

### **What inspired/motivated you to re-do your landscape?**

- I like to garden and wanted to use every part of the yard for plants I like, not lawn. We did the project during the drought so that also provided some incentive.

### **How would you describe your yard?**

- I would describe my front yard as a mix of California natives and drought tolerant plants designed to have interesting color all year. It is also great for pollinators and birds. The side and back yards I have dedicated to growing edibles, but I also like to mix in some color where possible.

### **Did you do it yourself, hired a professional, or a combination of both?**

- My husband and I did it all ourselves. I did the design, picked the plants, and maintain it. My husband built the infrastructure and helps with any heavy lifting needed.

### **What type of plants did you use?**

- Front: California natives, drought tolerant, bulbs, and roses. I am currently working on expanding the use of succulents in some areas.  
Side: fruit trees, bulbs, vegetables in raised beds, herbs in wine barrels.

### **Did you use any rebates that the city offers? What about a landscaping class?**

- I have used the mulch and rain barrel rebates. We also used the state rebate during the drought that gave you money to remove your lawn, since the front was all lawn. We also got our Gingko tree in the front yard from the Woodland Tree Foundation.

Many years ago I took a landscaping class before we landscaped our first home in 2002. This is our second home and we did the landscaping ourselves in both. It helped me learn how to plan the different parts of the yard. Now I mostly just look for inspiration in gardens I see or visit and in books, articles, or websites.

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

- No, I do not use pesticides, except occasional safe/organic pesticides for certain bugs that like my edibles. I encourage beneficial insects like lady bugs and praying mantis. In the beginning I would purchase these bugs, but now they are pretty well established on their own. We also have a lot of lizards that like to live in the rock retaining wall and I think they help keep the insects down also. I also do things like spray down aphid infested roses with water.

### **How often do you water your yard? Do you use drip irrigation?**

- My irrigation is all drip and/or soaker hose. The amount I water depends a lot on the time of year and type of plants. Once it starts raining I don't water until it gets warm or only if there is an unusual warm period. Spring-Fall when it is dry and hot I will water 2-3 times per week increasing the time from about 20 minutes to an hour. We have multiple watering stations on our system so some areas will get more water than others. For example, the vegetables need more water during the summer and fall than the rest of the yard. I have also hooked some of my rain barrels up to drip systems that I can turn on to water smaller planting areas. In these areas I often don't need to use the

sprinklers until July. Having shredded bark mulch helps keep the soil moist in the summer and reduce watering.

**Does your landscape attract birds and/or beneficial insects? If so, what kind?**

- Yes! We have lots of bees, several different types, praying mantis, lady bugs, dragon flies, and butterflies. We also have hummingbirds, finches, sparrows, swallows, doves, and other birds. Once we even had a burrowing owl visit for a day.

**When did you start working on your landscape?**

- We started working on it in 2016.

**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.**

- When you start a new landscape and want to get your plants off to a good start, in this area it is really important to amend your soil and make sure you have good drainage. Much of the soil is clay and not good where the houses are. I usually add a mix of compost and topsoil where I plant. We added drain pipes and gravel in key areas to help with drainage. Mulch covers them and plants grow over so you would have no idea where it is. It is also important that your main sprinkler lines are in logical locations you can find (not usually what the builders do) so that you can easily add soaker lines off of the main lines as you adjust your garden plans. We moved most of ours to the edge of the yard in shallow trenches with gravel over them covered by mulch. When we need to adjust something we know exactly where to dig and nothing is covering it up. From a design standpoint, since I like to have color and interest all year long I planned my planting based on what they do throughout the year and I expect to plant new things for at least a year when I first start to make sure that happens. For example, different bulbs come up and flower from February-October, at least, and if you want them blooming during that whole time you have to plant them throughout the year. It is a lot of work to get the right plants established for the first approximately 2 years, but after that you can just plant to fill in or if there is something new you want to try. Most of my plants are perennials or reseed on their own, so now it is just a matter of pruning a few times of the year and adding plants or bulbs as needed.