

Timeline for Shady Retreat

Shady Retreat is a close representation of our actual garden, Alta Birdsong. You can use the Photo Gallery on our website to compare to the plan. We spent over ten years building Alta Birdsong, so we have learned a lot along the way. We'll give you a timeline based, not on the order we did it, but on the order that would make it easier for you to have this garden.

First, build your deck and have your paver paths and patios installed. There is a huge amount of dirt removed to install a path and patio properly. Provided it's not all rocks and clay, you can use this dirt mixed with compost to build the beds next to the paths and patio. Lay a couple of pipes under the paths for a future sprinkler system.

Second, lay out where all your beds are going to be and bring in a lot of good soil. Use a Bobcat or front-end loader to dump it where you will need it. Have compost delivered to mix into the soil for healthier plants.

Third, lay all your rock edging while the dirt is still loose and easy to move around.

Fourth, have a lot of mulch delivered and put about three to four inches on all your beds. We like shredded pine bark mulch. Your beds will need to settle before they will be ready for planting.

Build a level pad for your gazebo out of blocks and gravel. You can install your gazebo anytime, but prepare the space now! If you want a sprinkler system, now would be a perfect time to put one in. Then, sod or seed your lawn.

Now you can start planting! We would suggest starting with trees to get them growing. In a perfect garden, you would plant shrubs next, then vines, perennials, ground covers, and finally annuals. But, you can plant anything in any order you want. Sometimes it's nice to completely finish one area, like around the fountain, gazebo, or sitting area before moving on to the next area.

Shady Retreat will get more beautiful every year!

