

# Nursery NOTES

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Fall is for Planting*

# 2011 Excellence in the

## Best in Show - Grand Award / Landscape Installation - Residential

### Greenleaf Services Inc. - Project: Kahn Residence

**G**reenleaf Service Inc. helped its client completely expand and renovate the backyard of their new home into an outdoor gathering place for family and friends with the elements of fire and water. The renovation proved to be challenging with the site located on the side of a steep slope. Run-off from the higher elevations plagued the house with drainage problems, tight access, and no on-site holding areas. Also the site had existing trees, shrubs and rock outcroppings that needed to be removed in order to begin the new transformation.

Extensive care and investigation went into the materials to be used for this project. Plants were not only selected for cold hardiness and

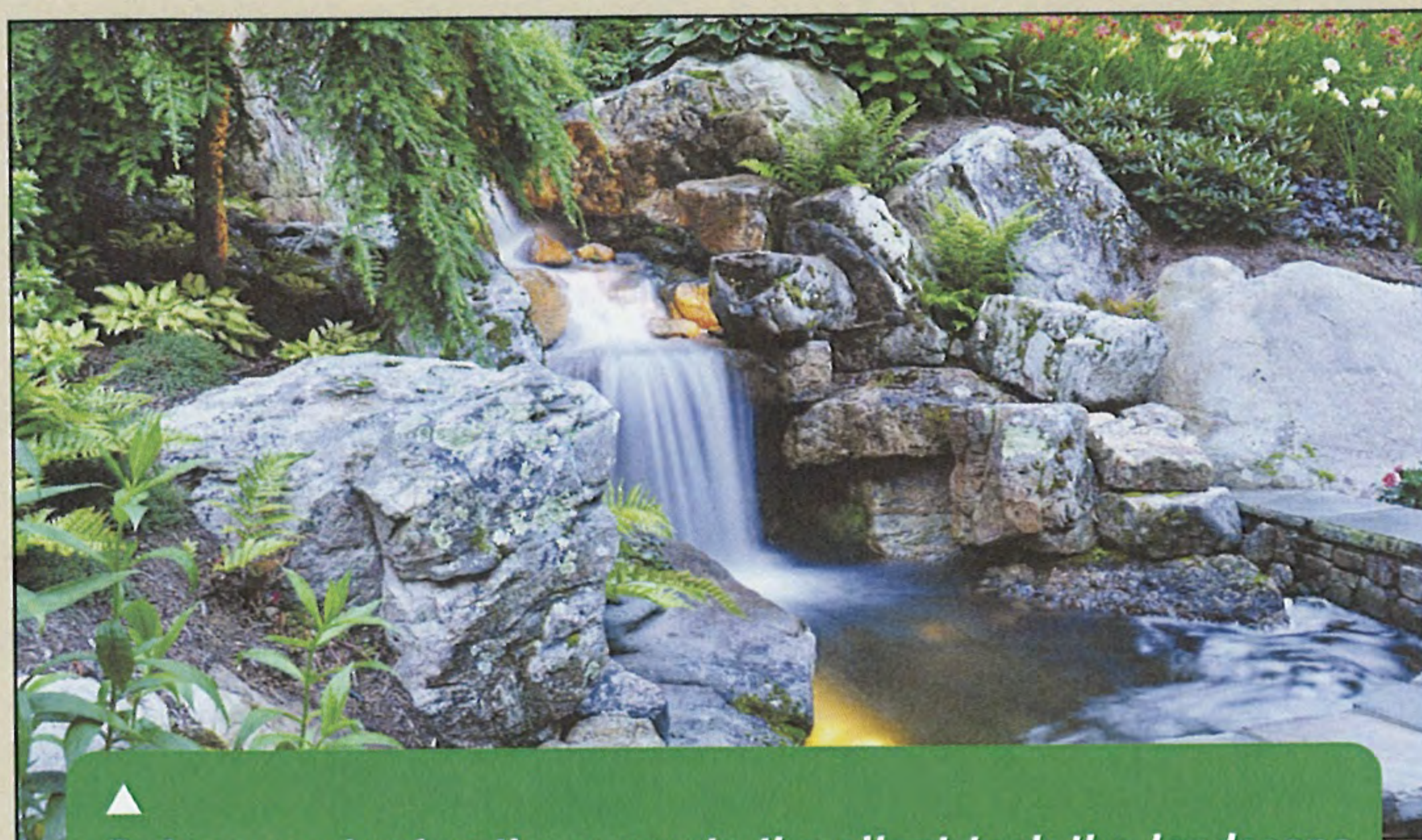
natural beauty, but for arrangements in the natural setting. Many native plants were included to blend into the nature conservancy that borders the property. The stone boulders (2 - 5 tons a piece) were brought in one by one onto the site where they were hand selected for their color, texture and shape. Impact on the site was minimized through the use of tracked equipment and a construction sequence plan that operated on the premise of working from the back of the property to the front. Boulders were moved using fabric slings and straps to minimize gouging or scraping from heavy equipment. The final landscape includes a flagstone terrace, fireplace, waterfall, hot tub area, walking paths, year-round color, and boulders.



▲ *A backyard setting featuring the use of fire and water. The natural slope of the backyard was perfect for the waterfall and the fireplace was built into the bank. Throughout the seasons there is always something blooming to draw your attention.*



▲ *Construction picture. There was a certain sequence the boulders had to be brought to the jobsite. Every boulder, most between two and five tons a piece, were loaded and unloaded one at a time and driven to the job site. Boulders were unloaded from the truck and immediately placed in the landscape.*



▲ *Before purchasing the property the client took the landscape owner to the property to ensure that a waterfall could be installed. The waterfall is the heart of the backyard. The rushing of water is the outdoor audio. All of the boulders were hand selected and placed using slings and straps. The weeping hemlock, ferns and hostas surrounding the waterfall create a natural lush green color.*



◀ *Backyard view shot from top of waterfall.*

# e Landscape Awards

## Grand Award / Landscape Management - Residential

### *Parker's Landscaping Services, Inc. - Project: Strief Residence*

**P**arker's Landscaping Services, Inc. began their horticulturally-sound management program of this showcase residence in May 2005, after the landscape installation. The home was built into the slope and much of the property was a fill lot. As a result, the property has multiple levels and sloping access areas. The lawn vista is used as a lacrosse practice field, the auto court sits below a retaining wall to welcome guests, a cutting garden is located near the side garage to provide color, and a sloping bank leads to the pool area in the back where frequent entertaining is done in the privacy of a well screened back yard backing up to the woods.

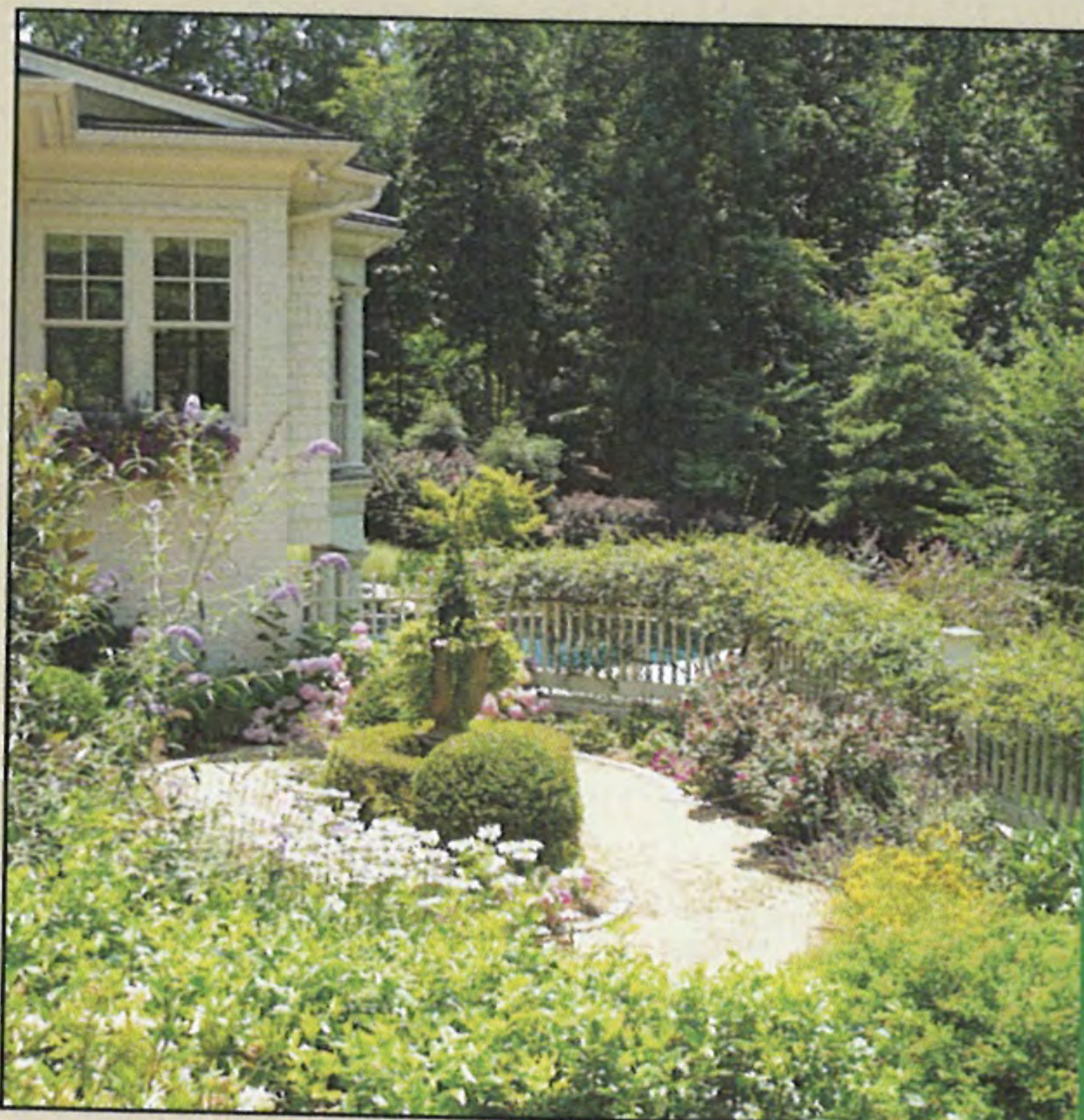
The scope of work includes weekly maintenance visits; fescue turf management and mowing program; irrigation system monitoring; fertilization, pest and disease management; hand-pruning 45 Knock Out shrub roses and planted beds; and seasonal color design and installation of beds and pots that must coordinate with the home's interior. Ongoing communication with the client, careful planning of seasonal color beds, attention to detail, horticulturally sound management programs, and proper water management produce splendid results and a satisfied client.



▲ This expansive lawn area was designed as the lacrosse field for the owner's children to practice. The relatively flat grade requires careful irrigation management and proper fertility to minimize brown patch. With the wear of play, over seeding and aeration in the fall are critical.



◀ Flower beds are painstakingly planned with the client each season of rotation. Color schemes must coordinate with the interior since the client views the beds from inside, with her furniture fabrics in the foreground. Granular and liquid fertilizer applications are done to keep the plants healthy and vigorous.



◀ Around the corner of the garage is an intricate cutting garden area. The Lady Banks rose is constantly hand pruned so it accentuates the fence but does not consume it. Treatment for powdery mildew is required to keep this climbing rose healthy. Seasonal color pockets are planned to augment the perennials and shrubs.



▲ The client likes a manicured look, but not a shearing of plant materials. Constant hand pruning must be done to keep plantings in their desired bounds, but with a softness to their appearance. More than 18 pots must be planned for and planted each season, and many require hand watering. Dozens of roses must be pruned in February.

# Excellence in the Landscape

## Merit Award / Landscape Installation - Residential

### Coats Lawn Services – Project: Madison Park

**C**oats Lawn Services helped bring each of the 60 homes in the Madison Park Neighborhood historically correct architectural elements along with unique “Charleston style” gardens and landscapes. Pre-planning was the key to this one-of-a-kind project. The landscape contractor provided valuable input in the initial planning as well as having installed all the landscape development plans provided by the landscape architect. Each installation included a specified budget covering irrigation, plantings, potted plants, seasonal color, plant bed preparation, drainage and sod.

Successfully capturing the essence of Charleston and Savannah required careful manipulation of the architecture, grading and landscaping for each residence. Some of the special efforts taken included, placing large evergreens to block certain sightlines between houses and public areas; delicately maneuvering. The planting

equipment; installing dry creek beds and underground drainage to move surface water between houses; and installing 8” caliper willow oaks on each lot and in the common park areas to create an “established” look.



▲ An example of one of the historically-correct architectural styles, before the landscape contractor arrived.



▲ The finished property showing the various types of plants, elevation and hardscapes were used to solve challenges on the lot.

## Merit Award / Landscape Installation - Residential

### Parker's Landscape Services, Inc. – Project: Hull Residence

**T**his private estate in Raleigh, North Carolina is sited on a two-acre lot in the Falls Lake watershed, where a long, meandering driveway from the cul de sac, over a constructed cobblestone bridge, leads one on a drive through what seems like the countryside. The owner and landscape architect envisioned a formal front yard to receive visitors, and a natural back yard for entertaining guests. With the home nestled in this pristine woodland, minimal impact to the native environment was desired

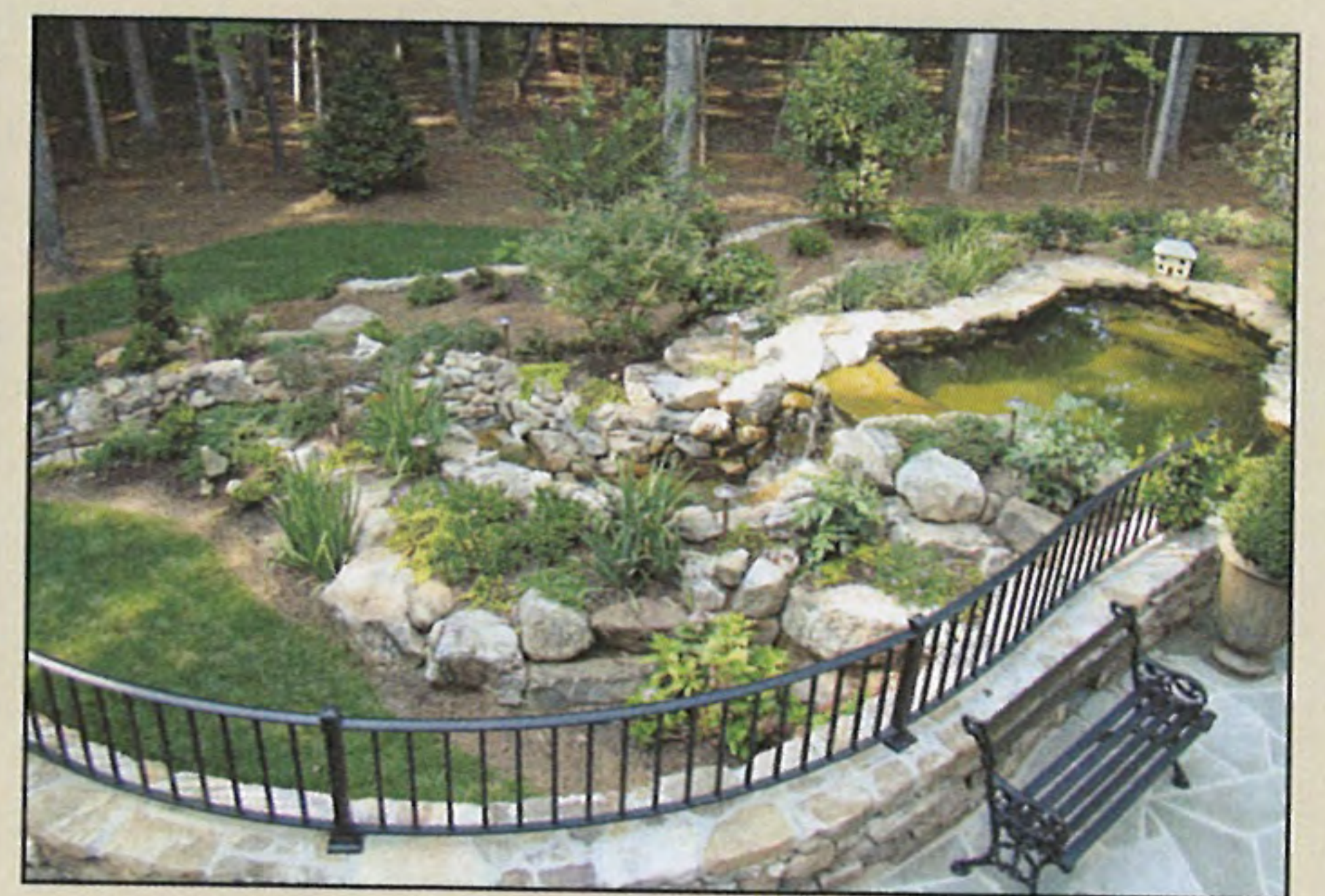
and mandated by the watershed regulations. Parker's Landscape Services, Inc. was chosen in 2008 to implement this detailed, grand-scale landscape for which the company coordinated layout and rough grading with the builder; subcontracted the irrigation installation and back yard waterfall ponds; installed the drainage systems utilizing a cistern and water retention zone; performed bed preparation and final grading operations; provided woods line cleanup; and installed the landscape.



◀ Meticulous attention to detail produced a finished landscape with symmetrical plantings to enhance the beauty of this traditional home. Hardscapes, installed by others, were protected.

Well-designed irrigation by our sub-contractor insured proper coverage and adequate moisture.

Seeking a natural setting, the owners retreat to this back yard serene haven. Construction of ponds and waterfalls were sub-contracted, but Parker's was involved in the layout and establishment of desired elevations. Backfilling and bed



preparation were done prior to plant installation. Design modifications were required in this area and coordinated with the landscape architect.