

Jack and Leta Kelley have lived and gardened in West Lafayette since 1968. They have experienced the challenges of climate and soil and with each home, they have succeeded in creating a welcoming and family-friendly landscape. Their current residence at 1425 Ravinia was built 11 years ago, replacing a small house with mature trees. Craig Whitten prepared the landscape plans, incorporating the existing trees into a setting for the house with curving lines of planting beds. Knock-out roses fill the summer landscape with color, preceded by dogwoods in front and at the back breakfast nook. The life size animal sculptures in the back yard are favorites with the grandchildren, while the real animals such as raccoons, rabbits and squirrels provide more challenge to the gardeners.

The Kelleys learned a lot about soil compaction when construction occurs near the root line of existing trees. They did lose trees but have replaced them and are adjusting their landscape to accompany the growing trees. Their corner lot makes the intersection of Ravinia and Hillcrest a stand-out in the Hills and Dales neighborhood.

