



This was our backyard when we bought the house. This is as good a picture of before we started this project as we could find. We weren't always thinking of taking pictures in the beginning. It was essentially dead grass, mud, and block wall. The following took us months to complete.



This was the “grass” condition in the back yard...mainly mud.



This was the side yard to get to the back yard. It was only gravel.



First, we built a 16x12 deck in the middle and added a split rail fence on each corner of the yard.



Then Anabel put in a wall next to the sliding glass door and leveled behind it with sand.



Anabel added some stepping stones and mulch and viola, an entrance to get on the deck. She also added some agapanthus plants.



Then came the side yard and the other side of the deck. Anabel added stepping stones, mulch, and ferns she dug up from the swamp. This is halfway done.



The ferns grew in nicely. Since they are native, they are no maintenance. They just grow and get fuller and fuller. The bird bath doesn't get used by the birds much. But for whatever reason, the raccoons love it.



Then came more stepping stones, more ferns, and amaryllis bulbs from her friend Sandra. Thanks Sandra!



Finally, we added an arbor and a shadow box on the wall.



All done
with this
part.





Before
view of
the other
side.
Anabel
just
finished
Saturday.



Anabel took out all of the “grass” and leveled it out. She put in more agapanthus and amaryllis bulbs. Thanks again Sandra! We also put in some sprinkler heads for the new grass.



But, we did a pine straw bed for now instead. Hard to get grass at the moment and we are heading into the time of year when grass doesn't root as well. We will do grass in the spring.



This is the view from above. The bird feeders stay very busy.



We had a war with the squirrels. We suspended the bird houses off of a pole we mounted on the third floor deck. They would jump from the balcony, shimmy down the rope, etc. to get on the bird feeders.

Through a lot of trial and error, we finally got the feeders located to where the squirrels couldn't quite jump from the balcony without landing on the tops over the feeders, which tilts them off.

Birds are happy.



The swamp starts right at the edge of the deck. It is so cool.



View looking back from the walkway going through the swamp.