



## building site [landscaping & stewardship]

Our goal when we set out to build our home was to minimize the disturbance to the natural habitat while creating a beautiful & functional space for our family and friends to gather and play.

### Site Selection

We selected a building site which allowed maximum exposure to due south (for passive solar gain directly through the windows) and a slope to allow for a walk out basement. Conveniently, there had previously been a home in the area that ours currently sits, which meant we were able to minimize tree removal to create the drive way and building site. Any trees that were removed were either:

- Re- incorporated into the home (i.e. fireplace mantle, coffee table and foyer bench are made from the jack pines cut down)
- Chopped and kept for use in the wood burning stove (hence further reducing the energy requirements to heat the home in winter)
- Mulched and used in landscaping (effectively reducing water requirements)

### Landscape Features

We consulted with local horticulturist Gordon Heaps, and Landscape ReCreations (Eric & Sherry Kauth) to design and install our landscaping. A focus was placed on principles of xeriscaping, which is a method of landscaping which reduces the need for supplemental water for irrigation. With the help of these experts we were able to create a landscape that meets the following criteria:

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#### Minimal “Conventional” Lawn

- The small amount installed is watered via an underground irrigation grid, also supplied by the rainwater collection tank
- Underground drip irrigation for lawns provides 3 major benefits: 1) roots grow deeper, meaning they require less frequent watering, 2) typical water loss from evaporation (with sprinklers) is eliminated and 3) we don’t ever have to move a sprinkler around!
- The larger open area south of the house was hydroseeded with and “Eco Grass” (a mix of 4 fescue varieties which have extensive root systems minimizing need for water or fertilizer); this will provide grassy areas that do not need to be mowed often and are more natural looking.

#### Low Maintenance

- minimal grass to mow
- extensive use of mulch reducing weeds to pick
- no “high maintenance” plants, trees or shrubs; those selected are known to survive easily in our climate

#### Also ...

- No invasive plant species
- No plantings south of the house that would grow tall enough to block solar gain
- Dummy proof (gardening is not our forte...yet! That’s the next learning curve!!)



Landscape Design: **Gordon Heaps**, Horticulturist 780-470-0844

Landscape Installation: **Landscape ReCreations**, Eric & Sherry Kauth [eric@renewingyourview.com](mailto:eric@renewingyourview.com)