

June 2013 Beautification Winner

In 1995 Nancy Cross was looking for a home site that would provide generous on-street parking for the many after-game events she hosts as part of her job. She found the corner of Sandpiper Court and Kestral Boulevard in Blackbird Farms fit her needs and there was an extra benefit....huge boulders that had been unearthed during excavation and construction could form the bones of her new landscape.

A Purdue class in landscape architecture was given the task of developing a landscape plan from the ground up and provided drawings and a plant list that are followed yet today. Nancy, more comfortable with plants from her native Boston area, was not familiar with many of the choices, but she has come to appreciate the benefits of midwestern trees, shrubs and perennials. The trees have grown over 18 years to fit the scale of her home and the gorgeous rocks that anchor the planting on the street corner. Weeping conifers are the focal point year-round, with spring bulbs and fall annuals adding color. More roses have been added recently. The benefit of a sprinkling system was evident last summer during the extended drought and provided a green oasis amid the brown lawns everywhere. Marc Widmer assists her in maintenance and the addition of fall blooming annuals each year.

