

Sustainable landscaping can be stylish

By Gretel Hakanson

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When Gloria Kryz and her husband, Andre Rosalik, moved into their home on the northwest side of Tucson in 2005, their water bill was \$800. The home came with a 2,000 square-foot lawn.

“We had come from Michigan where you have lots of water to the desert where I knew we would have little water. We thought there was no way that we were ever going to mow a lawn again,” said Kryz.

With the help of Paul Connolly of Sundrea Design Studio, Kryz and Rosalik replaced their lawn with pathways, native and low-water use plants, installed a shade structure, a fireplace and a custom spa.

“I didn’t have to do too much convincing on taking out the lawn. They love the desert, they wanted to embrace the desert, use native plants, and attract the native birds and wildlife,” said Connolly.

Today Kryz’ water bill is \$30 a month. And the yard is a xeriscape award winner as well as a certified backyard wildlife habitat.

In Tucson, landscaping is responsible for 30 to 50 percent of single-family resident’s water according to the Water Resources Research Center – and much of that is used for watering, swimming pools, spas and evaporative cooling.

