

Spring Has Come



By Arthur Navarrete
Executive Care Landscaping

Welcome to March and April's article. I hope everyone is doing well. For these next two months we are featuring two landscapes. Both are 3 years old and oddly enough, they are just down the street from each other. The one with the old-fashioned fence is a front yard and the other is a backyard. They remain our clients because we continue to maintain their landscapes with our maintenance crew. As for the rest of our clients, we service their landscapes twice yearly, or as needed.

To show two larger than average landscapes, I will need to keep my words at a minimum. The front yard landscape is eye catching and brings great curb appeal to the home. We used a variety of plants and very cool boulders called Lilac boulders. As with most jobs, we remove a portion of the lawn, if not all the lawn. The fence was put in at the request of the client, which I am glad he did. It adds a uniqueness to the landscape. If you look toward the middle, you will see an island of lawn. That is synthetic turf. Our client Jeff sets up a very nice manger scene every Christmas. Aside from that, everything else is apparent. One challenge was making the dry stream bed. It is extremely long, but I did not want it to look long. So I used it not only for drainage, but to divide and enhance various features of the landscape. I am pleased with how it turned out, as well as the whole yard.

The next yard is our client Anne's backyard. She is a new owner, so I had done the work for the prior owner, Mary. Both Mary and Anne love the yard. Anne calls it her retreat for peace and quiet, and Mary had said the same. Before the change, the backyard was mostly lawn. (see the before picture) We increased the planter area and created a flagstone walkway as well as a dry stream bed to break up the landscape. In the far-right corner, we created a sitting/reading area. Mary had a sofa/bench that she wanted us to incorporate into the landscape. It looks nice in the landscape. It is a destination place where one can go and read and get the feel of being in nature. Anne finds her solitude there as well. Her profession is taxing, so I can see how this would be a welcome retreat for her. The rest of the landscape features are evident.

The thing that is most important to understand, is these two landscapes are now 3 years old. They have grown a lot in 3 years, but they did not look like this when we finished. This is very similar to the last landscape we featured. It did not look like much upon completion, because the plants were small, and the boulders were huge. It still looked good compared to bare dirt, which was what the yard was prior to landscaping. Now it looks so much more interesting and eye catching, as do these yards. This is how I envisioned them when we completed them. It has helped me immensely to have grown plants prior to landscaping. This skill has enabled me to see the finished product.



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