? What system of irrigation do you use?

We have a drip irrigation system that we use when there is no rain. While the plants are getting established it waters twice a week in the summer. Later it will likely go on once a week. For the 7 Crape Myrtles we planted in the backyard we installed a gray water system from our low water washing machine that will give the new trees extra water as they are getting established and as they mature.

11. Does your landscape attract birds and/or beneficial insects? If so, what kind have you seen? What part of your landscape does wildlife seem the most attracted to?

We have hummingbirds that nest above our porch swing ever year. We see lots of dragonfly's, blue jays, squirrels, and bees.

12. Did you have a budget set? Were you able to stay within that budget or did you go over/under?

We did not set a budget.

13. How much maintenance does your yard need now vs. before when it was a lawn?

Mowing has been replaced by once a spring weeding of flower beds. We are hoping with time and persistence that Oxalis will be less of a problem in the spring.

14. *Have you experienced any unforeseen issues with your remodeled yard?*

Not yet.

15. *Where did you get your plants?*

UC Davis Arboretum plant sales, Woodland Community College plant sales, Green Acres in Sacramento, Home Depot, Ace Hardware

16. *Do you plan on expanding or making any more changes to your yard?*

We will probably add some furniture to the circle in the backyard.

17. *Why was the change from a green lawn worth it to you?*

Yes, and we've actually enjoyed the physical work.

18. *Anything else you would like to share? This could include any advice or lessons learned from working on your yard.*

We saved lots of money by doing the work ourselves. We also discovered that Marianni Nut Company in Winters will give you walnut hulls for free if you haul them. (Call them first.) We rented a truck and trailer and brought in 6 loads of shells to put around our vegetable planter boxes on the north side of the backyard (about 6 inches deep).

Trash Nothing / Freecycle and Next Door can be sources for free plants. Also you can spread geraniums and Jade plant from cuttings (just stick in the ground!)