

1. When did you start working on your landscape? I bought the home in early Feb 2020, right as COVID was ramping up. The home was neglected and I wanted to start on it immediately. I first just needed to prune things back, but soon started getting ideas on what I wanted to have.

2. What inspired/motivated you to re-do your landscape? I thought the yard was very unkempt and wild looking when I first moved in. I prefer a more intentional yard, and over time was more concerned about having more native and drought tolerant plants as well as butterfly, bee, and hummingbird attracting plants. How long did it take to complete your landscape? It is still a work in progress. I don't know when I will be done....)

3. Did you experience any set-backs or delays while working on your yard? The only setback or delay I have encountered is my own financial ability to do or pay for the work to be done.

4. How would you describe your yard? Pleasing, fun, a pollinator's paradise, and soon to be a registered Monarch Waystation!

5. Did you do it yourself, hired a professional, or a combination of both? I designed it on my own and have done some of the work, but have hired gardeners, landscapers, tree removal companies as needed for the harder tasks.

6. What type of plants did you use? At first, I focused on getting pollinator attracting plants, then my focus changed to more drought resistant and CA native plants, but one of my proudest accomplishments was removing an invasive tree which dropped tons of seeds and kept sprouting new trees. Did you have a design plan in mind when choosing plants? I wanted to have a pleasant free flowing garden and walkway from the street to the house and to the backyard with fragrant blossoms or flowers. Previously there were square pavers and I had a decomposed granite walkway installed. Some existing plants are not necessarily drought resistant or CA native plants, but they were established and pollinating attractants, so I decided to keep them anyway.

7. Did you use any rebates that the city offers? I was not aware that the City had any landscaping rebates! Did you take a landscaping class? No, I used the basic shape of yard and what was existing and worked with that.

8. Do you have background experience in landscaping? No.

9. Does your landscape use any pesticides? If the answer is no, how do you fight against pests? I use neem oil for pests, I have almost no pests in front garden, but there are snails, which my backyard chickens consider a delicacy. I gather them and feed them to the chickens.

10. How often do you water your yard? I usually don't water during the winter, but will water maybe once or twice a week. It depends on how hot it is and if I remember to water. If the plants look wilted, I water. What system of irrigation do you use? I have a sprinkler system which for the most part is now converted to a drip irrigation system.

11. Does your landscape attract birds and/or beneficial insects? Yes, I have seen scrub jays, mourning doves, hummingbirds, Western Tanagers, CA native bees, LBBs aka little brown birds, European honey bees, bumble bees, , If so, what kind have you seen? What part of your landscape does wildlife seem the most attracted to? They LOVE the lavender plants, Texas bulbine, pink bottle brush plant, Mexican sage, salvias, and soon when the new plants get

established, I am hoping for Monarchs and other butterflies to visit as I now have a certified Monarch Waystation.

12. Did you have a budget set? No, my plan was to tackle the landscaping in small chunks, I never really set a budget. Where you able to stay within that budget or did you go over/under?

13. Anything else you would like to share. This could include any advice or lesson's learned from working on your own yard that you would like to share. I am really proud of my yard, it has come a long way from when I bought the house. Changing or re-landscaping your yard can be overwhelming and hard to figure out where to start. I divided up my yard into small areas and worked on them separately. I recommend learning about the existing plants in your yard and finding out if they are native or invasive. I recommend removing invasive plants and adding as many native plants to your yard as possible. Adding plants that are pollinating attracting plants makes your yard a very busy place for the little important local wildlife.