

Unique Project #1: Entrance to Aquascape Headquarters

By: Ed Beaulieu, Aquascape, Inc.



BEFORE

This project was designed as an interesting alternative and fitting entry to a water feature company. Our goal was to create a low maintenance naturalistic water feature on the scale of a large backyard feature. It is this type of feature that makes up the majority of our sales.

It was a challenging site because of the nature of the soil conditions and limited size of the area. The soil conditions were horrible at best, the area was filled with a mixture of clay and gravel left over from the foundation excavation, this was then compacted into a concrete like substance and became the dumping ground for construction trash. The position of the entry walkway provided us with an opportunity to create an interesting effect by utilizing a design known commonly as a negative edge/infinity edge even though it would not be used in this capacity for this feature, (they're normally situated to create a dramatic effect in the background of the feature versus the foreground in our design). Our design would use a water fall to create a skimming effect for the pond eliminating the need for a traditional skimmer system. This waterfall would also create an interesting/ornamental cascade of water adjacent to our front door providing visitors with the beautiful sites and sounds of a waterfall effect. The sheer size of this basin provides us with a skimmer surface area 10x the size of a traditional skimmer basket. The volume of the basin was increased to store over 2500 gallons of water allowing the water feature to operate for extended periods of time without refilling the system with tap water and ideally being able to be topped off with rainwater to keep the system in a balanced state.



AFTER



We used a small excavator to break through the soils crust and remove the bulk of the material; hand shaping was then utilized to clean up loose soil and fine tune the excavation providing the final size and shape of the basin. We choose to complete the basin first this allowed us to set our waterfall weir at the correct height and it also provided us with about 15 yards of fill to help build up the area for the pond and upper waterfalls.

The pond was built using our standard construction methods using large Tennessee outcropping as viewing areas and retaining walls, Colorado moss rock for the waterfalls and accent stones around the pond perimeter and the bottom of the pond was constructed with Wisconsin granite. It's an interesting combination of stone but it seems to work well within the designs parameters. The viewing areas were carefully constructed to provide a solid base for visitors to admire the fish and waterfalls.



The design called for the large slabs to be set so that the top of the stones were less than 3" above the water level giving them a floating appearance, they were set several times and removed until the proper elevation was achieved creating the desired look.



PROJECT SPECS:

- 35 tons of stone
- 6 tons of decorative gravel
- 20' x 40' liner for the pond
- 20' x 20' liner for the basin
- 15' x 15' liner for the upper waterfalls
- Large Snorkel and Centipede
- Aquascape 10,000 pump
- 80 large AquaBlox

PROJECT TIMELINE - 3.5 days with a crew ranging from 2
- 8 people dependent on the various stages of the project.

