

LANDSCAPE PLAN

GOALS:

1. Create an environment inspired by the Besert Museum, the Botanical Gardens and Tohono Chul Park.
2. Reintroduce native, low-water use plants.
3. Create wildlife habitats.
4. Incorporate and showcase my artwork and artistic endeavors.
5. Create shade, privacy and sound buffers.
6. Utilize entire 1-acre lot.

BIGGEST OBSTACLES:

1. Soil make-up (just sandy sand).
2. Leaf-cutter ants.
3. My bad knees and back.

ORIGINAL LOT MAKE-UP (1997)

A few mature mesquite / Palo Verde trees, a lot of desert broom and catclaw acacia. Prickly pear varieties.

Enclosed backyard:

Half taken up with swimming pool; 2 small lawn areas and vegetation near pool; other half barren sand with one very old saguaro and one mesquite tree.

IMPLEMENTATION:

By breaking up the project into phases, the transformation is coming together.

PHASE ONE

FALL 1997

- Install drip irrigation to **Zones 1 and 2** (tied into existing automatic timer).
- Planted 24 mesquite trees (chilean hybrids), 5 sweet acacia trees, 6-10 texas rangers and 1 sage in these zones.

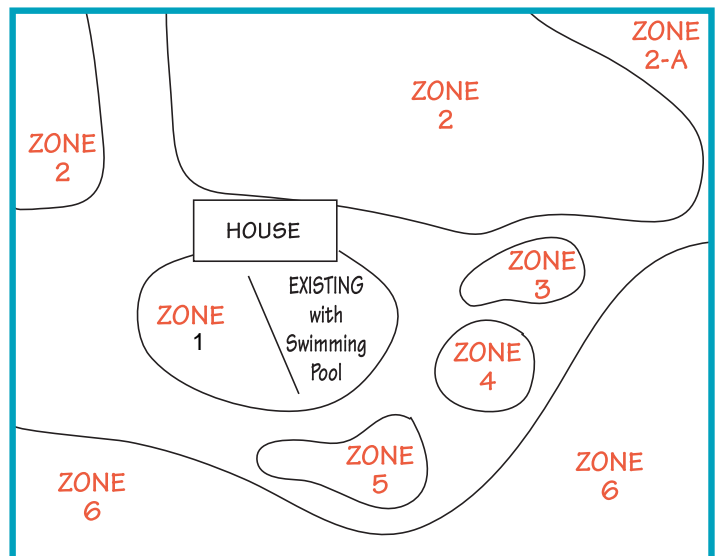
WINTER 1997

- Began revegetation of area 2A, former bus stop area, now planted with cactus sections from other parts of the yard

PHASE TWO

SPRING 1998

Installation of sculpture garden and shrubs in **Zone 1** included desert honeysuckle, lysiloma, mexican sage, indian hawthorne, trumpet vine, bougainvillia, grape, and salvia plants. (I have desert tortoises and box turtles in the yard).



PHASE THREE

1998

Begin layout of trail network, begin cactus work (divide / conquer / add), indian fig, engelmann's prickly pear, rabbit ears, and added new golden barrels, agaves in *Zone 2*.

PHASE FOUR

1999

Put in three citrus trees and separate irrigation (manual timer) in *Zone 3*. Added outdoor artwork.

PHASE FIVE

2000

Dug out all desert broom and established a cactus garden with separate irrigation on manual timer in *Zone 4*. Also in this zone, built rock walls, altered ground level by hand, and rebuilt an outdoor garden shed from a friend's cast-off play house. Established pathways with rock and gravel.

PHASE SIX

2001

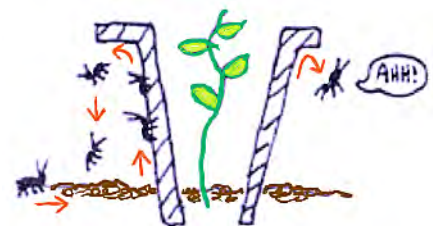
- Rain harvesting begun with gutter and barrel collection.
- Existing mature trees thinned.
- Planned *Zones 5 and 6*.
- Finished pathways in *Zones 2, 3 and 4*.
- Planted desert hackberry, shoestring acacia, desert willows in *Zones 1 and 2*.
- Finished cactus garden plantings (added octopus agave, african aloes, torches, misc.)

PHASE SEVEN

2002

- Fence along east side built using wood posts from Wisconsin and stock fencing wire 5 feet high, with javelina egress/ingress at gates.
- Built benches along trails.
- Six citrus planted in *Zone 5* watered with separate irrigation and manual timer.
- *Zone 6*: Irrigation installed, also on separate drip system with manual timer. Additional artwork added to this zone.
- The "Rabbit Ramada" was constructed
- A shade nursery for cactus clippings (from my neighbors) was established.

Zone 6 will be a shady, native desert environment. Trees planted in this zone include 4 screwbean mesquites, 2 velvet mesquites, 3 ironwoods, 2 acacias and a Palo Brea. Native shrubs such as pinleaf and desert milkweed, fairy dusters, bladderpod, creosote, datura, coral bean, brittlebush, ephedra and sons of santa rita cactus clippings were also added in this zone.



I was forced to cut bottoms out of rimmed nursery containers and place them around some new plants to thwart the leaf-cutter ants. They have difficulty navigating the rim of the container.

PHASE EIGHT

2003

- Christmas tree mulch added to areas in Zones 5 and 6.
- Gravel brought in for back driveway through Zone 6.
- Native trees and shrubs planted along west property line where the irrigation lines had already been extended.
- Finished fence along south property line (with gaps for cactus and wildlife).
- Created signage for plant identification.

PHASE NINE

2004

- Build "Raku Ramada" and wood-fired earthen oven in kiln area.
- Build greenhouse to replace nursery area, which will be moved to southwest corner of lot.