



LYNN'S DESERT GARDEN MILLSTONE

October 29, 2022

Near Tanque Verde & Camino Principal



In the late 70s my parents bought the land behind our home to keep a gravel company from purchasing and subsequent mining of the property. The homes on Santa Aurelia were deemed horse properties and needed access to the Pantano Wash, which mining would have precluded.



In 1999, when my husband Andy retired, we returned to Arizona, built a home [on this land], and in 2006 I began this garden. Everything that was done at that time was to camouflage the unsightly presence of a giant utility pole. I laid out the Dump (?) Road and trails with that challenge in mind...although, laughingly, the first building project was the stairway to the grasslands, as I had promised Andy a putting green.



I approached the garden from a design point of view and then began struggling with choices for foundation plantings. Many mistakes later, I am still suffering those early decisions. My vision was to have an English garden with cactus and succulents replacing the main plantings of flowers. There was not an overall plan but rather the garden evolved along the trails, one project at a time, over the last sixteen years. I feel the introduction of innumerable loads of granite, from rubble to boulders, assisted me immensely with design and planting decisions. They provided a framework.



As to the future, so much has to change. Although I am fortunate to have reclaimed water, it is something of a trap, resulting in plantings that need to be rethought. For me, gardening is more about failures...but these momentary victories lead me about by my nose and inspire me to try again.

